

Triumph

Fall 2006



Special Olympics
New York

Once Upon a Time at the Fall Games ...

Editor's Note: This article was written before the Fall Games, which fell on Triumph's print schedule. Actual photos and post-coverage will be made available on www.specialolympicsNY.org.

Our anticipation of Fall Games leads us to imagine that after all is said and done our memories will recall how...

... Enormous banners stretching across Court Street in downtown Binghamton heralded the arrival of Special Olympics New York's Fall Games on October 6 - 7.

For Opening Ceremonies on Friday evening, nearly 1,300 athletes and coaches swooshed like Fall leaves into Binghamton University Events Center in colorful T-shirts designating athlete delegations from around the state. The lighting of the Special Olympics cauldron, never failing to excite the crowd, culminated the joyful entertainment and inspiring parades and speeches. Special Olympics New

York president and CEO Neal J. Johnson's traditional "Let the Games Begin!" resounded through the building, echoed by athletes' cheers spilling over the crowd of spectators and dignitaries.

Then rising on Saturday morning, the athletes and coaches readied themselves for a full day of competition at venues throughout Greater Binghamton: Soccer, softball, cycling, cross country, bocce, golf, equestrian and rollerskating!



Special Olympics
New York

FALL GAMES



Yes, it was certainly serious sports competition. The "game face" on each athlete could tell you that. The long-awaited and well-earned medals glinting in the autumn light signaled success. But it was also fantastic fun and highly rewarding after weeks of training. You haven't seen anything until you've seen a bocce victory dance.

And dance they did! After the satisfying

triumphs of the day and the extinguishing of the Flame of Hope at Closing Ceremonies on Saturday, the athletes boogied into the night as only they know how: side by side doing the electric slide.

Special Olympics New York thanks each and every volunteer who helped make Fall Games such a tremendous experience for the athletes, from setting up the venues to registering the participants to making all those lunches. We also thank the many members of the Local Organizing Committee for their creative and industrious work over the months prior to the Games. Our gratitude goes out to the coaches who train the athletes so diligently during the year and help shape the character that lets them be so brave in the attempt to win.

We pay tribute also to those corporate sponsors who make the Games possible: New York Lottery, NYSUT, Raymond Corporation, NBT Bank, NYSEG, The Federation of NY Insurance Professionals, Sodexo, Greater Binghamton NY Convention and Visitors

Continued on P. 6

Long Island Region

Dreaming Big Brings Rewards When You Invest in Special Olympics

Special Olympics Athlete and Global Messenger Craig Ludin to be Inducted into the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and Museum

Long Island Special Olympics athlete and Global Messenger Craig Ludin will be inducted into The National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and Museum on April 29, 2007. Craig, a winner of two bronze medals and one silver at the recent Special Olympics National Games in Iowa, has attended numerous New York State Games and won gold, silver and bronze medals. His favorite sport is swimming and he dreams of making it to the Special Olympics World Games in the future.

"Craig has always dreamed big. It's what's gotten him where he is today," said Hall of Fame Director Alan Freedman. "Craig is an amazing young man, and we are thrilled that he is one of the inductees for 2007." The National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and Museum is dedicated to honoring Jewish athletes, coaches, executives and others who have distinguished themselves in the world of sports.

In addition to Craig, other inductees include swimmer Mark Spitz, broadcaster Howard Cosell, marathoner Deena Kastor and seven others from the world of sports. The induction ceremony will be held at the Suffolk Y JCC in Commack, NY. The Suffolk Y JCC is an agency of UJA Federation and

Continued on P. 3



What's INSIDE

3 Where There is a Will 5 Pacific Industries Tee It Up 7 USMA Volunteers

Find up-to-date information on our official Web site, www.specialolympicsNY.org, and visit www.soshopping.com

A Message from the President

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

Investing in Special Olympics New York



Every day, I take a quiet moment and ponder once more the many blessings that have been bestowed upon Special Olympics New York throughout this year. I always hope that tomorrow I can experience them again with even more new memories to add.

