

Triumph



Special Olympics New York • NOVEMBER 2002

Seneca Falls to Host Special Olympics New York Fall Games in 2003 and 2004

Official announcement made in October at New York Chiropractic College, the host venue.

Athletes and coaches from Area 19 (Seneca, Yates, Wayne and Ontario Counties) cheered and waved at pedestrians from the back of a 1930s fire truck as they rode through the towns of Waterloo and Seneca Falls on Monday, Oct. 21.

They braved the brisk autumn air of the Finger Lakes to announce that the Fall Games will in Seneca Falls in 2003 and 2004. A more temperate announcement was then made during a news conference at the New York Chiropractic College (NYCC).

Twelve-hundred athletes and coaches are expected to participate at the Fall Games, which will take place Oct. 10 to 12, 2003 and Oct. 8 to 10, 2004. Athletes will compete in

Bocce, Cross-Country Running, Cycling, Equestrian, Golf, Soccer and Softball.

"I have no doubt that Seneca Falls



SONY Staff

Joe Iaconis presents Senator Michael Nozzolio with a certificate proclaiming him Honorary Head Coach of the 2003-2004 Fall Games.

and the New York Chiropractic College can provide our athletes with a quality event and an outstanding experience," said Neal J. Johnson, president and chief executive officer of Special Olympics New York. "We are looking forward to working with the college and the community that has offered us so much support in the past."

Sen. Michael Nozzolio, R-Seneca Falls, expressed his excitement for having the Games come to his district and pledged his support in the coming two years. He was presented with a certificate from Johnson and athlete Joe Iaconis naming him the Honorary Head Coach of the Games.

"Bringing the Special Olympics Fall Games to Seneca Falls is a major victory for

Continued to p. 3

Make Miracles Happen In New York

On Dec. 4, Special Olympics programs throughout the United States will participate in CIBC World Markets' Miracle Day, a one-day event that raises money for charities benefiting children. For the first time, Special Olympics New York is one of the approved charities.

CIBC World Markets institutional sales and trading staff will join their colleagues around the world in donating fees and commissions to charities. Participating locations include offices in Canada, Europe, Australia, Asia and the United States.

CIBC clients have the opportunity to direct up to 50 percent of their transactions to an approved charity. The remaining 50% goes into the Miracle Day Pool, which is distributed among approved children's charities at the discretion of the Miracle Day Committee. A client who has an account at CIBC Oppenheimer can direct up to 100 percent of his or her transaction to an approved charity.

A proud tradition since 1984, Miracle Day has raised more than \$60 million for

children's charities.

In 2001, Miracle Day raised \$12 million the United States alone.

Individual CIBC World Markets offices direct the funds raised locally to charities in their communities.

Last year, funds raised on Miracle Day were distributed to more than 375 children's charities across the United States.

For more information visit specialolympicsnewyork.org. ■



What's INSIDE

3 Lottery Renews Support

5 General Store

7 Letters

Find up-to-date information on our official Web site, www.specialolympicsnewyork.org.

A Message from the President

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



This month volunteers from across the state will come together once again, not for a competition but to share ideas and visions for the future of the organization. Of course, I am talking about our Fall Leadership Conference and Awards Banquet.

The conference has become an annual celebration of our achievements as well as an opportunity to recharge our commitment to the athletes we all serve.

While the formal theme of the conference is "In It Together," the underlying theme will again be change.

Special Olympics New York has changed a great deal over the past year. On Jan. 1, Long Island will formally become a Region instead of two separate Area programs. Regional Director Jeff McCausland is hiring regional staff, which will conduct the day-to-day operations. Jeff will lead a panel discussion on Sunday that some are calling, "The Making of the Long Island Region." Volunteers from Nassau and Suffolk counties, who devised the new regional structure, will be part of the panel. (As always, volunteers will always be our foundation).

The panel will discuss the steps that volunteers took to identify functional efficiencies within Long Island. In other words, the group examined existing training and competition programs, as well as current administrative, public awareness, development and outreach programs and studied them for growth opportunities.

The organization owes a debt of gratitude to this group of volunteers, whose groundwork will benefit the entire state as we evolve into a regional structure. They've proven that it can be done.

