

# Triumph

Summer 2007



**Special Olympics**  
New York

## 2007 World Games -CHINA

*Getting Ready for the Largest International Sporting Event in 2007.*

Thirty-six athletes and coaches from New York attended the Team USA Training Camp at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN, July 12-16, 2007.

With less than 100 days to go before the 2007 World Summer Games, this was a perfect opportunity for Special Olympics athletes from across America to gather together. Nearly 400 athletes and 150 coaches and managers traveled to Nashville to participate in sports training, team building activities and to learn about Chinese culture in preparation for their September 27th departure to China for the World Games, which take place October 2-11, 2007 and will feature nearly 7,500 athletes from 165 countries.

Country music superstar Jo Dee Messina and Olympic gold medalist Scott Hamilton were among the celebrities who visited the training camp to show their support of Team USA and participated in various events. These events included a presentation of Team USA's official gear where athletes, coaches and celebrities saw the unveiling of the new 2007 World Games uniform, an acoustic concert was also performed by Messina, who, along with her band played in a Unified softball game with Special Olympics athletes.

Team USA sponsors include Bank of America, Columbia Sportswear, FedEx, Midwest Trophy and American Federation of

Teachers. New York's contingent is sponsored in part by NYSCOPBA and Knights of Columbus.

The Special Olympics World Summer Games will be the largest international sporting event in 2007 and will showcase the Special Olympics movement, celebrating the abilities and accomplishments of people with intellectual disabilities.

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Show your support to our New York athletes going to China by visiting our website [www.specialolympicsNY.org](http://www.specialolympicsNY.org) and donating on their personal fundraising web pages.

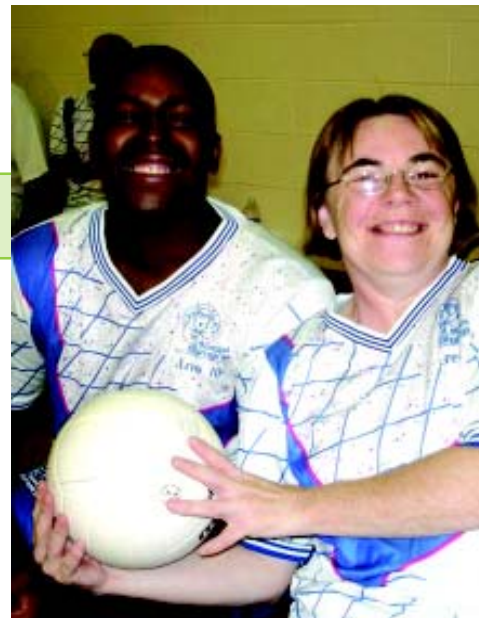
## 2007 Summer Games

*Excitement, Celebration and Gleeful Smiles; who could ask for anything more?*

The Opening Ceremonies on Thursday, June 14, marked the beginning of the 2007 Summer Games at the University at Albany. Over 2,000 athletes and coaches paraded across the field as emcees Yolanda Vega, New York Lottery, and Rich Becker, FOX23 Sports introduced them by region. University Field became a swirling mass of colors; hundreds of yellow, red, blue and even tie-dyed shirts commanded attention. A young NYC athlete dressed in purple twirled onto the field with her team. The athletes' joy shone proudly on their faces as they prepared for what would be, for many, one of the most exhilarating and memorable experiences of their lives.

The rock band *Flame*, comprised of 11 members with physical and development disabilities, provided entertainment for the

evening after drummer David LaGrange delivered an inspirational rendition of the National Anthem that moved some to tears. The combination of the NYS Department of Corrections Emerald Pipe Band, the University at Albany Police Department Color Guard and the Color Corps of the NYS Knights of Columbus enhanced everyone's expectations and then some. A plane flew overhead in the crisp, blue sky as the sun set low on the horizon. High among the clouds, a parachute suddenly burst open, followed by an American flag that blanketed the sky. The diver, Mark Schlatter, and his flag circled the field to the musical backdrop of Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA." Schlatter's patriotic performance concluded with a graceful landing and a roaring



*Special Olympics New York Athlete Catherine "Katie" Shea Allen and fellow teammate Jason Alexander at Training Camp in Nashville.*

ovation from everyone in attendance.