In this issue, we share some of Special Olympics' finest memories of 2006; the heroism, the attitude and courage demonstrated by each and every volunteer and athlete.

You see, there are so many people to whom Special Olympics New York owes its enormous success. Literally thousands of people invest in Special Olympics every day by giving their time, talents and energy so that we can continue to "Inspire Greatness." Our volunteers are nearly 25,000 strong, and they are the life force of our organization, sharing the Special Olympics vision.

Every day our volunteers and coaches invest in Special Olympics by striving to increase New York's athlete-base so that we may provide more athletic and motivating chances to existing and new athletes and their families.

Every day our supporters and sponsors invest in Special Olympics New York, by supplying all that can be offered to help produce our wonderful program. They accommodate our athletes' needs with the assurance that there is no cost associated for participation.

Every day the Special Olympics athlete movement gets larger, stronger (43,000+) and increasingly more excited about the possibilities of tomorrow. They are so very thankful to all those who invest in them.

I hope that you will gain a closer understanding when you have read this newsletter, cover to cover, and realize my plea: Please continue investing in Special Olympics New York. We are growing every day, and we need more volunteers, supporters and donors for tomorrow.

*If you volunteer already, help us recruit others. If you know someone who would be a good coach, get them in touch with us. As we approach the New Year, please help us grow by making a generous contribution to a great cause. Invest in the athletes! Invest in Special Olympics.
Contact info@nyso.org for more details.*

Law Enforcement Torch Run

Taking First Steps to a Lifetime Loyalty Can and Does Grow on You

The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) means different things to different people. For some, the Torch Run is a great day to get out into the community, get a little exercise and be a part of a fun day for a great cause.

For others, it means a little bit more. They're involved in a few more committees, heading up teams at the local fire truck pull, raising money for a polar plunge or even attending the local or State Games by awarding medals and working events. But for one person it goes above and beyond.

Kevin Arnone has taken his investment in Special Olympics New York not only to the next level, he has created a new one. Way back when Kevin was approached by a co-worker at Attica Correctional Facility to run in the Torch Run he thought, sure that would be fun.

Little did he know what that first step would mean. Almost 20 years later he has been at the fore front of it all, the fundraising events, the final legs and now hosting the 25th Anniversary International Torch Run Conference. Kevin has been instrumental in every aspect of the upcoming Conference. Whether he's rounding up volunteers, finding those last few lanyards that are needed, organizing signage or even securing sponsorship it's always for "The Conference!"

When asked a few years ago what he did for a living, Kevin would automatically say he's a sergeant at Attica and I volunteer for the Special Olympics, now if you ask him he just might say I'm the Torch Run Director for Special Olympics, oh yeah, I'm a sergeant at Attica in my spare time!

A few years after Kevin became involved in the Torch Run, his son Adam was born. Now seventeen, Adam is a fixture at most New York LETR events and an active Special Olympics athlete. The question is who is more proud, Kevin of his son or Adam of his dad!

Kevin and many of his fellow law enforcement friends invest in Special Olympics New York through the Law Enforcement Torch Run by conducting and operating many crazy and wild fundraisers. Contact Renee Snyder at rsnyder@nyso.org for more details about this program and how to get involved today.

2 Special Olympics New York

Triumph Fall 2006

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.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEW YORK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Salinardi, Chairman

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Anthony J. Bifaro
Allan O. Birkett
Thomas E. Blake
Dorothy M. Chapman
Stanley Hansen, Jr.
James Horan
Michael F. Petramalo
Anthony Principe

DIRECTORS

Peter Brady
Daniel J. Callahan
Heather Dwyer
Edward Engelbride
Steven Maiman
Frank Mitola
Bob Massey
Kathi Nolan
Theodore Wolfstitch
Richard Zerach

Special Olympics
New York, Inc.
504 Balltown Road,
Schenectady, NY 12304-
2290

Phone: 800-836-6976
Fax: 518-388-0795
Web site:
www.specialolympicsNY.org

Triumph Contact:
Darcie Henderson
518-388-0793 x 108
dhenders@nyso.org

Where There is a Will. There is a Way.

