

Birthday trip of a lifetime for city Olympian

By DEARBHLA
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A FRIEND of a young medalist in last year's Special Olympics wants to treat him for his 21st birthday, with a trip to Old Trafford.

Elizabeth Ronan has



nominated Gary Laird from 2 Kilmurry Park, Garryowen for the Limerick Leader / Combined Insurance €20,000 Make it Happen Community Giveaway.

Gary won three gold medals, a fourth place ribbon and three fifth place

ribbons in artistic gymnastics, when he competed for Team Ireland in the Special Olympics last year.

"Gary is a fabulous boy. I'm nominating him because of his brilliant achievement in the Special Olympics. Like the rest of our Limerick Special Olympians, we were all so proud of Gary. He did himself, Limerick and everyone proud. I think he deserves great credit for this," Miss Ronan commented.

She explained how Gary, who celebrated his 21st birthday earlier this month, is a big fan of Manchester United: "He's always talking about Man Utd. I'd love for him to get to Old Trafford to see them play just once. It would be such a treat for him, especially now that he's just had his 21st birthday."

As a second option of a treat for sporty Gary, Miss Ronan suggested a meeting with Mickey Joe Harte of You're a Star fame. "He just loves Mickey Joe. It would be fantastic if he could get to meet him in person," she said.

Gary's sister Amanda



Limerick's Special Olympics medals winner Gary Laird from Garryowen

said the family are "so proud" of him. "Whatever we get him involved in, he really gets into it. He's so precise. Even at home, he's so neat and tidy. His performances in the Special Olympics were indescribably important to us all," his older sister commented.

Gary attends the Daughters of Charity cen-

tre in Lisnagry five days a week, where he is involved in a number of workshops. "Wherever he goes he gets on well and makes loads of friends. Even being nominated for this is a lovely gesture for Gary. It means a lot to us," she added.

The closing date for receipt of applications for the Make it Happen Giveaway is December 6.