

Triumph

Winter 2007



Special Olympics
New York

Special Olympics Launches Urban Initiative in New York City

This past November 13, Special Olympics announced the official launch of the New York City Urban Initiative at a reception at the New York Historical Society in New York City. Special Olympics Chairman Timothy P. Shriver and Special Olympics President and CEO Bruce A. Pasternack were joined by New York City Deputy Mayor Daniel Doctoroff and Neal J. Johnson, President & CEO of Special Olympics New York in celebration and inauguration of this pilot venture.

As the evening progressed, guests were versed about what this program will offer and why New York City was selected. *By seeking to increase involvement of athletes in cities such as New York City, and continuing this process all across the globe, this effort is a step forward in creating a model program that unites government, business and media leaders, along with cultural communities and athletes, to make a difference through Special Olympics.*

There is no better place than New York City for starting this pilot program, as it is the landmark of tolerance, diversity and acceptance. This urban initiative facilitates a simple plan of execution: Participate, Volunteer, Donate; it is a Major Gifts Campaign for Special Olympics New York that will meet the growing demands of

Continued on P. 5



Deborah Lee (left) and Valerie Romero, two of the three Special Olympics New York City athletes training to compete in the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai were in attendance at the November 13th reception.



NYSP Sgt. June Worden with SONY athlete Mary Panesse.

LETR Anniversary Event Went Off With a Bang!

- A report from Torch Run Liaison Renee Snyder

Special Olympics New York and the New York Law Enforcement Torch Run Committee had the opportunity to host the 25th Anniversary 2006 International Law Enforcement Conference at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Buffalo, NY. The conference brought near record-breaking attendance, with law enforcement and Special Olympics staff representing nearly 30 countries together to learn, experience, network and have a great time! We were able to showcase our Special Olympics New York athletes, who did a great job emceeding the events and welcoming everyone to New York.

The conference enabled our law enforcement representatives to not only learn from other programs and states but also to share experiences. We were able to talk to those groups who were able to hit the \$1 million dollar fundraising mark with thousands of plungers in their 2006 Polar Plunges and evaluate our initiatives so we

can strive to become bigger and better!

Our planning committee did a great job making the activities above and beyond what has been done in the past. Thousands of ducks were poured into the giant fountain outside of the Adam's Mark for the Five Buck Duck Pluck! Ducks were sold throughout the conference for \$5 a piece for a chance to win fantastic getaways to Hawaii and St. Thomas. The annual 5K run was led by the original Torch Runners, including founder Richard LaMunyon. And you can't leave out the Cop-Stackle Course! Teams of five lined up to ride an adult-size tricycle, while carrying chicken wings, to pulling a pick up truck to finishing a plate of Wegman's donuts and more Buffalo wings...all for the best time! The live and silent auction stepped up a level itself, raising more than \$10,000 more than last year's event!

More LETR news on P. 4

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A Message from the President

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

Time Slips By



As 2007 begins, we have happy and sad news to share with you all. From time to time, Special Olympics New York has the pleasure of announcing a new face or two to the organization and also on that same note, we have to say good-bye to some of those special people we hold so dear to us.

As 2006 closed, our Board of Directors officially announced their new year's elected seats. We welcome Charles Campagna - President and CEO of Amerlux Lighting Solutions and Aaron Bifaro of New York United Teachers (NYSUT). Congratulations to newly elected officer members: Richard Zerah as Vice Chairman; Anthony Principe as Treasurer, and Heather Dwyer as Secretary.

We bid a fond farewell to those outgoing members; Allan Birkett, James Horan, Daniel Callahan and Kathi Nolan. Special Olympics New York extends its heartfelt thanks for their invaluable service, for those long nights, weekends, and all the special events they have helped with by being part of our Board. We salute you.

Now who would have thought that throughout all the years Special Olympics New York has been around, one man with true conviction, would have such a deep impression on our program as Walter Kopczuk. Since the middle 70's, Walter has been with us as Vice President of Program, knee deep at times, assuring that every bit of our competitive events all



Mary Lamica and Carol Gill

across New York State ran smoothly and efficiently.

My, oh, my, we all have stories to tell about Walter. But for now, I am truly sad to say, but happy to announce, Walter is headed for the greener pastures of retirement. All of us here in the offices, his many friends and all the athletes of New York we wish Walter well.