The conference will also include the annual Awards Banquet as well as training for the new class of Global Messengers. While the banquet shines a spotlight on select athletes, volunteers, sponsors and supportive organizations, it's equally about the incredible dedication being demonstrated day after day throughout the year.

The Global Messenger training has become one of the more poignant elements of the conference. The session, which is closed on Friday and Saturday, is opened on Sunday to anyone who wants to see the athletes' first official speech as a Global Messenger. As important as the other sessions are, watching these athletes overcome one of life's greatest fears – public speaking – is an overdose of inspiration. ■

2 Special Olympics New York

2002-2003 Calendar of Events

November

23 & 24 Fall Leadership Conference & Awards Banquet, Sheraton Hotel, Saratoga Springs

Also scheduled during November, with dates to be confirmed:

- Area Coordinators' Council meeting *
- Training schools – Scheduled as needed throughout the year *

January

11 Sections 4 & 5 Floor Hockey, Seneca Falls
18 Section 1 Floor Hockey, Javitts Center, Manhattan

Also scheduled during January, with dates to be confirmed:

- Training schools – Scheduled as needed throughout the year *

February

1 Sections 1, 2 & 3 Winter Games, Saratoga Spa State Park
1 Section 2 Floor Hockey, Montrose
21 – 23 2003 Winter Games, Nevele Grande Resort, Ellenville

Also scheduled during January, with dates to be confirmed:

- Training schools – Scheduled as needed throughout the year *

* For more details, please contact your Director of Field Services or the Special Olympics New York office.

In the Next Issue

■ Award Recipients Announced at Fall Conference



Triumph

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Inspire Greatness

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The New York Lottery Renews its Statewide Sponsorship

Pledges continued support of Special Olympics events and programs for a fourth year.

The New York Lottery announced this month that it will continue its partnership with Special Olympics as part of its mission to support education across the state.

For the past two years the Lottery has provided financial and in-kind support to all statewide and regional competitions and many fund-raising events. It has also been the title sponsor of the Million Dollar Duck Race in Manhattan for the past two years.

The in-kind support has included producing public service announcements to promote events including the Summer Games in Buffalo, providing computers for schools as part of a giveaway, many, many



lottery tickets that were given as incentives and prizes and, of course, they have graciously provided us with an emcee in Lottery personality Yolanda Vega.

Since 1967 the Lottery has contributed \$20 billion to educational initiatives in New York.

“The commitment the Lottery has shown to our program and its athletes is overwhelming,” said Neal J. Johnson, president and chief executive officer of Special Olympics New York. “Our organization, and especially our athletes, are extremely fortunate to count the Lottery as our statewide partner and our friends.” ■



Matt Odedahl

The Lottery's Yolanda Vega adds excitement to each event she emcees.

Seneca Falls to Host Fall Games

Continued from p. 1

New York Chiropractic College, the community and the entire Finger Lakes region,” Nozzolio said. “I commend the College for their leadership and vision.”

NYCC will be the primary venue and will host Cross-Country, Cycling, Soccer



SONY Staff

Area 19 athletes wave to citizens of Seneca Falls from the back of the firetruck. Police sirens brought people out of their business to see what was going on.

and Softball. Venues for Bocce, Equestrian and Golf will be announced at a later date.

Dr. Frank J. Nicchi, president of

NYCC, welcomed Special Olympics. “I am delighted NYCC was chosen to host these exciting and worthwhile games. We’re rolling out the red carpet to spectators and athletes, alike,” Dr. Nicchi said.

Dr. Nicchi was joined by local Special Olympics athletes and volunteers, members of the college, as well as Seneca County Director of Tourism Maureen Koch and Peter Same, Seneca Falls town supervisor.

“Special Olympics provides real competition for real athletes,” Iaconis explained to the crowd. “I think Seneca Falls should be proud we have selected this community for one of our biggest and best events.”



SONY Staff

NYCC's Recreation Director Tony Petroccia, Senator Nozzolio, Neal Johnson and President Frank Nicchi posed with Joe Iaconis, right, and athletes from Area 19.