Winston Churchill said, “We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.”

Oseola McCarty did not know Winston Churchill but found a way to make a life by touching thousands. A woman of modest means, she generously donated \$150,000 to The University of Southern Mississippi. For over 75 years, Oseola had saved her earnings from washing and ironing other people’s clothes. Her frugal lifestyle led her to invest in an institution that she was deeply passionate about; education.

The September 2006 *Chronicle of Philanthropy* reported that a teacher, Edna Diehl in Michigan, has bequeathed \$1.3 million to the school district where she taught for 29 years. The money is expected to finance two years of college for five students every year for three years.

These stories inspire us to do good - but how much more can we possibly do? We volunteer many hours to charities and make donations to causes that move us. These charities that depend on us to achieve their mission and deliver program and services will need long-term investment for survival. How can you continue to do some good while doing well? There are financial tools available to strategically meet your financial goals and also make charitable contributions that make a difference. A **bequest**, also known as a “**will**,” is a popular tool and great way to safeguard the future your favorite charities.

A bequest can be made in any of the following ways:

• **A general bequest** leaves a specific amount to a specific charity.

Sample language: “I give and bequeath the sum of \$ _____ (or x% of my estate) to Special Olympics New York, Inc., a non-profit organization headquartered in Schenectady, New York, to be used in support of its general charitable purposes.”

• **A specific bequest** leaves a piece of property such as stock, real estate or artwork.

Sample language: “I give and bequeath my original plays with manuscript copyrights to Special Olympics New York, Inc., a non-profit organization headquartered in Schenectady, New York.”

• **A residual bequest** leaves all or a portion of what remains from an estate after debts, taxes, expenses and other inheritance have been paid.

Sample language: “I give to Special Olympics New York, Inc., a non-profit organization headquartered in Schenectady, New York, the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate.”

• **Bequest for a specific purpose or program** leaves all or portion of an estate to a specific program or charitable purpose.

Sample language: “I give and bequest to Special Olympics New York, Inc., a non-profit organization headquartered in Schenectady, New York, the sum of \$ _____ (or % of my estate) to be used for (specify purpose).”

• **A contingent bequest** leaves assets under certain conditions. For instance, if a spouse or other successor does not survive.

Sample language: “I give, devise and bequeath to (Name of Person) the sum of \$ _____ (or x% of my estate) in the event he (or she) shall survive me. Should (Name of Person) predecease me, I give, devise and bequeath said sum to Special Olympics New York, Inc., a non-profit organization headquartered in Schenectady, New York for its charitable uses and purposes.”

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.

Special Olympics New York can help you plan your will so that you can be sure that your family, friends and charities that matter to you benefit according to your wishes. If you have any specific questions or for additional information, please contact Chris Smith at (518) 388-0793 and via email: Csmith@nyso.org.

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.

Dreaming Big

Continued from P.1.

affiliated with JCC Association.

“We are always so proud when one of our athletes receives outstanding recognition, and national recognition at that,” said Special Olympics New York president and CEO Neal J. Johnson. “Craig is a wonderful athlete and a terrific example of what an individual with an intellectual disability can achieve. Special Olympics strives through sports to help increase athletes’ courage and confidence, which carry into all aspects of their lives. I’m sure Craig is as pleased with himself as he certainly deserves to be. Craig has long been a personal inspiration to me.”

It is the purpose of the Global Messengers program to promote Special Olympics New York whenever possible. As a Global Messenger, athletes continually invest in Special Olympics by educating individuals in their communities about the mission, philosophy and benefits of the Special Olympics program, and Craig Ludin is testimony to this fact. If you know of someone or are interested in becoming part of the Global Messenger program, contact Susan MacBryde at smacbryde@nyso.org for 2007 training schedule and information.