Another triumph to share would be that Carol Gill, Administration, and Mary Lamica, Program, have just celebrated twenty-five years with Special Olympics New York. During a recent celebration, I believe I heard from both of them, no - I know I heard they committed to yet another 25.

Congratulations and thank you Carol and Mary!

Outgoing Board members James Horan, Allan Birkett and Kathi Nolan receive awards of appreciation and pose with Chairman Richie Salinardi.



Walter; the early years.

Special Olympics New York Board of Directors for 2007

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Richard Salinardi, Chairman; Richard Zerah, Vice Chairman; Anthony Principe, Treasurer; Heather Dwyer, Secretary; Anthony J. Bifaro, Immediate Past Chairman; Thomas E. Blake, Dorothy M. Chapman, Stanley Hansen, Jr., Michael F. Petramalo

DIRECTORS

Aaron Bifaro, Peter Brady, Charles Campagna, Edward Engelbride, Steven Maiman, Frank Mitola, Robert Massey, Jr., Theodore Wolfstitch

Triumph

Winter 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, Inc.

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Visit the web for great stories at
www.specialolympicsNY.org

UPCOMING EVENTS



January 13

NYC Region
Peter Aquilone Floor Hockey
Tournament
Javits Center, NYC

January 27

Long Island Region
Figure Skating Tournament
Great Neck-Parkwood Ice Rink

February 9

Genesee Region
Basketball Game to Benefit
Special Olympics
Bishop Kearney High School,
125 King's Highway South,
Rochester

Visit www.specialolympicsNY.org
for more upcoming details and
events!



Purchase these and other P&G brands and support Special Olympics.

P&G has been a proud supporter of Special Olympics for 27 years with over \$37 million in donations. For each participating product you buy from December 31, 2006 through January 31, 2007, P&G donates 10¢ to Special Olympics, up to \$500,000 total.

Visit www.specialolympicsNY.org for more information.

Long Island Disney on Ice

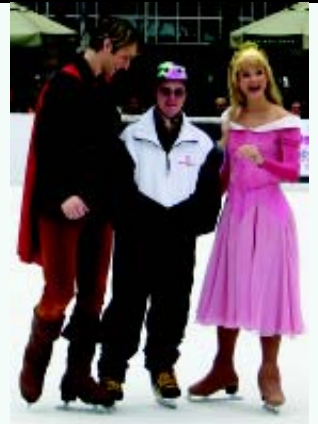
On Tuesday, November 14, 2006, Disney on Ice made wishes come true for our ice skating athletes.



Special Olympics New York Director of Development Rebecca Keller, Special Olympics Athlete Claire Costello, 6, and Director of Program Tim Flynn happily await a special performance from Disney On Ice presents "Princess Wishes" in New York City's Bryant Park.

The Pond at Bryant Park in Manhattan was transformed into the "Royal Rink" as seven Disney Princesses and other Disney stars shared the ice with Special Olympics athletes from the Long Island Region for a sensational skating showcase. The seven Disney Princesses and Princes presented a special "highlight" performance from the all-new Disney On Ice.

After a fun-filled day of skating, our athletes presented the Disney characters with a plaque to show our appreciation for their generous support of our program. Neal Johnson, President and CEO of Special Olympics New York joined in the merriment but we couldn't entice him onto the ice!



Prince Philip and Sleeping Beauty awaken a smile in Special Olympics Athlete Matthew Pope (center).

Capital District Region

Future Care Planning for SONY Athletes

Sessions starting in January in Schenectady.

As a parent or caregiver for an individual who has a disability or other special needs, perhaps you've been perplexed by the following questions:

- Who will care for my child when I'm no longer able?
- Should I consider a Special Needs Trust?
- How should I fund my Special Needs Trust?
- How should my will provide for my child with a disability?
- Do I need to name myself as guardian for my child?
- Does my current plan adequately provide for me and my child?

Special Olympics New York will host two free informational sessions for parents, families and caregivers on January 31, 2007 at 6 p.m. and again on Saturday, February 3, 2007 at 10 a.m. at the Special Olympics offices on 504 Balltown Road, Schenectady.

These sessions will be conducted by William Van Evera, CLU, ChFC, and Edward Wilcenski, Esq.

