

Triumph

Fall 2007



Special Olympics
New York

Seasons Change and Fall Games Roll Into Rochester

Special Olympics New York's reception by the Rochester community for Fall Games 2007 was remarkable. "The support of Monroe County, the volunteerism of area residents, the generosity of local businesses and the outstanding assistance of the many sport venues for our games are tremendous testaments to the valuable resources of the area. We are indebted to everyone for making our athletes experiences outstanding and memorable" said Michelle Nangle, Assistant to the President.

In an unprecedented move, Special Olympics New York awarded four state-level



Continued P. 9 Soccer skills kicked up plenty of excitement.

Athlete Selection and Competition on the Center Stage

A group of very fortunate athletes has recently returned to New York having challenged competitors from around the world as members of Special Olympics Team USA at the 2007 World Summer Games in China. Throughout our history as an organization, athletes representing New York have participated in numerous Invitational, National and World Games. These privileged athletes have experienced a life changing opportunity for which there is no comparison.

Have you ever wondered; "**How is it that a Special Olympics athlete earns the opportunity to compete at World Games?**" The honest answer is through hard work, dedicated training, progressive competition and good fortune. Few realize what is required to make it to this "Center Stage." World Games competition is certainly the highest level of advancement and opportunity that any athlete can hope to attain. Special Olympics has developed a set of guidelines that govern advancement and the selection process. Our General Rules for athlete advancement are grounded in this fundamental principle: Athletes of all ability levels have an equal opportunity to advance to the next higher level of competition. Each program is bound to fulfill these principles.

Advancement begins with the distribution of a quota for a limited number of

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17 Certified in 2007

Global Messenger training offered at no charge to Special Olympics athletes.

The Global Messenger program is an educational initiative which invites athletes to help foster a movement of advocacy for Special Olympics. The Global Messenger program is part of the Special Olympics International Athlete Leadership Program (ALPs) and allows athletes to share their personal stories with the world as spokespersons for the organization, communicating the mission of Special Olympics.

Three athletes from the Capital Region



L to R: Capital District GMs Lagenwalter, Canales and Spaulding.

trained in August, and 11 athletes from the Genesee Region and three from the NYC Region trained in July to receive Global Messenger certification.

During the training, volunteer professional spokespersons showed the athletes how to organize and deliver speeches effectively. The trainees worked with their coach or parent who mentored them in preparing speeches which emphasized how participation in Special Olympics has

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A Message from the President

Neal J. Johnson, President & CEO of Special Olympics New York, Inc.



As you can see flipping through this issue of *Triumph*, we have an extreme amount of news to share with you. Our summer season was very blessed with many new beginnings and accomplishments. And our fall season has been a very fruitful one. All in all, it's a terrific achievement for the year for Special Olympics New York.

This is all due to the teamwork and generosity of sponsors and volunteers such as Monroe County Sports Commission, Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks, Wegmans Food Markets, American Legion Auxiliary, Price Chopper Supermarkets, the Law Enforcement Torch Run, and of course our faithful statewide partners New York Lottery and NYSUT. **Please flip to Page 5 and view the many other sponsors, donors and volunteers we owe our great seasons, success and gratitude to.** It is with their guidance and loyalty, that we are able to produce such a great quality of sports training and competition for our athletes.

With this in mind, let me share something that is also very important to know. **Starting on Page 1, please read "Athlete Selection and Competition on the Center Stage."** Many have asked, questioned and have had concerns on how exactly athletes are chosen to attend Games such as World Games. This article will explain very concisely how Special Olympics and all their chapters allocate how athletes are chosen to participate at any of the Games.

China Puts on Fantastic Show

World Games athletes and coaches share special moments about their trip to the 2007 World Summer Games from Oct 2-11, 2007.

The trip to China on Oct 2-11 by and large was a great success. It included numerous adventures and some very tough competitions that each member of Team New York will remember forever. Everyone involved in this great venture to the Far East came home glowing with joy, pride and great satisfaction.