As darkness fell, the Law Enforcement Torch Run completed along the front of the stage while athletes Kevin Brown and Easley Bowen lit the Special Olympics cauldron to signify the official

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# A Message from the President

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



## Our Volunteers are Great – 500 Times Greater than Staff

Yes, I'm talking about those of you reading this who volunteer year-round on behalf of our athletes. There are 25,000 of you and only 52 of us on the staff.

That's why you're so important to us, whether you're a team captain for Polar Plunge, recruiting a golf team for a fundraiser, handing out t-shirts, teaching one of our athletes to ski, working as an intern in one of our offices or making sandwiches for State Games. We can't begin to do what we do without your time, talent and dedication.

At every Special Olympics competition and event, volunteers help guarantee that athletes with intellectual disabilities continue to experience the excitement, joy and personal fulfillment associated with sports training and competition.

Here in New York we offer 22 sports through training and competition. We strive to meet the needs of over 43,000 athletes statewide, 365 days a year.

We couldn't do this without the support of all of you who volunteer. For this we are extremely grateful. Thank you.

For those of you who haven't yet experienced the satisfaction of volunteering — go to [www.specialolympicsNY.org](http://www.specialolympicsNY.org) and see our Calendar of Events. We have lots of exciting opportunities available all across New York State. There's something for everyone. And remember, the life you change may be your own.

## New York City Region

### Spending time with Top NBA DRAFT Picks!

On June 27, athletes of Special Olympics were given the opportunity to participate in training activities sponsored by NBA Cares at John Jay College.

Athletes had a chance to show off their talents in basketball skills and NBA draft picks ran the skills stations including Greg Oden, Kevin Durant and others.



## Triumph Summer 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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[www.specialolympicsNY.org](http://www.specialolympicsNY.org)

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## The Mighty Mighty Torch Run Makes Way Across New York State.

The Long Island Summer sports season took off with a sprint with support from local law enforcement from Nassau and Suffolk counties in full LETR uniform. The torch run was led by World Games athlete Ben Beavers in the final Torch Run ceremony at Spring Games, June 5th.

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## **Pounding the Pavement in Support of Special Olympics New York**

*Law Enforcement Torch Run members pave path for torch to arrive at the 2007 Summer Games.*

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*WNY – On June 1st, Law Enforcement from the New York State Police, Amherst, Tonawanda, Kenmore, Canisius College and the city of Buffalo ran throughout WNY.*



*York Games – A long standing Torch Run in the Genesee Region, Law Enforcement Officers lead the Torch right into the York Games.*



*Finger Lakes – The Torch began its 66-mile Central New York journey in the wee hours of the morning in Canandaigua, NY. Law Enforcement agencies from all over Central New York joined in to carry the Torch all the way into the Party in the Plaza in the city of Syracuse.*



*With Law Enforcement from all agencies involved the Torch made its way from the Adirondacks down Route 9 through Lake George, Glens Falls and on to Mechanicville.*



*The Final Leg – Capital Region Law Enforcement along with representatives from both the New York State Police and New York State Department of Corrections carried the Torch on the Final Leg.*



*It's Here! Athletes Kevin Brown and Easley Bowen, escorted by Sgt. Mike Murray and Trooper Tim Kirsch light the cauldron for the 2007 Summer Games.*

## **Join Us This Year at a Polar Plunge in Your Area!**



Last year we raised over \$225,000 in three polar plunges ... this year we have SEVEN plunges on our calendar! We're also looking for committee members. It's a fun-filled atmosphere where we pool ideas and resources to help get the word out about the plunge in your community. *If interested, please contact Renee Snyder at 518-388-0793 ext. 103 or [rsnyder@nyso.org](mailto:rsnyder@nyso.org)*

### **SAVE THESE DATES!**

**November 10, 2007**  
WNY Polar Plunge  
Beaver Island State Park, Grand Island

**December 1, 2007**  
Lake George Polar Plunge  
Shepard Park, Lake George

**December 2, 2007**  
NYC Polar Plunge  
Gateway National Park, Staten Island

**December 8, 2007**  
Central NY Polar Plunge  
Verona Beach State Park, Verona

**February, 10, 2008**  
Rochester Polar Plunge  
Charlotte Beach, Lake Ontario

**March 8, 2008**  
Fishkill Polar Plunge - 10th Anniversary!  
Sharp Reservation

**March 8, 2008**  
Long Island Polar Plunge  
Bar Beach, Port Washington

## Fun in the Sun at Summer Games

*Continued from P. 1*

start of the Games. Opening Ceremonies concluded with a 15-minute fireworks show and a glowing letterform that wished the athletes "Good Luck." Orchestrated spectacularly by Kevin McDonald, the 2007 Opening Ceremonies catapulted the athletes, staff and volunteers into an exciting and eventful weekend.