William Van Evera is a Senior Vice President with The Affinity Group, LLC. He has spent a

great deal of time researching and acquiring knowledge about the types of financial planning issues families should be thinking about when they have a loved one with a disability. He is also the parent of a young man with a disability.

Edward Wilcenski, Esq. is an attorney with Jones & Wilcenski, PLLC. He practices in the areas of Special Needs Estate Planning, Elder Law and Trust and Estate Administration. He is the sibling of a young man with a disability.

For reservations, please contact Chris Smith at (518) 388-0793 and via email: csmith@nyso.org.

As a reminder, The first step to making a long-term investment while leaving a legacy is to speak to an attorney. Developing the "right" language for your will is essential to implementing what you desire to happen to your assets.

In the end, doing some good is personal, planned and purposeful. Making a long-term investment while leaving a legacy is an opportunity to embark on a personal journey that passes on your values to future generations.

None of this material is intended to constitute legal or tax advice. For advice and assistance in specific cases, the services of an attorney or other professional advisor should be obtained.

Genesee Region

Chocolate for Champions a Sweet Success

75 guests joined Special Olympics New York Genesee Region at Artisan Works art gallery on October 22 to indulge in some of the most delicious chocolate in the Rochester area. The event was hosted by Special Olympics athletes Garrett Royter and Joe Best. Seven talented chocolatiers created amazing samples to taste, and the guests voted on their favorites. The favorite and gold medal winner was the New York Wine and Culinary Center for their selection of decadent truffles and amazing chocolate sculpture. The silver medal was awarded to the Strathallen for their delicious chocolate pate, and a bronze medal was awarded to Affair de Chocolat for their sinfully good chocolate selection. Other competitors included Swards Candies, the Special Touch Bakery from the School of the Holy Childhood, I Scream Ice Cream, and the bakery from Heritage Christian Services. It was a wonderful event, and we are already looking forward to the 2nd Annual Chocolate for Champions on Friday, October 5, 2007.

Law Enforcement Torch Run International Conference



A Special Thank You to all of our LETR International Conference Planning Committee and all NY law enforcement representatives that dedicated their time to help make the conference a terrific success!

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Peg Adams | Tammy Kelsey |
| Alex Amos | Mark Koss |
| Kevin Arnone | Pat Mann |
| Linda Baker | Dave Martin |
| Joe Barca | Jimmy Miller |
| Helen Barca | Mike Murray |
| Mike Benson | Sue Murray |
| Sue Cooley | Major Ellwood Sloat |
| Todd Crossett | Steve Sullivan |
| Denny Fitzpatrick | Asiya Taher |
| Ann Frank | Kim Tisdale |
| Jeff Galm | Ron Warner |
| Sal Gerbino | Kim Wirth-Hessel |
| Debbie Gerbino | June Worden |
| Sal Gerbino, Jr. | Renee Snyder |
| Mary Jane Homac | |



Olympic Gold Medalist and Honorary Coach Jeff Blatnick with our Special Olympics gang.



Torch Ceremony - A torch represented each of the 25 years of LETR.



Baltimore's 98 Rock Morning Crew - Micky and Amelia talk with Buffalo's 103.3 The Edge Shred and Regnan and athlete Raymell Temaungil about Polar Plunge's.



Kevin Arnone and SONY Global Messenger Kevin Brown at Opening Ceremonies.



NY Host Night in Niagara Falls, including one of our sponsors (3rd from right) Ann McCarthy, Wegmans.

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Law Enforcement Torch Run International Conference



Gerbino Inducted into LETR Hall of Fame

One of our veteran LETR members received the ultimate award in his home state. Retired Sgt. of the Gates Police Department, Sal Gerbino was inducted into the Richard LaMunyon LETR for Special Olympics Hall of Fame. This award recognizes volunteers who demonstrate a sustained and significant contribution to Special Olympics at the local, national and international levels. For almost 20 years, he has carried the Special Olympics Flame of Hope within his heart and through his many actions on behalf of New York's athletes. As long-time volunteer, Sal has taken lead on many Torch Run events; organizing final legs, polar plunges, plane pulls, and by being an active and inspiring committee member. Sal also had a definitive part in the planning and execution of this conference.



Diane Budnar, Jack who is a New York State Trooper K-9 Police Dog, and Raymell Temaungil.



