

Triumph

Spring 2007



Special Olympics
New York

2007 World Games - China

The Games will be held in Shanghai, People's Republic of China October 2-11, 2007. The event will mark the first time the World Summer Games will be held in Asia and only the second time they will be held outside the United States. In addition to some 7,000 athletes, Special Olympics expects these World Summer Games to draw 40,000 volunteers, 3,500 event officials and thousands of families, volunteers, spectators and journalists from every continent.

Special Olympics Team USA - 401 athletes and 102 coaches

Thirty athletes from New York will be participating in aquatics, track & field, bowling, softball and volleyball.

Show your support to our New York athletes by visiting our website www.specialolympicsNY.org and donating on their personal fundraising web pages.

2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games Features

Global Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg — The Final Leg will begin with the ignition of the "Flame of Hope" and the lighting of the torch in Athens, Greece. The torch will travel around the globe to celebrate the 2007 World Games and showcase Chinese culture. Law enforcement officers from around the world will serve as Guardians of the Flame as they journey to Shanghai, China, to safely deliver the "Flame of Hope" to the 2007 World Games Opening Ceremonies.

Host Town Program — Delegations from around the world will be hosted throughout China prior to their arrival in Shanghai for the Games. For four days before Opening Ceremonies, the Host Town experience gives Special Olympics athletes a chance to learn more about Chinese culture and acclimate to a new environment, and also helps citizens of China learn more about people with intellectual disabilities.



Kevin Brown, Special Olympics New York athlete, runs the Flame of Hope through Ireland with the help of 144 of his fellow athletes and LETR officers. They traveled from Athens, Greece to Dublin, Ireland for the official cauldron lighting of the 2003 World Games Opening Ceremonies.

Healthy Athletes@ Screenings — Volunteer medical professionals will provide competing athletes a variety of free health assessments, including vision, dental, audiology and physical therapy. Past Healthy Athletes screenings have

changed the lives of many athletes, discovering serious untreated health issues.

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Introducing TEAM NY

Athletes going to China this Fall.



AQUATICS

Eric Byrd, Geneseo, Genesee Region & Kelly Schwarting, Weedsport, Central Region



TRACK & FIELD

Benjamin Beavers; Amityville, Long Island Region, Elisa Fruscianti; Staten Island and Valerie Romero; Bronx, NYC Region



BOWLING

Deborah Lee; New York City, NYC Region & Naim Lewis; Rochester, Genesee Region



SOFTBALL TEAM

Hudson Valley Region
Andrew Stawicki, Frank Ragusa, Joyce Hyun Kim, Katherine Weltzien, Marilyn Lewis, Max Julian Maksimyadis, Mike Danko, Paul Ryder, Rebecca Jean Smith, Richard Bowman, Ricky Hunt, Sam Powell, Tim Angi, William "Billy" Selde, William Smith



VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Capital Region
Adam Hughs, Catherine Allen, Dubois Hunt, Jason Alexander, Kevin Brown, Lenny Brewer, Michael Gatt, Robert Cox

A Message from the President

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



SO on the Hill

Thirty-one Special Olympics athletes from across the United States met with their respective U.S. Representatives and Senators individually on Capitol Hill, February 27.

Their purpose: *Urge Congressional support from the federal budget for Special Olympics fiscal year 2008 appropriations.*

Representing New York, Long Island athlete Craig Ludin, his parents Mike and Helene and I spent the day on "The Hill" with elected officials lobbying for support, specifically for funding for the Special Olympics Sports and Empowerment Act.

The Special Olympics Sports and Empowerment Act, was originally signed into law by President George W. Bush in October 2004. It authorized \$15 million per year to support Special Olympics education initiatives, its Healthy Athletes® program and worldwide expansion for the organization. In fiscal year 2006, Special Olympics received approximately \$5.4 million in federal funds to support Healthy Athletes.

Collectively, US athletes visited more than 200 Congressional offices, and those meetings have already had an impact. Senators Larry Craig (R-Idaho) and Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) have agreed to co-sponsor a new "Special Olympics Congressional Caucus" and a number of senators agreed during meetings with Special Olympics athletes and Program leaders to join the caucus. A number of Representatives have also volunteered to lead this effort on the House side as well.



This year's 2007 Winter Games in Syracuse was an absolutely fantastic showcase of volunteers and sponsor support. I can't thank everyone enough. The weekend was perfect, and the athletes showed their very best in competition, spirit and camaraderie.

One special group I was privileged to meet was the group from St. Vincent de Paul Church. They traveled all the way from the Capital Region to help out in Syracuse. Thank you all once again.