The Fall Games is one of three statewide Special Olympics competitions held each year in New York and one of more than 400 competitions held across the state annually at either the local, regional or state level.

For more information, call Pete Lawrence, director of competition, at 518-399-0791, or visit www.specialolympicsnewyork.org. To sponsor the Games, call Laurie Kennedy at 585-271-5151, or e-mail lkennedy@nyso.org. ■

Special Olympics Makes Magazine's Best Charity List Again

Informs readers the best nonprofits to support.

Worth magazine compiles a list at the end of each year of America's 100 Best Charities.

Special Olympics has once again made the list. The magazine publishes the list to inform its readers which charities support, especially in a time of year-end, tax-deductible contributions.

For the past six months, Worth investigated hundreds of charities and called on the expertise of dozens of philanthropy experts, to come up with a list of the nation's 100 best. How did they choose them?

First they determined how much of each \$100 donated was actually directed to

the charity's program and how much was used for fund-raising initiatives, administration and future reserves.

Special Olympics broke down like this: \$61 went to programs, \$17 to fund-raising, \$8 to administration and \$14 to reserves.

But numbers were not the only determining factor for the magazine. A charity made the list only after the magazine was convinced of the worthiness of its goal and the success of its mission. They wanted their readers to feel comfortable giving money to any of the 100 organizations on the list. ■



MAAC Pledges its Support for 2002-03

John Gianakouros speaks at basketball media day.

The Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference held its tip-off luncheon at Madison Square Garden in October, an annual gathering of media, student athletes and a special guest – athlete John Gianakouros from Rockland County.

Gianakouros became part of the annual tradition where an athlete addresses 150 male and female MAAC basketball players, along with coaches, athletic directors and sponsors. This awareness opportunity is part of a year-round campaign to bring the spirit and accomplishments of Special Olympics athletes to the MAAC and its supporters.

From now through May, Special Olympics athletes will conduct demonstrations in Basketball, Swimming, Softball and other sports at six MAAC schools throughout New York. The MAAC will air television and radio public service announcements in support of Special Olympics and provide public address announcements at MAAC competi-

tions and championships.

In his tip-off address, Gianakouros, a Special Olympics athlete since 1982, told the players in the audience that Michael Jordan and Patrick Ewing are his favorite players (He wears Jordan's no. 23 jersey).

"We may not play sports better, but we always try them," Gianakouros said. "We are always brave in the attempt."

Neal J. Johnson, president and chief executive officer of Special Olympics New York, thanked the student athletes for their past support of Special Olympics and encouraged their future support. He praised

MAAC Commissioner Richard Ensor, Esq., for recognizing the importance of Special Olympics and pledging his support to the athletes. ■



Rosenblatt Street Sign Unveiled in the Bronx

Late volunteer honored by city for bringing Special Olympics to the Bronx.

Last year a bill was passed in New York City that would rename a portion of Waters Place in the Bronx after the late Herb Rosenblatt, the tireless and dedicated volunteer who brought Special Olympics to the Bronx. This October, it became a reality at an unveiling ceremony.

The street sign was placed on the corners of Waters Place between Eastchester Road and Westchester Avenue.

"He changed the life of the developmentally disabled from being just a spectator to becoming participants," said Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano, who sponsored the bill with Councilman Pedro Espada. The bill was signed by then Mayor Rudolph Giuliani on July 16, 2001.

Rosenblatt, a special education teacher with the NYC Board of Education, started the first Special Olympics – Bronx Training Club at Lehman College 30 years ago. He also served on the Special Olympics New York Board of Directors. Rosenblatt died in 1991 at age 43. ■



Tis the Season ...

... the Shopping Season.

With the holidays upon us, what better gift to give than Special Olympics New York apparel and merchandise? To order any of the items to the right, fill out the order form and mail it with a check or money order to Special Olympics New York, Attn: Holly Gray, 504 Balltown Road, Schenectady, NY, 12304. Or fax your credit card order to 518-388-0795. Thank you for your support.

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Sub-Total		Add 10% S & H		Total		

Vist www.specialolympicsnewyork.org to place your order.