Our bowling athletes took on fierce competition with Deborah Lee placing 4th, 5th and 6th in her divisions and Naim Lewis who placed 4th. In aquatics, athlete Kelly Schwarting took the SILVER and Eric Byrd took the GOLD for his division. Our track and field athletes; Ben Beavers placed 4th, Elisa Fruscianti took two GOLDS, and Valerie Romero took a BRONZE and 4th. The softball team from the Hudson Valley Region took their division with a BRONZE. And last but not least, the Capital Region's CD Express volleyball team took third for the BRONZE.

Special Moments

Diary Log, October 2007 - Chris Porreca - Team USA Assistant Volleyball Coach

The Plane Ride:

The plane started to descend to a lower altitude towards China when the announcement came over the intercom that we were now below 10,000 feet and would be on the ground in China in about 15 minutes. Again, cheers came from throughout the plane. "USA, USA, USA" was shouted from front to back and you could feel the excitement building. Finally the plane touched down in Shanghai, China and you would have thought we had just won the World Cup for soccer.

China Host Town:

When visiting with Chinese families, our hosts, asked if we had any talents that we would like to show them. Adam Hughes (Capital Region, Volleyball) got up and sang a song "God Bless America."

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Triumph Fall 2007

Triumph is a quarterly publication of Special Olympics New York.

It salutes the athletes, volunteers, employees, Board members, local and regional programs, sponsors and donors of Special Olympics New York,

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Visit the web for great stories

www.specialolympicsNY.org

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Genesee Region Bocce Bash

The First Annual Bocce Bash was a great success. Sixteen teams squared off at PAETEC Park, home of the Rochester Rhinos, on September 8th. The competition was led by the Genesee Regions very own Director of Program Rob Mitchell who kept the teams updated and entertained throughout the event.

Partnerships were created with PAETEC Park and the Rochester Rhinos to host and sponsor this event before their final regular season home game vs. Montreal Impact. At half time two Special Olympic teams were able to showcase their skills in a fantasy game in front of 12,000 fans. This was a great way for our athletes to show off their skills to professional sports fans.

Special thanks to High Falls Brewing, Salvatore's Pizza and the three local Italian American Community Clubs. We are looking forward to growing these partnerships.

Congratulations to the winning team, The Italian American Sports Club, second place went to Team Breeze and with a great showing Spaghetti and Bocce Balls came in third.

A special congratulations to our top fundraising team, Italians with Bocce Balls, who raised \$2,550 to play in the Bocce Bash, and to Joan Valenti who captained four Bocce teams. Each player had to raise \$150 to play (\$600 per team) but through hard work and dedication the average player raised \$100 more than that, \$254 to be exact.



We're Freezin' for a Reason!!! Grab your towel and head to the beach this winter to support the athletes of Special Olympics New York!

Thank you to all of the brave souls who took the plunge on November 10th in the first annual WNY Polar Plunge at Beaver Island State Park!

December 1, 2007

Lake George
Shepard Park – Lake George
www.firstgiving.com/lakegeorgepolarplunge

December 2, 2007

NYC Polar Plunge
Great Kills Beach – Staten Island, NY
www.firstgiving.com/nycpolarplunge

December 8, 2007

Verona Polar Plunge
Verona Beach State Park - Verona
www.firstgiving.com/veronapolarplunge

February 10, 2008

Rochester Polar Plunge
Charlotte Beach – Rochester
www.firstgiving.com/rochesterpolarplunge

March 8, 2008

Fishkill Polar Plunge
Sharpe Reservation – Fishkill
www.firstgiving.com/hvpolarplunge

March 8, 2008

Long Island Polar Plunge
Bar Beach – Pt. Washington
www.firstgiving.com/lipolarplunge

Visit the sites below to set up your very own Personal Plunge Page on www.specialolympicsNY.org

American Legion Auxiliary Supports Special Olympics New York



Neal J. Johnson and Joan Caccamo, past president of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York, at their convention this past July in Niagara Falls, at which Special Olympics New York was presented with a check completing the organization's \$50,000 sponsorship for 2007.