New York Knights Invest Time, Energy and Resources for Special Olympics New York

On Saturday, September 9 in many communities throughout New York State you could find men, women, and children enjoying a beautiful Fall day. For the Knights of Columbus across New York, this wasn't just any Saturday. It was a fun filled day of softball games, golf tournaments and other fundraising events in support of Special Olympics New York.

The New York State Council Knights of Columbus's State Deputy Anthony Preziosi charged his 100,000 plus members to help raise funds and awareness for the athletes of Special Olympics New York for a second consecutive year. Under Preziosi's leadership in 2005 the New York Knights raised \$30,000 in support of the year-round training and competition programs offered by Special Olympics.

Preziosi's goal for 2006 is even more challenging, "I have asked all of my brothers to give a little to the athletes who give so much of themselves," said Preziosi. "Our goal is to supersede last year's contribution and create a buzz around these fundraising events so the Knights come back year after year in support of Special Olympics."



"What a special touch this added to the Games and our athletes truly enjoyed it!" said Johnson. "We look forward to a long partnership with the Knights of Columbus."



The brothers of the New York Knights did just that on September 9 with events spanning from Batavia to Staten Island. A grand total has not yet been announced but State Deputy Preziosi is confident that their events were extremely successful due to increased turnout and fundraising success at individual events.

The Knights of Columbus have been active in charitable works and community activities throughout the Empire State for more than a century. The New York State Council is comprised of approximately 575 separate councils, situated in far-reaching places such as Niagara Falls, Westfield, Rouses Point, Montauk and many locations in between.

Special Olympics New York President & CEO, Neal J. Johnson comments, "The Knights continue to be a friend to us through their generous contributions to our athletes and their volunteerism at our events." At this past Summer Games in Albany a large contingent from the Capital District area Knights of Columbus marched in the Opening Ceremonies procession.

American Legion Auxiliary – Invested in Community Service

An old black and white photo shows Eunice Kennedy Shriver presenting the Special Olympics banner to an American Legion Auxiliary President. That was 1979, ten years after Mrs. Shriver founded Special Olympics and at the beginning of a 27-year partnership between the two organizations.

The Auxiliary's Community Service program is based on the premise that no organization has a right to exist within the community without giving something to that community in return. The Auxiliary has held fast to that principle in its involvement with Special Olympics.

Beginning this Fall, Joan Caccamo, newly elected President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department (State) of New York is launching an eight month tour throughout New York State where she will visit all sixty-two (62) counties. She will be soliciting volunteers and contributions for Special Olympics New York. Joan's goal is to present President and CEO Neal J. Johnson with a donation at the Auxiliary's Department Convention next July in Niagara Falls, New York.



Auxiliary President Maxine Bigalow and National Cdr. John M. (Jack) Carey receive the Special Olympics banner from Eunice Kennedy Shriver (right) after The American Legion pledged full support to the program.

Joan announced her commitment with the assurance of one belonging to an organization steeped in long-term community service. "Special Olympics New York is a GREAT organization. Just like the American Legion Auxiliary its service is to the children, youth and community. Having been a spectator, athlete, coach and now an athletic administrator, I understand why athletics is so very important in one's life. Athletics build confidence, character, positive self-image, teamwork, friendship and joy. Together Special Olympics New York and the American Legion Auxiliary will make many athletes' DREAMS COME TRUE!"

We thank Joan for this sincere dedication to helping Special Olympics New York fulfill its mission. It is this level of volunteer involvement and support that created our organization and that is critical to our continued growth. Thank you Joan – and thanks to all the members of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York!

Special Olympics New York now serves over 43,000 athletes or ten percent of the New York population of 400,000 intellectually disabled individuals. We hope to increase the number served to 65,000 by the year 2010. With the help of organizations such as Knights of Columbus and the American Legion Auxiliary investment in Special Olympics, we just might get there. Contact Susan MacBryde at smacbryde@nyso.org for more information about getting you organization involved.