The competitions began Friday in venues throughout the Capital Region including Gavin Park in Saratoga, the New York State Armory in Schenectady, Sunset Lanes in Albany and the World Class Gymnastics Academy in Latham, in addition to the University at Albany. Throughout the weekend, athletes competed in nine sports including track and field, tennis, softball throw, powerlifting, aquatics, basketball, bowling, gymnastics and volleyball.

In University at Albany's Physical Education building, blue and yellow pennant flags hung above the pool. At the sound of the whistle the athletes launched from beneath the starting blocks. Fellow athletes, spectators and volunteers cheered them on from the balcony above. From there they witnessed the dynamic range of competitions that took place, from assisted swimming to 200M relays. In aquatics competitions, Special Olympics New York athletes demonstrate their potentials in a very unique way.

Across campus at the Dutch Tennis Courts, athletes displayed true camaraderie in "the gentleman's sport." The official announced the score: "3-3. Next point wins." In jestful banter,



one competitor remarked, "We'll see who gets this point." He continued, "It don't matter who gets this point. We're having fun, that's all that matters." At the conclusion of the match the athletes shook hands and moved on to their next competitions.

Throughout the day, Olympic Village provided a recreational reprieve for the athletes. Activities this year included inflatable basketball and soccer practice. Karaoke music pervaded the village tents on Friday as athletes lined up for a chance to steal the microphone and exercise their vocal chords. Saturday brought dance performances while a clown with blue hair and pink polka-dots made balloon hats to order. Other athletes spent their down-time making sand art or spinning the prize wheel at the New York Lottery tent.

Also in Olympic Village, the Healthy Athletes Program offered Healthy Hearing, Fit Feet, FUNfitness, Special Smiles and Health Promotion, which provides educational materials on topics such as cancer, sun safety, tobacco use and healthy cooking, among others. Said Health Promotion volunteer Ki Vosburgh, "Being here gives me gratitude. It's worth while and overall a good place to be. I would definitely come back to volunteer again."

Capital Region volunteers overwhelmingly

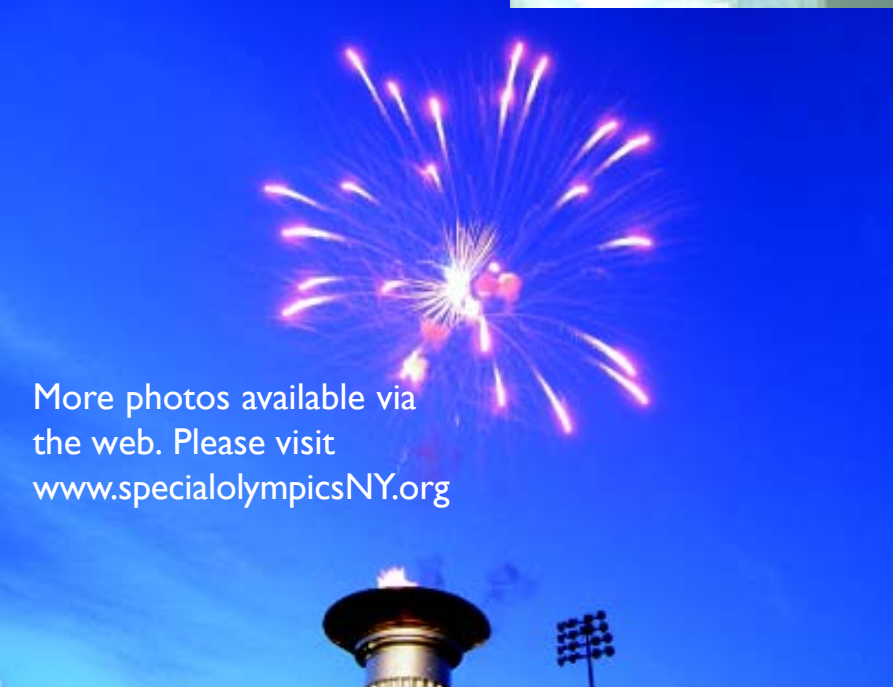
supported the 2007 Summer Games. Over 1,000 volunteers attended and significantly contributed to its overall success.