New Support Services for the Disabled

Disaboom.com is made for the community, by the community to be the premiere destination for anyone touched by a functional limitation or disability. Disaboom.com offers everything from features on health and living to world news, classifieds and social networking. Disaboom.com is *the* online community designed to keep you connected and in the know.



Go to Disaboom.com to check out or post events in your area, read up on the latest medical news, write a review on the accessibility of businesses and restaurants or participate in a forum. Your interest and involvement are important. Disaboom.com is building this community for you and by you. So log on to Disaboom.com and join today!

Live Forward.

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How Athletes Are Selected

allocations to each accredited program. The Special Olympics program is then charged with the responsibility to select athletes in accordance with formalized Criteria for Advancement as defined by the Special Olympics General Rules, Article 7, section 7.08(e) and the Sports Rules Article 1, Section (k). To be considered eligible, athletes must have participated at the previous level of competition prior to advancing to the next higher level. If the number of eligible athletes and or teams exceeds the quota, athletes and teams are selected by random draw. Priority is given to all first place finishers from all divisions of the specific sport/event in consideration. We are required to do the same with second, then third place finishers and so on until we have filled our allocation. The program may also evaluate criteria based on medical, behavior or judicial consideration. The objective of this additional evaluation is to assure that the selected athletes will tolerate the experience and benefit from the opportunity. Finally, an athlete or team may not be barred from advancement or omitted from the draw based on prior competition or

advancement experience.

Your next question might be; **“If only medal winners are eligible, how is it that each athlete has an equitable chance to advance to the next level of competition?”**

The answer to this question is at the heart of our organization’s credibility. Special Olympics Divisioning Rules provide for equitable competition for all athletes at all skill levels. At each competition athletes are separated into heats of three to eight competitors, having been divided by gender, age and ability; ability being the most important consideration. All athletes are evaluated through preliminary rounds and are paired in a division of equally skilled and capable opponents. All medal winning athletes from all divisions have an equal chance of selection for advancement.

Imagine for a moment that Special Olympics New York was granted a quota of one powerlifting athlete to join Team USA for an upcoming World Games. First we need to determine our eligible athletes. These eligible athletes will have competed in the previous State Summer Games for powerlifting and have placed first in their

divisions. This imaginary pool may contain 25 powerlifters of varying skill and strength depending upon their divisions. The selection from this pool is drawn from a hat with oversight from the Games Organizing Committee. The selected athlete is evaluated by a team of coaches, family and committee members. Upon confirmation our lucky athlete is recognized and advances to World Games.

The opportunity to travel to a far reaching land, immersion in an unfamiliar culture and bonding with people regardless of language or belief in the pursuit of sport in its purest form seems to exemplify the core principles of our Special Olympics movement. These experiences stretch far beyond the athletes who have had the privilege of selection. Each of us involved in the movement is touched by this exchange.

Please be encouraged to read and learn more about Special Olympics. Additional educational material and the General Rules can be found at: www.specialolympics.org

New York City Region

8th Real Estate and Construction Gala

This year’s Gala raised nearly \$475,000 to support Special Olympics New York. The event was held on October 17th at Pier Sixty, Chelsea Piers in New York City. Three distinguished individuals were honored: Deputy Mayor Daniel L. Doctoroff, City of New York; Louise M. Matthews, Vice President of Global Real Estate for Avon Products, Inc.; and Kenneth J. Cooper, Senior Vice President, Corporate Administration, CBS Corporation. This fabulous evening of festivities always serves as a perfect opportunity to acknowledge individuals who bring excellence to their respective professions.

Special Olympics New York would like to thank this year’s gala supporters as well as Gala Chairs Gary Greenspan of Cushman & Wakefield, Inc. and Charles D. Hammerman of The Disability Fund, Inc.; Journal Chair Theodore Koltis of Tishman Speyer and Ted Moudis of Ted Moudis Associates for championing Sponsor an Athlete.