Hudson Valley Region

**BRESNAN BIKE TOUR
2006**

The 17th Annual Bresnan Bike Tour, a scenic and challenging 200 mile ride from Patterson, New York to Bennington, Vermont was held from June 9-11. Seventy-six riders braved raw, cold and blustery weather to benefit the athletes and consumers of Special Olympics NY – Hudson Valley Region and Westchester Arc.

With the very generous support of Bresnan Communications and through the efforts of all the riders involved, the “Tour” raised over \$350,000 for the two agencies. The 2006 ride was one of the largest and most successful in its long history. The number of riders increased by nearly 50% over the previous year and with the addition of two new sponsors, NBC Universal Cable and Cablevision, the total dollars raised increased by 30%. Since its inception the



Bresnan Bike Tour has raised more than \$3,000,000.

To say the least, this was a hardy group. The basic philosophy of “riders challenging themselves to help others overcome the challenges in their lives” shown through. Veteran riders supported and encouraged the first-time riders and new friendships and fond memories ensued. From its humble beginnings, the Bresnan Bike Tour has evolved not only into one of the most effective collaborative efforts of its kind, but also into a celebration of the human spirit in the purest sense.

On behalf of everyone at Special Olympics and Westchester Arc, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to this very special group of people – the Bresnan Group of Companies, NBC Universal Cable, Cablevision and the riders of the 2006 Bresnan Bike Tour.

Interested in cycling events, such as the Bresnan Bike Tour or even the Special Olympics New York Pedals for Medals. Contact Tom Hay at thay@nyso.org for more information on becoming a volunteer, sponsor or participant.

Capital District Region

Pacific Industries Invests In Special Olympics Athletes

The pool manufacturing company based in Latham, NY, Pacific Industries, hosted its annual Tee It Up for Special Olympics golf tournament Friday, September 22. This marked the fourth year for the fundraising event which has garnered nearly \$80,000 since 2003. Rich Becker, Fox23 News sportscaster, led the field alongside Special Olympic global messenger, multi-sport athlete and golfer, Jessica O'Brien.

Many golfers enjoyed the Fall day playing for a cause. Corporate sponsors and friends of Pacific Industries included: Air Compressor Engineering, Atlantis Equipment, Concord Pools, DAF Products, Doynow Sales, Empire State Container, Huersch, Key Bank, P&G Packaging, O'Sullivan Films, Resin Distribution, Rocheux International, Rose & Kiernan, Roslyn Sales, SIR Webbing, Tech Transport and Victory Packaging.

Why not invest in Special Olympics like Pacific Industries and their many supporters. Contact Julie Pacatte at jpacatte@nyso.org for more information on becoming a volunteer, sponsor or participant for 2007's upcoming golf tournaments.

NYC Region

New York City Athletes Saluted by New York Daily News and NASDAQ Stock Market

As five talented New York City athletes were selected to compete at the first Special Olympics National Games in Ames, Iowa, the *New York Daily News* featured athletes Bridget O'Shea;

Giuseppe Pellecchia; Danny Russo; Sharay Smith; and Stephanie Thompson prior to the games. A Daily News reporter and photographer visited with each athlete and asked how they felt about going to Nationals.

“I'm really happy,” said Special Olympics powerlifter Stephanie Thompson. “And I'm really proud of myself.” Giuseppe Pellecchia, who competed in Track and

Field, added “I've been nervous for a month since I got the letter in the mail, but I want to make new friends and see things other people can do that I can't.”

It turned out pre-event coverage gave added incentive for the athletes to do well; as the New York City team took home three silver medals and one bronze.

Upon their return, the NASDAQ Stock Market invited the athletes to ring The Closing Bell on July 21. Athletes Danny Russo, who competed in bowling at Nationals, his brother Chris, Special Olympics Chairman Rich Salinardi and the New York City staff rang the bell. The athletes were ecstatic about this and excited to have their photo displayed in Times Square, as they closed NASDAQ.