New York State Trooper Becky Gibbons takes a spin on the adult size tricycle for the Cop-stacle Course at the LETR Conference.

New York City

Continued from P. 1

New York City's athlete population; extend the ability to search out additional dollars and increase volunteer support — with your help we can achieve these goals outlined:

Goal #1: Support Growth: Sponsor Our Athletes

Secure sponsors to cover the cost of at least one year of sports training and competition for each new athlete.

Goal #2: Support Volunteerism: Sponsor Our Teams

Boost volunteerism and to offer new and existing coaches the opportunity to pursue additional training for the benefit of our athletes.

Goal #3: Open the Heart of a Neighborhood: Sponsor Our Training Clubs

Increase the number of training clubs and recruit more volunteers for 40,000 athletes by 2010.

Goal #4: Make a Season Happen: Sponsor Our Venues

Secure and retain quality facilities to train, support and encourage our athletes to succeed.

Goal #5: Help Spread the Word

Mobilize resources and develop winning strategies to strengthen fundraising initiatives.

“Special Olympics athletes are role models of change, helping us all to rethink our perceptions,” said Mr. Pasternack. “Expanding Special Olympics in New York City presents some outstanding opportunities for us to use sports as a foundation to continue to unite the New York City community through inclusion and acceptance,” he added.

Daniel Doctoroff, NYC Deputy Mayor, speaking on behalf of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Honorary Chair for the Urban Initiative, said, “The story of Special Olympics is in many ways the story of New York. It's the story of the value of human dignity and inclusion among people with diverse backgrounds and skills. I believe that in many ways, New York embodies the spirit of the Olympics...the nations of the world coming together in fair competition. That's equally true for Special Olympics...”

Doctoroff also thanked two corporate supporters of this initiative, Goldman Sachs and Starwood Hotels and Resorts, who were honored

at the event for their support of Special Olympics programs and athletes in New York City. Their participation has encouraged city government and corporate leaders to join the advisory committee and become supporters.

Introduced at the reception, was the Special Olympics New York Advisory committee which included Honorary Chair Mayor Bloomberg, New York City; Gerald Adolph, Booz Allen Hamilton; Bart Connor, Olympic Gold Medalist, Sportscaster, Gymnast; Donna de Varona, Olympic Medalist, Sportscaster; Jay Emmett, Redwood Productions; Gary Greenspan, Cushman & Wakefield; Marla Greenspan, Jones Lang Lasalle; Wendy Hilliard, New York City Sport Development Corporation and Sportscaster; Margo MacNabb; and Susan Saint James, 35-year Special Olympics volunteer. New members joining the committee are; Jim Gold, President and CEO of Bergdorf Goodman; Gale Brewer, NYC City Council Member and photographer Richard Corman.

For more information about the Urban Initiative; visit www.specialolympicsNY.org or contact NYC Regional Director Michelle LeMay Santiago at 212-661-5217, e-mail mlemaysantiago@nyso.org

Support Special Olympics New York and Take the Polar Plunge



Skivvies and Cold Water are Always a Definite Crowd Pleaser. It's shocking cold, but it's more exhilarating than the lukewarm waters of the swimming pool in the summer. Why not have your friends, family and co-workers donate cash to see you do an outrageous antic like this.

Polar Plunges are now considered an "extreme fundraising sport." What was once a European tradition of saunas and cold-water bathing was a reason and a way to keep the bathhouses busy all those many years ago. These days, the bathhouses are gone but the swimmers remain. Now for many it's a 'freezin for a reason' to benefit their favorite charity; Special Olympics New York, and for others it's a "test of courage, agility and pride. I DID IT!"

In order to participate in the Polar Plunge you must raise a minimum of \$100. You can plunge as an individual or as a team. (Teams must have at least five plungers and each plunger must raise a minimum of \$100)

The Special Olympics New York Polar Plunges are presented by New York Lottery and sponsored by the Law Enforcement Torch Run sponsor NYSCOPBA.

So How Do I Get Started?