Jimmy Vito, brother of Amanda Vito; Amanda Vito, Special Olympics New York Athlete and Global Messenger; Gary Greenspan, Chair of the 2007 Real Estate & Construction Gala and Executive Vice President at Cushman & Wakefield, Inc. and Kenneth J. Cooper, 2007 Real Estate & Construction Gala Honoree and SVP, Corporate Administration for CBS Corporation.

New York City Region

Welcome to a NEW New York City Region Supporter

USAirways has committed their support to the athletes of New York City. Please help us welcome and thank them to our Special Olympics New York family. USAirways generous support can be seen through New York City fundraisers such as Miles for Medals, Polar Plunge, and the Real Estate and Construction Gala.



U·S AIRWAYS

Legacy Year-End Thank You

Special Olympics New York would like to take a moment to thank some of the many sponsors and donors whom have contributed \$5,000 and above in 2007.



Statewide Sponsors

Law Enforcement Torch Run
New York Lottery
New York State United Teachers

Legacy Platinum -

Gifts of \$45,001+

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of Health
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Time Warner Cable

Legacy Gold -

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Legacy Bronze -

Gifts of \$5,000-10,000

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United Federation of Teachers,
Local 2AFT
US Airways
US Tennis Association
Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC
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Sponsor a Thousand Smiles a Day!



Through Special Olympics' sports training and competitions, athletes experience joy and pride, building self esteem and winning attitudes that carry over into other areas of their lives.

Special Olympics athletes can also participate in other health, educational and sports-related initiatives such as Healthy Athletes, Athlete Leadership Programs and Young Athletes.

Since Special Olympics believes its programs should always be free to the athletes and their families, it relies solely on donations.

As a sponsor, you can be sure your donation will go directly to support an athlete registered with Special Olympics New York. A yearly donation of \$300.00 per athlete provides him/her full access to all Special Olympics programs – less than a dollar a day.

√ \$300 per athlete for 1 year

√ \$150 per athlete for 6 months

√ \$75 per athlete for 3 months

Your cost of \$.82 a day per athlete return benefits of THOUSANDS of smiles 365 days a year!

Your valued contribution will help more than 43,000 registered athletes of Special Olympics New York and will help us recruit even more new athletes, providing much needed services for as many as possible of the 579,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities in New York State.



Elisa Fruscianti was tearful and excited as she stood before a small crowd of admirers at the Eltingville office of Congressman Vito Fossella. She was honored for winning two GOLD medals at the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, China, in October.

“She has demonstrated that nothing is beyond her reach.”

- Staten Island Advance - David Dagan, staff writer - Oct. 20, 2007

Elisa is 29 years old and has participated as a Special Olympics athlete for seven years and the Special Olympics program has truly had a positive effect. She graduated from learning basic skills to competing, and she has also advanced a lot off the field. These days, Elisa is more independent, more talkative and cheerful around friends. She has even become a positive mentor to other Special Olympics participants.

Truly an amazing accomplishment! Please consider sponsoring an athlete like Elisa.

Contact Name _____

Company/Affiliation _____

City _____ State / Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I am committing to sponsor # Athlete(s) _____ For: 1 year 6 months 3 months

My # _____ Check is enclosed, and I wish donate a total of \$ _____

Please charge it to my (please circle): Visa MasterCard Discover AMEX

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Verification Code (last 3 digits on back of card) _____

Please make checks payable to:
Special Olympics New York

Please return this form along with your gift donation to:
Special Olympics New York
c/o Sponsor a Thousand Smiles
504 Balltown Road
Schenectady, NY 12304
www.specialolympicsNY.org
(800)836-6976

Thank you for your support!

In accordance with IRS regulations, we confirm that no goods or services are provided in return for your contribution. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allow by law.

Continued from P.1

Global Messengers Certified and Ready to Spread the Good Word

changed their lives.

Trainee Ernie Langenwalter, who has competed for over 20 years, felt Special Olympics has contributed to his physical well-being and a strong development of character. In his speech he said, "Special Olympics programming has made me healthier and stronger. The opportunity to compete helps me be brave and develop good sportsmanship."