Bowl-a-Rama in New York State

Athletes competed in three statewide Bowling Tournaments in November: Bowling West, Nov. 2 and 3 in Rochester; Bowling Central, Nov. 8 to 10 in Utica; and Bowling East, Nov. 9 in Melville. More than a thousand athletes and coaches also enjoyed a victory dinner and dance after their competitions. Right: Athletes at Bowling East enjoyed a Luau-themed victory dance at Island Trees Middle School on Long Island. ■



Around the State

Long Island Region



Long Island held its annual Fall Adapted Games on Oct. 28 at SUNY Stony Brook. Approximately 240 athletes participated in Soccer, Bowling and adapted events such as beanbag toss. More than 400 volunteers, mostly from the college, helped out and cheered on the athletes. "Some of these athletes haven't been cheered in their whole life," said Jeff McCausland, Long Island's regional director. "And here you see the youth of Long Island cheering these athletes. And what it means, both to the volunteers and the athletes, is just remarkable to me."

Area 1 – Bronx

Jesse Silverman and the rest of his Hebrew class were asked by their Rabbi for suggestions on where their class should make a sizeable donation. Jesse raised his hand and told the class that they should donate it to Special Olympics New York, because his uncle, Michael Silverman, is an athlete and it's a very worthy cause because it has helped his uncle so much. The class voted, and the money will be donated to Special Olympics New York. "He did it completely on his own," said Phyllis Silverman, Michael's mother and Area coordinator. "It touched the whole family that he would think about his uncle and understand what a big influence Special Olympics has on his life."

Area 12 – Oneida/Herkimer

The Federation of New York Insurance Professionals and the Insurance Professionals of the Mohawk Valley held their fourth annual Special Olympics Walk on Nov. 2 at Sangertown Square in Utica. Proceeds will benefit Special Olympics New York – Oneida and Herkimer Counties.

Area 14 – Broome - Tioga

The Partners in Progress building in Elmira was turned into a haunted house on Nov. 1 and 2 to benefit Special Olympics New York – Broome and Tioga Counties. Participants paid \$3 to enter.

Area 17 – Cayuga/Tompkins and Cortland

Several members of the Area 17 Cycling team helped open the first two miles of the new Cayuga Waterfront Trail at Cass Park in Ithaca on Oct. 19. When completed, the six-mile trail will serve as a linear park linking the Tompkins County Visitors' Center, Stewart Park, the Ithaca's Farmers' Market, Inlet Is-

Athletes in Long Island Go Quackers Over the Ducks



During one of the last Long Island Ducks games of the season, Long Island athlete Matt Schuster, center, had the opportunity to meet, from left, Commander of Disabled American Veterans of NY, Robert Petucci, Congressman Steve Israel and Ducks coach Buddy Harrelson. The Ducks provided Long Island athletes opportunities to come out to the game several times this past year and some even had the chance to throw out the first pitch. ■

land, Cass Park and Treman State Marine Park. Cycling coach Dick Krizek said he hopes to use the trail to train his athletes.

Area 27 – Franklin/Lawrence

A 5K run-walk-rollerblade and Bowling Buddies event was held during Make A Difference Day, Oct. 26, in St. Lawrence County. The events benefited Special Olympics New York – St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties. Donations were also made by the Ogdensburg Elks Lodge and the Heuvelton Amvets and Ladies Auxiliary.

Area 35 – Staten Island

Helen Settles, Staten Island's head Basketball coach, won the Clarence "Butch" Mangin Youth Award for her work with children at the 38th annual Skinner Awards luncheon. Settles is also an eighth grade teacher at Prall Intermediate School in West Brighton. She has spent 28 years teaching and countless hours talking to troubled children. "A lot of people don't listen to children," she said. "I listen to them. They really have a lot to say."



Area 28 – Madison

Athlete Amy Gustina of Madison County was honored in October for her achievements with Special Olympics by being selected as the Grand Marshal of Camden's Homecoming Parade. Gustina attended an international invitational in Greece last April and brought home a Gold and a Bronze in Aquatics.

She was also honored earlier in the year by the Madison County Board of Supervisors for her outstanding accomplishments. The board passed a resolution honoring Gustina for her exceptional athletic achievement.