It's easy! Register online where you, the plunger, can create your very own Plunge Web Site so that friends, family and co-workers can visit and donate right online! With a few clicks of the mouse you can send an e-mail out to all of your contacts and watch your donations pour in! To get started log-on to www.specialolympicsNY.com. You may also pre-register with this form by mail or fax: Special Olympics New York, c/o LETR Polar Plunge, 504 Balltown Road, Schenectady, NY 12304 Or fax to: 518-388-0795



RAISING BILLIONS TO EDUCATE MILLIONS



2007 Polar Plunge Locations and Dates:

Sunday, February 11, 2007,
Ontario Beach,
Charlotte, Rochester

Saturday, March 10, 2007,
Camp Mariah, Sharpe
Reservation, Fishkill

Syracuse site:
2/TBD/07

Sunday, March 4, 2007,
Boardwalk @ Stillwell Ave,
Coney Island

Saturday, March 10, 2007,
Bar Beach,
Port Washington

Buffalo and Capital District sites:
12/TBD/07

Registration Form

I am signing up for

Rochester 2/11/07 Coney Island 3/4/07 Fishkill 3/10/07 Long Island 3/10/07 Syracuse 2/?/07 Buffalo 12/?/07 Capital District 12/?/07

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

DOB (optional) _____ E-mail _____

Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____

Funds Raising Goal: _____

Shirt Size:
S M L XL XXL XXXL

I am plunging as a team captain
Team Name: _____

Please list if you are employed with a law enforcement agency

I am plunging within a team
Team Name: _____

I am plunging as an individual

Mail: Special Olympics New York
c/o LETR Polar Plunge
504 Balltown Road
Schenectady, NY 12304

Fax to: 518-388-0795

Please check here if you are a return plunger.

I am unable to Plunge, but would like to make a contribution of:
\$ _____

I am paying by: Cash Check Credit Card

Visa MC AE Discover
Signature _____

Credit Card # _____

Exp. _____ 3-digit
VIN _____

Souther Tier

JERSEY DESIGN WINNER HAILS FROM VESTAL HIGH SCHOOL

Bailey Simons, an 11th-grader at Vestal High School, was announced as the winner of the Binghamton Senators' first-ever jersey design contest to benefit Special Olympics during a pre-game ceremony. Bob Carr, owner of the Binghamton Senators, and John Crosby, area coordinator of Broome/Tioga Special Olympics, announced the winning design.

Simons' design, picked from more than 200 entries, will be worn by the B-Sens on April 7. Immediately following the game, the Senators will auction off all Special Olympics game-worn jerseys. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the Broome / Tioga Special Olympics.

First runner-up was awarded to Kayla McCoy, a 9th-grader at Binghamton High School.

Five other students earned honorary mentions for their artwork; Eryn Dibble from Vestal High School, Joel Mastrantuono from Maine-Endwell Middle School, Mary McLaughlin from Harpursville High School, Nicholas Patricia from Vestal High School and Britny Wainwright from Owego Free Academy.

The Broome / Tioga chapter of Special Olympics New York is comprised of 600 athletes in 18 different sports, and hosts ten local competitions every year.

For more information about the Senators, please contact:

Ryan Murphy, director of media & community relations, (607) 722-7367

~binghamtonsenators.com~



Capital District Little Angels

The 2006 third-grade catechism class at St. Vincent de Paul Church is now studying social justice. As part of their curriculum they have been learning about people with intellectual disabilities. Their teacher, Leilani Garcia, searched for a way for the class to become involved and contacted Special Olympics.

After a productive and inspiring meeting with the Special Olympics New York staff, the class decided to adopt the floor hockey team from the Capital District. The St. Vincent de Paul Church students are now hard at work making an introductory video to send to the floor hockey team as a "hello."

They also have plans to write encouraging notes and cards to send to the athletes, and the parish has also approved a trip to Special Olympics New York Winter Games in Syracuse where the children will be "fans" for the day.

Michelle Horning, the floor hockey team coach, has made plans to visit the St. Vincent de Paul Church class in January and bring along some team members. Michelle has extended an open invitation to the class to attend practices and has sent pictures of the athletes that will be shared with the parish school.

The children and their parents are also planning a fundraiser with hopes of supplying floor hockey jerseys for the upcoming February Winter Games. Watch for them in Syracuse — they will be the little ones cheering loudly (wings will be hiding under jackets!)

Genesee Region

Basketball at Bishop Kearney



Friday, February 9th, 2007 will be a special day for two Special Olympics basketball teams from the Lifetime Assistance training club. The teams will play a short exhibition match during halftime of the Bishop Kearney vs. Aquinas High School game. These perpetual rivals expect a competitive game and are happy to showcase Special Olympics during their game. Bishop Kearney's boys Varsity basketball team won the New York State Class B Championships in 2006 and plan to repeat in 2007.