A special thanks to Albany Global Messenger trainers; Jim Parsons, Division F Governor of Toastmasters and Toastmasters volunteer Brenda Evans, and to Genesee Global Messenger trainers; Dave Lennox from Special Olympics, Inc. and Jennifer Johnson from Channel 10 News.



Global Messenger George Kerson and RNews, Rochester anchor Virginia Butler.

Give a huge welcome to our newly certified Global Messengers:

Genesee

Joe Best
Chantal Crick
Adolph Dupree, Jr.
Jim Hart
William Jackson
George Kerson
Mary Martin
Jodi Schmeier
Taylor Sherman
Patty VanSavage
Amanda Vito

NYC

Anthony Hasan
Ronald Weintraub
Kathleen Maggi
Capital District
Emily Canales
Lynda Spaulding
Ernie Langenwalter



Some of the gang from the Genesee Region posed for a photo op with President and CEO Neal J. Johnson. GMs Vito, Martin, Jackson, Schmeier, VanSavage, Hart, Kerson and Sherman are pictured within.

To get involved in the Global Messenger Program or to have a Global Messenger speak at your organization, please visit our website at www.specialolympicsNY.org or call Susan MacBryde at 518-388-0790 ext.109. in the Capital Region or your local Regional Director at the number listed for their region.



The Albany division of Toastmasters International partnered with Special Olympics New York for the Global Messenger training. Toastmasters International is a not-for-profit organization that forms clubs at the community level to help its members improve communication skills.

Long Island Region Tid-Bits of Note

Fun in the Sun- 9/16/2007

What a day! All involved, especially the athletes, had a wonderful time sailing around the Long Island Sound. Special thanks to Masthead Yacht Club and Jack Posner and all of the yachts men and women who made this possible.

Great Cow Harbor 10K- 9/15/2007

Kudos and thank you to our dear friend Harvey Sussman! It is with his ongoing dedication and leadership each year with this fundraiser that enables us to raise the much needed funds for the athletes. This year totaled \$17,000 and our own local Special Olympics and Word Games athlete, Ben Beavers, competed. Save the date for next year's race: September 20, 2008.

Welcome new sponsor Darien Sports and Fitness

Special Olympics athletes will be able to start using the training facilities center located 264 Heights Road, Darien, CT by the end of November.

March 8, 2008 – Freezin' for a Reason Day

Nationally known as the symbol of warmth and welcome, Panera Bread will be hosting their Polar Plunge tent with the theme "A Toast to Winter, A Day of Festivities" at the March 8th, 2008 Long Island Polar Plunge at Bar Beach in Pt. Washington. The tent will provide warmth, welcoming atmosphere and delicious food and beverages for the community to enjoy.

Long Island would also like to hand out a big "Polar Thank You" to Polar Plunge sponsors Town of North Hempstead, Suffolk and Nassau County Police Forces, the FOP, WBAB, Radio Disney, Apple and Eve Juice, NYIT and American Roadside of Huntington.

Visit www.specialolympicsNY.org for more Long Island Tid-Bits and info on the web.

Continued from P.2

Highlights from China

Diary Log, October 2007 - Chris Porreca
continued

The Torch Run at Opening Ceremonies:

They came in uniform and in two lines, walked right in front of us, stood facing the highest dignitaries in the stadium, and then the torch entered the stadium and athletes carried it around the stadium and under tunnels. Deborah Lee (New York City, Region, Bowling) was honored as the North American representative to carry the torch. She did an amazing job and was able to make the entire delegation proud.

Competition – Volleyball

The Chinese team jumped up on us 7-2 and then we switched ends as we were down 8-2. We were really up against it. I felt my heart pumping and goose bumps on my neck and arm were standing up. The team made a valiant effort to come back and take the game, but the Chinese were tough and had an advantage. So the game ended and thus so did the match. The USA had won the bronze. Yes the team did it. They **WON THE BRONZE MEDAL**. The team was jumping around hugging each other and they were smiling so much.

For more stories and photos please visit www.specialolympicsNY.org and click on **WORLD GAMES NY BLOG REPORT**.