“It was a huge thrill to see the excitement on Danny's and Chris's faces when they rang the closing bell,” said Special Olympics New York Chairman Rich Salinardi. “They never experienced anything quite like it and probably never would have, if it weren't for Special Olympics.”

The Daily News and NASDAQ invested in Special Olympics by sponsoring athletes in media-related circumstances. Find out more ways on how to Sponsor an Athlete in the Big Apple by contacting Jolene Libretto at jlibretto@nyso.org



NYC Region

2006 Coaches' Conference

On Saturday, August 26 Special Olympics New York hosted the 2006 coaches' conference at Lehman College in Bronx, NY. The conference was a great success with ten volunteers; eight staff members; and two athletes in attendance to train 30 new coaches and refresh our 15 valuable veteran coaches. In the general session, topics discussed included nutrition, sports skills and proper coaching techniques. Furthermore, the day was filled with great interaction and enthusiasm, as the coaches, staff and guest speakers presented creative ideas to our new coaches and volunteers.



To learn more about opportunities of becoming a coach, volunteer for any competitions in New York State, contact Volunteer Management Director Penny Page at ppage@nyso.org.

Fall Games Continued from P.1.

Bureau, Visions Federal Credit Union, CDPHP, BAE Systems, Columbian Financial Group, Security Mutual Life Insurance and media sponsors WBNG Channel 12, Citadel Radio, Press and Sun-Bulletin and Time Warner Cable.

The committed involvement of our volunteers, sponsors and all our supporters is impressive. If it takes a village, we've got one.

Of course, our very deepest gratitude is reserved for the athletes – all champions of tremendous spirit and inspiring grace. Our thanks goes out to each and every one for the Fall Games and for all they do throughout the year to remind us what makes our programs so great and why it's so important to invest in Special Olympics.

Special Olympics New York could not provide its programs without the nearly 25,000 volunteers currently serving the athletes. Volunteering is one of the most essential ways to invest in Special Olympics. So many of our volunteers report very favorably on the benefits and rewards they experience in working with the athletes. If you would like to volunteer for one of our upcoming competitions, please contact our contact Volunteer Management Director Penny Page at ppage@nyso.org.

Year-End Thank You

Special Olympics New York would like to take a moment to salute some of the many sponsors and donors whom have contributed to the success of the 2006 year.

Thank you once again for inspiring greatness to over 43,000 athletes of Special Olympics New York.

Alliance Building Services
 Senator Jim Alesi
 American Airlines
 American Express Foundation
 Amtrak
 Bresnan Communications
 Capital Communications
 Federal Credit Union
 Citizens Bank
 Clear Channel Radio of Albany
 Community Foundation
 of the Capital District
 Countess Moira Foundation
 CSC Holdings, Inc. / Cablevision Systems
 Daily News
 Disney Worldwide Outreach
 DDC - Data Device Corporation
 Donaldson's Volkswagon
 Federated Department
 Stores Foundation
 Federation of New York
 Insurance Professionals
 Fidelity Corporate Services
 Forest Electric Corporation
 Fox23 News
 Fraternal Order of Police Foundation
 GE Advanced Materials- Silicones
 Geico
 Goldman Sachs & Co.
 IBM Employee Services Center
 ING Life Insurance & Annuity
 Jones Lang LaSalle
 JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.
 Keeler Motor Car Company
 Knights of Columbus
 Mattel Children's Foundation
 Merrill Lynch
 Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc.
 NBC Universal Cable
 New York Board of Trade
 Futures & Options for Kids
 North Fork Bank
 Norvest Financial Services, Inc.
 NYS Correctional Officers & PBA
 NYSUT-Westchester/Rockland/Orange
 County Chapter
 Pacific Industries