Please call, fax or e-mail your Area information to Doreen Hand, 212-661-3963, Fax: 212-661-4658, dhand@nyso.org

Point of View

By Danny Wegman

Special Olympics New York has provided more than 30 years of year-round sports training and competition for children and adults with mental retardation. This is a monumental feat, considering Special Olympics is a grassroots movement whose mission is carried forth in New York by nearly 30,000 volunteers!

Wegmans has been with Special Olympics New York for more than ten of these years, at the local level in the communities where our stores are located, and state-wide as a leading sponsor of the state level Summer Games when they were held in Rochester and Buffalo. It was my pleasure to serve as Honorary Chair of the Summer Games in both cities, and to be joined by our Wegmans employees who served on the organizing committees and as volunteers at the Games. Our involvement extended throughout the company: store managers from every store led a large contingent to Opening Ceremonies to cheer on the athletes for this year's Summer Games in Buffalo.

Wegmans has found great benefit in partnering with Special Olympics New York. We have employees who participate in the competition as athletes, or who have family members, neighbors or friends participating. One doesn't have to look far to find a link between Wegmans and Special Olympics.

Businesses that partner with Special Olympics tap into a wealth of consumers, crossing all racial, educational, social and economic lines. Involvement extends beyond the athletes and their families to volunteers, fans, donors, government and community leaders.

Special Olympics New York is a highly professional organization with the ability to reach out to top-notch volunteers. This, combined with their superb public relations abilities, give businesses prominent recognition for their involvement.

In the end, however, the best measure of success is the improvement in the lives of 40,000 athletes and 300,000 potential athletes in New York. While the benefits of association with Special Olympics are

numerous, the true benefit to embracing Special Olympics goes well beyond a single event.

The 2002 Summer Games concluded months ago, but our customers and employees continue to ask how they can stay involved with the athletes and programs. Is Wegmans proud to be a friend of Special Olympics? Absolutely!

Point of View is written periodically.

Danny Wegman is president of Rochester-based Wegmans Food Markets. To submit a column idea call 212-661-3963, or e-mail dhand@nyso.org. ■



Letters

Editor's Note: *The following letter was written to Diana Bennett, director of volunteer management who organized a Healthy Athletes conference in Albany.*

Dearest Diana,

There are no words to express our appreciation for all that you did to make the Healthy Athletes program such a success at the Fall Games and for aiding us with our preparations. The accommodations at the Desmond Conference Center were fabulous. I have been to many conference centers, however, the rooms, food, and overall facility at the Desmond were the best I have ever encountered.

Your choice with the conference center and your phenomenal organization skills are greatly appreciated. The welcome reception, training day, grand Opening Ceremonies and the Special

Olympics itself were events that we will remember with great fondness. It is a large task to coordinate all the professionals, students and dignitaries. Congratulations to you and your staff for leading us in such a successful and organized event.

Before our departure for Albany, I reminded the students of the honor to be participants in the Healthy Hearing screenings. They understood that the honor should be first in their heart, followed by the clinical experience. They voiced their appreciation for the opportunity for such an experience. It was extremely gratifying to witness the student participation, work with the athletes, and to assist in the clinical administration of

hearing screenings.

The students and faculty at SUNY College of Fredonia would be honored to continue to participate in future hearing screenings at Special Olympics events. Again, thank you for providing us with such a rewarding experience.

Sincerely,
Kim L. Tillery, Ph.D., CCC-A
Assistant Professor
Department of Speech Pathology
and Audiology

Editor's Note: *Anthony Sackett volunteered at the 2002 Fall Games in Saugerties. He wrote this letter to Jack Keeley, who served on the Local Organizing Committee.*

Dear Jack,

This is just to say thank you for encouraging my participation in the Special Olympics.

As it turned out, you did me a great favor. To spend a few hours among such gentle and sweet hearted people was a blessing beyond compare. I loved every minute of it and will never forget it. Thanks again.

Your Friend,
Anthony Sackett

Submit letters to Doreen Hand, Special Olympics New York, 211 East 43rd Street, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017, or e-mail: dhand@nyso.org.



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