World Games athletes Adam Hughes and Shane Kilinski presented a China police woman with an LETR shirt.

Anxious family members wait patiently upon the return of all the World Games athletes on October 13th, at Albany International Airport.



2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony of the 2007 Special Olympics was produced by internationally acclaimed Don Mischer Productions. It was a spectacular event in pageantry and entertainment, which captured the hearts and minds of people around the world. The heart and soul of the ceremonies came from the over 7,500 athletes from 164 nations participating in the Games, the artistic and performing communities in China and the ideals of the Special Olympics movement. It included special appearances by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Actor Colin Farrell, NBA Star Yao Ming, Actor Jackie Chan, Music Legend Quincy Jones, Actress Zhang Ziyi, Olympic Gold Medalist Liu Xiang and many more.



The Opening Ceremony footage is now available at iTunes (www.itunes.com). The price of the spectacular show (listed under "TV Shows") is only \$1.99, and the full purchase price will benefit Special Olympics.

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Fall Games

competitions over two-years to Rochester.

This decision was spearheaded by the Monroe County Sports Commission and Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks and quickly supported by Wegmans, along with our statewide and regional sponsors. We thank them all for their support.

Opening Ceremonies are being heralded as the best indoor ceremonies on record for Special Olympics New York. Highlights of the evening include the Byron Bergen High School Marching Band, the Rainbow Guard of Special Olympics cheerleaders, the Knights of Columbus leading the Parade of Athletes, Sankofa, an African drum and dance ensemble, and the Wyoming Correctional Facility Color Guard. Motorcycles led and ignited the New York Law Enforcement Torch Run, culminating in two local athletes lighting the Special Olympics Cauldron with the Flame of Hope.

The highlight of the evening was Neal Johnson and the Special Olympics World Summer Games team offering their best wishes to the athletes through a video recorded prior to their departure for the World Games in Shanghai, China. As they declared the Fall Games open, a pyrotechnic show sent streams of smoke and lights across the stage to the cheers of more than 1,000 athletes, coaches, families and friends.

Competition Day brought out the Rochester news hounds who knew where the action was. Television crews filmed stunning soccer and softball moves, photographers shot slow rolling bocce balls and fast-paced cycling races, reporters scribbled notebooks full of gold, silver and bronze medalists' names.

At outlying venues, golfers triumphantly strode across fairways while softball players whacked singles, doubles and home runs, cross country runners huffed and puffed with determination through the park as equestrians elegantly maneuvered their steeds, and roller-skaters did graceful laps around the shiny rink.

Olympic Village Healthy Athletes' volunteer clinicians examined athletes' eyes, ears, feet and teeth, providing essential healthcare and offering tips on fitness and nutrition.

More photos available via the web. Please visit www.specialolympicsNY.org



Special Olympics
New York

FALL GAMES
Presented By:



Wegmans



nysut
A Union of Professionals

A Founding Sponsor of
Special Olympics New York



Capital Region

Pacific Pools Reaches \$100,000 mark

5th Annual Golf Tournament.

Pacific Pools, a locally based pool manufacturing company, hosted its 5th annual Tee It Up golf tournament where all proceeds benefit the over 43,000 Special Olympics New York athletes. This one day event raised more than \$24,000 net and since its start just five years ago has now surpassed a total of \$100,000.

Many of the Pacific Industries business associates and vendors traveled from Central New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and as far away as South Carolina to play in the tournament hosted at the Fairways of Halfmoon, Mechanicville. And, nearly 50 employees from the Latham and Scotia based Pacific Pools' operations centers joined in the golf outing.

Special guests included Fox23 News sportscaster Rich Becker, a long-time friend of Special Olympics New York and Special Olympics New York athlete Chad Hildreth. Along with Chad, team members Duff Hildreth, Al Washer and Harold McKinney from NYS Department of Corrections took second place in the tournament!

In addition to presenting sponsor Pacific Pools, other support included KeyBank, Concord Pools, Rose & Kiernan, ComDoc, The Shaker Group, Rocheaux International, CM Polymers, Huersch, Inc. and Saratoga Packaging along with many more.