RAISING BILLIONS
 TO EDUCATE MILLIONS



P&C Food and Pharmacy
 Pfizer Inc.
 Price Chopper
 PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP
 Provident Bank
 Regent Halex Sports
 Ronan Tynan
 Saratoga Polo Club
 Symantec/Veritas
 SL Green Realty Corporation
 Special Olympics New York
 Starwood Hotels & Resorts
 State of New York
 Senator Owen Johnson
 Suffolk County Youth Bureau
 Smith, Barney –Melville Branch
 Ted Moudis Associates
 The Desmond Hotel & Conference Center
 The Great Cow Harbor 10K Race
 The J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation
 The Riggio Foundation
 The Mitsui USA Foundation
 The Capital Communications
 Cares Foundation
 The Raymond Corporation
 The Securities Traders Association
 of New York, Inc.
 The Wasily Family Foundation
 Times Union
 Time Warner Cable
 Tishman Speyer
 Toyota Motor North America, Inc.
 Turner Construction
 Vornado Realty Trust
 Walbridge Foundation/George Perkins
 Wegmans
 Whelan's International Co., Inc.
 Women's Insurance
 Network of Long Island
 Jenine Lepera
 Gerard McDevitt
 Jean McLaughlin

Hudson Valley Region

USMA Hosts Hudson Valley Region Special Olympics*32nd Annual Special Olympics Spring Games – East held at West Point*

Saturday, May 6 dawned gray and cool with the threat of impending showers. However, once the clouds and rain passed, the day couldn't have been better. More than 400 Special Olympics athletes and a like number of USMA cadets stood in the stands at Shea Stadium as the West Point band played. Then everyone looked to the skies as the Army Black Knights skydiving team jumped from a helicopter to the playing field.

Every year since 1974, hundreds of cadets, military officers and civilian personnel volunteer their time to support and encourage Special Olympics athletes from the Hudson Valley as the United States Military Academy graciously hosts one of the region's major competitions. A cadet is assigned to each athlete for the day and



is in charge of getting them to and from their events. The cadet "coaches" pumped up their athletes prior to the start of their race and some even sprinted along with them to the finish line

to greet them with high-fives and hugs. They sat with their athletes on the grass as they ate lunch together watching the Brigade Spirit Team perform. It didn't take long for a special bond to form between the cadets and their athletes.

Officers in dress uniform presided over the awards ceremonies. Each time a group of athletes came up to receive their medals and ribbons, a short speech was made highlighting their accomplishments. The officers then placed the medals around the athletes' necks and shook hands. Everyone beamed with pride.

There was also a sense of poignancy to the day. In tribute, this year's games were dedicated

to the memory of Capt. Andrew R. Houghton, USMA Class of 2001. Captain Houghton served as the Cadet-in-Charge of the 2001 Spring Games working closely with Special Olympics staff and other cadet volunteers to plan and conduct the event. According to his father, working with Special Olympics, both at West Point and in his home state of Texas, was something very near and dear to Andy's heart. Tragically, Captain Houghton was killed in Iraq in 2004 defending our freedom. It was with great pride that Special Olympics presented Mr. & Mrs. Houghton with a special plaque recognizing their son's commitment to both Special Olympics and his country.

Special Olympics New York- Hudson Valley Region is extremely grateful to all those individuals and organizations who made these Games possible especially Provident Bank who was presenting sponsor. We look forward to 2007 and the 33rd Annual West Point Games.

A true volunteer investment in Special Olympics by the cadets of USMA. To become a volunteer for these competitions all around the state contact Volunteer Management Director Penny Page at ppage@nyso.org.

Genesee Region

Two Area Teenagers Bowl at National Special Olympics

People who don't bowl often wonder why other people do. One of the aspects of bowling that many avid bowlers seem to recognize is how easily it combines the love of competition and the enjoyment of socialization.

It is for that same reason that many organizations that cater to the needs of special populations tend to utilize the sport in their recreational programming. Competitive bowling also provides the opportunity to travel around the country while participating in a variety of tournaments. For a couple of my special friends this summer, these factors combined to provide them with an experience of a lifetime. Cassandra Morgan, 17, of Avoca and Rosanne Partridge, 18, of Bath are Special Olympians who are members of a training club associated with Steuben Arc in Bath. From October to March, they bowl on Wednesday afternoons at Steuben Bowl. In June of 2005, they competed at the Special Olympics New York Summer Games in Long Island and won gold medals. They were very satisfied with their accomplishments but had no idea what was ahead.