The weekend recognized and honored the World Games athletes that will represent Special Olympics New York on Special Olympics Team USA in Shanghai, China, this October. The Summer Games was the last state competition for these athletes before they compete in China at the World Summer Games.

Summer Games would not be possible without the support of sponsors. Special thanks to everyone that contributed to the success of the 2007 Summer Games including: Presenting Sponsor Price Chopper Supermarkets; Statewide Sponsors New York Lottery, New York State United Teachers and Law Enforcement Torch Run; Media Sponsors Fox 23 News, ClearChannel Radio and the Times Union; Gold Sponsor American Legion Auxiliary; Silver Sponsor Knights of Columbus; and Bronze Sponsors Civil Service Employees Association, Capital Communications Federal Credit Union, Community Foundation for the Capital Region, Federation of New York Insurance Professionals, Keeler Motor Car Company and National Grid.

*Headline story submitted by Randy Dennis, Syracuse University, Special Olympics New York Public Relations intern.*





More photos available via the web. Please visit [www.specialolympicsNY.org](http://www.specialolympicsNY.org)



**The Knights Strike Again**  
*Generous donation made by Knights of Columbus.*

A \$45,000 check was presented to Special Olympics New York's Chris Smith, Vice President of Development and Public Relations by Anthony Preziosi (pictured left), State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus in support of Special Olympics athletes. This is the second year of our on-going relationship with the Knights of Columbus.



**MTV PILOT**

Kristopher Russo, Alan Russo, Alyssa Scroope, Damian Russo, and Anthony Hasan pose with MTV staff during the April 20th filming of a pilot featuring Special Olympics. **STAY TUNED!**

**Central Region**

**CONGRATULATIONS Coach Nicholas Cappoletti**

*Honored as a recipient of The Post Standard Achievement Awards*

Mr. Cappoletti's long-time involvement with Special Olympics New York-Central Region, as well as his other community work, made him eligible for this honor, which is given to special people who "enrich and enlighten Central New York." This award is co-sponsored by The Post Standard and the Syracuse Federation of Women's Clubs. The luncheon was held April 26th at the Holiday Inn Syracuse/Liverpool.

**Capital Region**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

*5th Annual Golf Tournament hosted by Pacific Industries.*

Golfers are encouraged to reserve their spots now for the upcoming Pacific Industries 5th Annual "TEE IT UP Golf Tournament" which will be held at Fairways at Halfmoon, September 21, 2007. *Interested parties should contact Karen Gladstone at 518-388-0790 x 129 or by email [kgladstone@nyso.org](mailto:kgladstone@nyso.org).*



**New York City Region**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

*Get hip in NYC and attend one of the most elite Galas the City of Fun has to offer.*

On Wednesday, October 17, 2007 the Real Estate & Construction Gala will be held at Pier Sixty, Chelsea Piers. Cocktails begin at 6:00 pm. Cocktail or business attire is desired.

This year's honorees include Deputy Mayor Daniel L. Doctoroff, City of New York; Louise M. Matthews, Global Real Estate Avon Products, Inc.; and Steven F. Grant of Tishman Speyer.

Gary Greenspan, Cushman & Wakefield, Inc., is this year's Gala Chair. *For more information, please contact Sandra Toussaint-Burgher, Special Olympics New York, (212) 661-5217 ext. 19, Email: [stburgher@nyso.org](mailto:stburgher@nyso.org)*

**Long Island Region**

**Can We Have a Bakers Dozen - Junior Baker Style Please!**

On July 18, Panera Bread, at Walt Whitman Mall, in Huntington, Long Island, held a community service project inviting Special Olympics athletes to learn how to bake fine breads and pastries.

Long Island athletes Alyssa Scroope, Matt Pope, Daniel Fletcher and their families participated as Junior Bakers. Special thanks to Greg Ceramello, General Manager, who was in charge of this demonstration and assisted everyone in the fine arts of baking Panera Breads fine delectable foods.



**Hudson Valley Region**

**Sports Media Outlets Team Together for PSA**

If you are a Yankee fan (or not!!) and tuned into one of their games between April and May on WCBS Radio 880 AM – you would have had the chance to hear a Special Olympics public service announcement during playtime; courtesy of Entergy Northeast, the Yankees and WCBS Radio. Special Olympics New York – Hudson Valley Region was selected as one of five Hudson Valley not-for-profits to receive this free airtime through Entergy Northeast's Community Outreach Program. This is wonderful support for Special Olympics for which we are very grateful.