Hudson Valley Region

Regional Recognition Dinner

On Friday, September 21st, the Hudson Valley Region conducted its first Athlete and Volunteer Recognition Dinner at the Yorktown Elks Club. Nearly 200 athletes, volunteers and family members attended from all across the region. With so many outstanding athletes and volunteers, choosing winners in the various recognition categories was difficult. All of our athletes and volunteers deserve tremendous accolades for their dedication and commitment to Special Olympics both in the Hudson Valley and across the state. In the Hudson Valley, everyone is a winner. We are privileged and proud to call you our friends.



Special thanks to our outstanding group of volunteers; the Rockland Group: Charlie & Sue Jones, Paul & Valerie Wilkins, Nancy & Chris Logan, Joe Tisbe, Yorktown Elks Lodge: Charlie Scheld, Jim Vignola, Tom Pavletich, Jack Murphy, Bill O'Reilly and Joe Pikula.

Athlete award recipients were:

- Male Athlete of the Year
- Female Athlete of the Year
- Training Club of the Year
- Go for the Gold Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Striving for Excellence Award
- Kelly McElhinney Award
- Outstanding Athletic Team Award

- Carl Caldwell, Dutchess County
- Anne Hertel, Dutchess County
- West Point Schools
- Jermaine Edie, Sullivan County
- Alice Lee, Ulster County
- Julio Garcia, Westchester County
- Michael Forzano
- Orange County BOCES

Volunteer award recipients were:

- Volunteer of the Year
- Outstanding Group Volunteers
- Outstanding Coaches of the Year
- Spirit of Special Olympics Award
- Community Service Award
- Outstanding Training Program

- Marlene Uris, Westchester County
- Rockland County Volunteer Group
- Yorktown Elks Lodge, Westchester County
- Joe Bellini, Westchester County
- Kathi Nolan, Dutchess County
- Gary Terwillinger, Ulster County
- Katie Greczylo, Westchester County
- Leslie Stein, Westchester County
- Rockland County Golf Program

SAVE THE DATE: *Guess who's turning 40?*

Special Olympics' 40th birthday, April 26, 2008, Hyatt Regency Rochester.

Special Olympics Gala

Come celebrate with us!

For more information please contact Julie Bell at 585-586-7400 x108 or at jbelle@nyso.org

Capital Region

A Weekend of Fire and Ice in Saratoga

The 2007 Satin, Silks & Stars Fire and Ice Gala held Saturday, July 28, at The Saratoga Hotel, Saratoga Springs had a very successful year, grossing more than \$100,000 for our athletes.

Honorary co-chairs Neil Golub with his wife Jane and Wayne Hewett with his wife, Simonne welcomed 210 guests to the black-tie event which was beautifully decorated by Michael Panza of Fine Affairs. The evening started with a dazzling silent auction that included rare items from the worlds of sports and entertainment such as: a signed banner by Yankee greats, a game-worn and signed Yankees cap by Manager Joe Torre, VIP SPAC tickets, signed guitars by The Rolling Stones and Bon Jovi, just to name a few. Notable live auction items included a lunch with the Bacon Brothers and a week retreat in beautiful Cape Cod.



Ron & Michelle Riggi, Jack Casiere, Eileen Guarino, Karla Guarino

But the true gem of the night was a stunning one-carat loose diamond – a raffle generously donated by Dennis Connelly of Connelly Diamond Gallery in Latham. For just \$20 per chance guests had the opportunity to win the \$7000 prize.

After a wonderful dinner of filet mignon and scallops, guests were versed on the mission and good works of Special Olympics from guest emcees John Gray and Yolanda Vega. There were also formal introductions made of celebrities in attendance, including Michael Bacon; of The Bacon Brothers Band, television and stage actor Thom Christopher from “One Life to Live” and actress Betsy Palmer; star of “The Long Gray Line,” “Mister Roberts,” and “Friday the 13th.”