This March, Cassie and Rosie were contacted by Special Olympics New York and told their gold medals qualified them to be members of

Team New York at the first Special Olympics USA National Games in Ames, Iowa, in July. They accepted their invitations, and on July 1 they boarded a National Guard transport plane in Syracuse with the rest of the 100-plus members of Team New York for the trip to Iowa.

More than 3,000 athletes from across the country came to Ames for the event. After they arrived in Iowa, Cassie and Rosie shared a dorm room for the week on the Iowa State University campus. They attended opening ceremonies on July 2, which included a musical performance by Hootie and the Blowfish. After a three-game qualifying round July 3, they bowled singles, doubles and a four-person team event over the next three days. Cassie won a silver medal in singles, while Rosie won a bronze. They combined to win a silver medal in doubles and then overcame the absence of one bowler to win a four-person team bronze medal with Alan Russo of Staten Island. They finished the week by attending the closing ceremonies on July 7, which included a performance by country singer Jo Dee Messina, before returning to Syracuse the next afternoon.

On September 27, Cassie and Rosie were joined with about 20 other Special Olympics

athletes to be recognized for their National Games participation at a regional awards dinner in Rochester.

So the next time somebody questions you on why people bowl, tell them about Cassie and Rosie. For them, bowling has provided them with a chance to see the world, meet new people and experience new things.

Larry Johnson contributes a column on bowling every week to The Star-Gazette, Elmira, NY. Being a coach and long-time volunteer, Larry took this opportunity to place this September 20th column about two Special Olympics athletes in his local area who love to bowl and what wonderful places their dreams took them this year. Raising public awareness and volunteering are crucial elements to Special Olympics New York, so why not be like Larry and help us raise public awareness throughout the state, contact info@nyso.org with your local stories.



Special Olympics New York

504 Balltown Road
Schenectady, NY 12304

www.specialolympicsNY.org

Comments, story suggestions,
e-subscriptions and address corrections
can be directed to:

Special Olympics New York, Inc.
Darcie Henderson

Email: dhenders@nyso.org
504 Balltown Road, Schenectady, NY 12304
Phone: 800-836-6976 | Fax: 518-388-0795

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
SPECIAL OLYMPICS
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.

Invest in Sponsoring an Athlete

“The Dancing Machine.” “Mr. Sociable.”
“The Mayor of Long Island.” These are just
some of the titles Ben Beavers is known by.
Come October 2007, we can add “Mr. Speed”
to his list of titles as Ben heads to Shanghai,
China to be one of 401 athletes representing
Team USA at the 2007 Special Olympics
World Games. Special Olympics New York is
sending 32 athletes in the Team New York
contingent.



Ben’s spectacular achievements on the
track have earned him the opportunity to
showcase his talents in Athletics at World Games. Brion Cobb, Ben’s
coach adds, “Ben works hard. He trains five times a week, runs in races
on the weekends and exhibits a drive and tenacity unlike anything I’ve
ever seen.” Ben has been training with Brion as an athlete with the Long
Island Region of Special Olympics, New York for the past eight years.

*To make a donation to World Games as an investment to Special
Olympics contact info@nyso.org or call 800-836-6976 and reference
Sponsor an Athlete.*

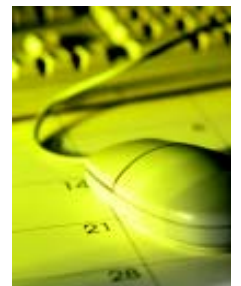
Calendar of Events

December 2
Genesee Region
Winter Sports Conference
SUNY Geneseo

December 2
Hudson Valley Region
Regional Physical Fitness
Yonkers

December 7
Genesee Region
Central Local Floor Hockey Tournament
Holcomb Center

**For more information on these and other event
listings visit www.specialolympicsNY.org**



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.