The Lifetime Assistance teams, coached by Pat Dady and Adolph Dupree, are looking forward to the opportunity to show their skills on the hardwood to their fellow athletes, as well as the 850+ fans expected to be in attendance. All proceeds will be donated to Special Olympics New York Genesee Region. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please contact Lisa Best at (585)586-7400 ext. 109

Hudson Valley

Volunteer Spotlight: Charlie "Bones" Jones

The Hudson Valley Region is very proud and extremely fortunate to have a volunteer of the caliber of Charlie Jones. "Bones," as he is affectionately referred to by those who know him, has been actively involved with Special Olympics New York for over 30 years. In fact, Charlie was the driving force in creating the first Special Olympics program in Rockland County at Letchworth Village.

Throughout the years, the program grew from 2 to 15 sports and created training clubs at schools and agencies throughout the county. Bones became the Area Coordinator in 1972 and quickly developed a strong cadre of volunteers dedicated and committed to our athletes. Currently, Bones is a member of the New York State Games Committee.

In 1988, Rockland County Special Olympics was recognized as the best program in the state. Well deserved personal recognition came his way in 1990 when he was presented the Dorothy Buehring Phillips Award as Volunteer of the Year. Obviously Special Olympics and our athletes are very near and dear to Charlie's heart. His hard work and efforts give proof to the adage that, "Work is love made visible." On behalf of the Hudson Valley Region we extend our own heartfelt thanks to Bones and his family for all they have given to each of us.





Special Olympics New York

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Comments, story suggestions,
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NEW YORK

Created By The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation

Special Olympics New York, Inc. Is Authorized And Accredited By Special Olympics International For The Benefit of Citizens
With Intellectual Disabilities, Including Mental Retardation.

Winter Games are Just Around the Corner

P&C Food & Pharmacy is Presenting Sponsor

Mark your calendars for the 2007 Winter Games in Syracuse, February 23-25, 2007. Close to 1,000 athletes and coaches from across New York State will participate over the weekend in 8 Olympic-style sports, including Alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, figure skating, speed skating, snowshoeing and floor hockey.

The Winter Games, like all our competitions, provide our athletes with an opportunity to come together and showcase their athletic skills and celebrate the spirit of Special Olympics. The Games offer our athletes, families and volunteers not only excellence in competition, but also help grow an awareness of the worldwide impact of Special Olympics, provide an explosion of volunteerism and an increase in services for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

On Friday, February 23 at 8:00 pm, the pageantry and entertainment of Opening Ceremonies will begin at Driver's Village in Syracuse and culminate with the Law Enforcement Torch Run, the Flame of Hope carried by

law enforcement officers from around the state to ignite the Special Olympics Cauldron in honor of the Winter Games.

On Saturday, February 24, from 8:00 am to 5:00 PM, athletic competitions will be held at various times and venues around greater Syracuse: Alpine skiing at Toggenburg Ski Center, cross-country skiing at Highland Forest, figure skating and speed skating at the War Memorial, floor hockey games and skills at the Oncenter and snowshoeing at Thornden Park.

While at the Games, all athletes will have the opportunity to participate in Healthy Athlete screenings. Special Olympics New York believes that encouraging athletes to improve their health and fitness levels, and providing the means to do so, leads to an enhanced sports experience and an improved well being. The Healthy Athlete initiative includes: Healthy Hearing, Opening Eyes, Special Smiles, Fit Feet and Wellness Education. Trained clinicians will provide these screenings and preventative care to the athletes.



These Games travel every two or three years to a different location in New York State. This will be our last year in Syracuse as we return to finish our three year cycle.

Special Olympics New York has enjoyed tremendous community support for these Games and looks forward to joining its Central New York friends again in February. We hope you will join us too.

Winter Games sponsors to date are New York Lottery, New York State United Teachers, National Grid, Time Warner Cable and Galaxy Communications.

Mission: is to provide sports training and athletic competition to individuals with intellectual disabilities, including mental retardation. Our programs are designed to offer participants continuing opportunities to enjoy sports, develop physical fitness and demonstrate courage while interacting with their families, the community and other Special Olympics athletes.