Among some of the evenings attendees were; Saratoga’s own Marylou Whitney and husband John Hendrickson, Michelle and Ron Riggi, Ed and Maureen Lewi of Ed Lewis Associates, Gala Committee Chairs Joanne DiMarco and Frank Mitola accompanied by his wife Sherry, CBS 6 news anchor Liz Bishop and the world famous jockey Javier Castellano accompanied by his wife. John and Paula Gilooly, Anthony and Joan Mitola, Tom and Fonda Albertrani, Neal Bacon, son of Michael, Niall and Stephanie Brennan, Dennis and Cindy Connelly, Abby, Keith and Cyndi Leonard, Stephen and Nicole Mitola, Vince and Arlene Guarino, Jack Casiere, Eileen Guarino, Karla Guarino and Michael and Lisa Dean.

A Special thank you to our major sponsors of the SSS Weekend; New York Lottery, NYSUT and Cool Insuring.

There was a lot of excitement surrounding this year’s events and we’re looking forward to next July.

LETR Days in China

Shared moments of the life of one humble man who ran the Final Leg in support of Special Olympics.

Diary Log, October 2007 - Sgt. Michael E. Murray - COPS CARE Chairman

Well, it just gets better everyday...

The Law Enforcement Torch Run ran the Final Leg into the Opening Ceremonies October 2, 2007. The event was amazing as we witnessed hundreds of Officers and SWAT team members present along with fantastic colors of the Opening Ceremonies that were very inspiring. Many other exciting elements took place too, such as thousands of doves that were released into the air. Truly amazing. It is like they said, you can not describe the feeling or what you see and experience.

If I could backtrack for a minute about the whole LETR event, I want to share what it was like for us running through China. Before our final destination in Shanghai, the Law Enforcement Torch Run visited local communities. Each site (eleven in total) that we ran into had an amazing mini community ceremony planned and each was broadcasted live to over a billion people in China on CCTV daily.

When the ‘torch run’ entered the local limits of each community, it was originally planned so (as we) the runners only had to run around the block, then trek over to the local community spot for the mini ceremony. BUT ... each time, the streets were lined with thousands of people for what seemed like miles, just cheering us on and chanting. How could one (actually the whole team) refuse a running ovation? The experience of the chills that ran up and down our spines just gave us that special adrenaline of pride, as we ran and high-fived everyone who was supporting our efforts.

Everywhere we were, we took the Torch along with us, and WOW !!! People flocked to us like magnets for photo-ops, autographs and support. We, as the Law Enforcement Torch, have been treated like “Kings of Kings.” The people of China are a very proud culture and everyone who met us – greeted us with complete warmth and hospitality.

-Mike





Special Olympics *New York*

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With Intellectual Disabilities, Including Mental Retardation.

BE A FAN !!! Winter Games - February 8-9, 2008

Fair and Expo Center, Henrietta and other Rochester locations.

More than 1,000 athletes and coaches will participate in nordic & alpine skiing, figure skating, speed skating, snowshoeing and floor hockey. Over 2,500 people will attend including athletes and coaches, volunteers, family members and spectators. To volunteer, visit our website at www.specialolympicsNY.org. and click on Winter Games.

Olympic Village – A fun and festive area providing recreational activities and entertainment as well as showcasing our many sponsors. Look for the tents and listen for the music and you'll have found it!

Healthy Athletes – A program for all athletes at our state games, helping them improve health and fitness, enhance the sports experience and improve well being. Athletes receive health services clinics including Healthy Hearing, Opening Eyes, Special Smiles, Fit Feet, Fun Fitness and Health Promotion.



Be on the Lookout in Your Price Chopper Markets For These Two Great Guys!

Wes Holloway, pictured right, long-time volunteer and vice president of diversity for Price Chopper Supermarkets and his co-hort, none other than our very own famous Special Olympics athlete DJ Nolan.

They both spent the afternoon together in a photo session that was just one part of the extensive marketing plan to celebrate Golub Corporation's and Price Chopper's 75 years of service to the community. Price Chopper will be unveiling their special recognition project very soon and we thank them for including us as a charity of choice.

Special Olympics New York Mission: To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-style sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.