Hudson Valley Region

**Cyclists Pedal 200 Miles**

*Benefit for Special Olympics New York - Hudson Valley Region & Westchester Arc.*

This was the 18<sup>th</sup> year of the Bresnan Bike Tour, Special Olympics New York – Hudson Valley Region’s annual biking marathon, which took place June 8-10, 2007. Sixty-three cyclists participated in the arduous 200-mile bike trek from Patterson, NY to Bennington, VT to raise funds for Special Olympics New York – Hudson Valley Region and Westchester Arc Foundation. Each cyclist was required to collect a minimum



of \$2,000 in pledges, although many raised \$5,000, \$10,000 or more. The cyclists stayed in country inns, enjoyed fabulous meals together, and had the assistance of nine support vehicles which included nurses and bike mechanics.

With generous underwriting from the Title Sponsor, Bresnan Communications, and with the additional support of many sponsors including Cablevision, Providence Equity, and Wachovia Securities, just to name a few, 100% of

all funds raised go directly to the charities.

“Last year, the bike tour raised over \$375,000,” said Tom Hay, Regional Director for the Hudson Valley Region of Special Olympics New York. “We anticipate donations to exceed \$350,000 this year. Over \$3.125,000 has been raised since the bike tour’s inception in 1989. We greatly appreciate the support we receive from our sponsors and the community. The money that’s raised here will stay here to support the athletes and consumers in the Hudson Valley Region.”



“Events like the Bresnan Bike Tour are crucial to Special Olympics New York,” said Neal J. Johnson, Special Olympics New York’s President and C.E.O. “We do not charge our athletes or their families to participate, and every dollar raised by the Bresnan Bike Tour helps support programs for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.”

Special Olympics New York provides cost-free year-round sports training and competition in 22 Olympic-style sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, including mental retardation. Special Olympics New York serves over 3,300 athletes annually in the

Hudson Valley Region.

Westchester Arc Foundation, the co-beneficiary of the tour, has been providing services to help every child and adult in Westchester County with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities live as independently and productively as possible. Westchester Arc provides a broad range of innovative and effective services which helps 1,600 children, adults and their families on a daily basis.

Next year’s Bresnan Bike Tour is taking place June 6-8, 2008. There will be half-day 50 mile and full day 100 mile options. *If you are interested in learning more about this challenging bike tour that provides outstanding accommodations in the Berkshires and a well-equipped support crew, please contact Maria Madero at 845-878-9722 or mmadero@nyso.org*



**One of Our Own Nominated for the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal**

Technical Sergeant (TSgt) Patrick R. Overly (pictured right) has been a key participant in Special Olympics New York since 1999. During these eight years, he volunteered time in many ways leading to becoming an assistant coach and head coach training the Capital District CD Express Softball Team.

Due to his outstanding service to Special Olympics New York, he has been nominated by the U.S. Air Force Reserve to receive the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. As a coach, he has played a unique and indispensable role in the lives of the 40 athletes he works with each week. TSgt Overly provides the sports skills and spirit that define a true athlete. He has made it his mission to get to know and approach each athlete on a one-to-one basis giving each the attention needed to increase awareness of their own training and ability, and the courage and capacity to grow and improve.

In addition, he acts as a role model and character builder by displaying his own commitment to their training and competition program. In his service to them and Special Olympics New York, he has logged approximately 200 hours per season, equal to over 1,700 hours, over eight years.

In his civilian life, Pat works for the FBI, which is where he met Special Olympics athlete and Global Messenger Kevin Brown, (pictured left). Kevin invited Pat to play softball with the team and the rest is ...





## Special Olympics New York

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

## SAVE THE DATE - Oct. 2-11, 2007 World Summer Games



*Continued from P. 1*

*Join us in this effort and support our New York team members at [www.specialolympicsNY.org](http://www.specialolympicsNY.org).*

### **F.Y.I.**

Be sure to visit  
[www.specialolympicsteamusa.org](http://www.specialolympicsteamusa.org) to view  
Training Camp photos and stories of Team  
USA athletes as they took part in sports  
practices and other fun events such as a  
Minor League "Nashville Sounds" baseball  
game, entertainment from Team USA spokes-  
person and country singer Jo Dee Messina, as  
well as the ending fashion show featuring  
athletes modeling the attire they'll be seen  
wearing in China.

**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.