Plungers Across NY Make a Splash Raising Over \$220,000 For Our Athletes!

Special Thank You to Our Presenting Sponsor

– New York Lottery!!!

Rochester – February 10th was a brisk 20 degree day in Rochester with lake temperatures hovering just above freezing at 34 degrees. But that didn't stop almost 700 warm hearted individuals from plunging into the icy waters of Lake Ontario and raising **more than \$90,000**, all to benefit the

athletes of Special Olympics New York. These numbers doubled last year's event totals in both plungers and dollars. Sal Gerbino, recently retired from Gates Police Department and his Polar Plunge Committee set out to make this year, the seventh annual, the biggest and the best. With incredible support from the law enforcement community, local business, schools, and our athletes the plunge was not only fun but a fantastic success on all levels.

Special Thanks to our sponsors; WBEE radio, LogicalSolutions.net, Hot Shots Volleyball, Wal-Mart, Monroe Ambulance, Makai Media, Home Depot, STI Specialty Tools, Inc, Lakeside Winter Celebration Committee, Alexander & Catalano, Gates Automotive, Gallo & Iacavangelo, HSBC Bank and Garden Factory.

And congrats to our Top Fund Raising Team; ARC of Monroe, Top Fund Raising Adult; Kevin Best, Top Fund Raising Youngster; Faith Schneider; Largest Team, Attica Correctional Facility; Cool School (High School); School of the Arts, Rochester, Cool School (College); Rochester Institute of Technology.

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Triumph Spring 2007

Triumph is a quarterly publication of Special Olympics New York.

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

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

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New York City Region

Save the Date: 19th Annual Metro Tournament

Saturday, June 2nd, Riverbank State Park.

The Metro Tournament's nineteenth consecutive year will begin with Opening Ceremonies at 10:00 a.m. Competition will run from 11:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Riverbank State Park at 145th Street and Riverside Drive in Manhattan. The Olympic Village will have music, games, arts and crafts, along with many other attractions throughout the day.

This tournament is the largest Special Olympics competition in New York City, attracting more than 1,200 athletes and their coaches and representing all five boroughs, Long Island, Westchester, New Jersey and Connecticut. In addition, hundreds of family members, friends and corporate sponsors turn out to cheer and encourage the athletes and help raise needed revenues and awareness.

Sponsorship and volunteer opportunities are currently available.

For more information please visit www.specialolympicsNY.org or contact Special Olympics New York, New York City Region at 212-661-3963



2007 World Games Features *Continued from P.1*

Global Summit — A high-level, action-oriented one-day Global Summit on the Health and Well-being of People with Intellectual Disabilities will underscore the importance of sport as a means to promote fitness, health and social inclusion, with the end result of advancing community-building, peace and reconciliation for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Morning sessions will bring together experts in health, education and sport to present results of research—sponsored by Special Olympics and by other entities—on the status and progress of people with intellectual disabilities. In the afternoon, leaders from government, business, sport and philanthropy will address the policy and program needs of people with intellectual disabilities, and will highlight model practices that are making a real difference in the lives of those children and adults.

Opening Ceremonies — An exciting and entertaining show to open the World Games will be produced by award-winning producer/director Don Mischer and take place in the 80,000-seat Shanghai Stadium and will include star-studded entertainment, the Parade of Athletes and the culmination of the Final Leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run and lighting of the Special Olympics cauldron.

Global Youth Summit — An assembly bringing youth with and without intellectual disabilities together for inspiring and educational discussions. The inaugural summit took place in 2001 at the World Winter Games in Anchorage, Alaska (USA), and was aired on Nickelodeon television (Nick News). The second Global Youth Summit, held in Dublin, Ireland, as part of the 2003 World Summer Games, attracted Nelson Mandela and stars Colin Farrell and Maria Shriver. The show aired on MTV in the United Kingdom. The 2005 Global Youth Summit at the World Games in Nagano, Japan, included more than 300 Japanese youth and attracted former U.S. President Bill Clinton; the show aired on Japanese national television.

Family Forum — An activity tailored for family members of Special Olympics athletes to enable them to learn more about the opportunities available with Special Olympics, and to provide a network of friends and supporters.

Closing Ceremonies — An event to celebrate the accomplishments of the athletes and officially close the Games.

China, which also will host the 2008 Olympic Games, will become the first country in history to host the Special Olympics World Games, Olympic Games and Paralympic Games — all within the span of just 12 months. The eyes of the world will be on China as it celebrates the true power of sport and the belief that sport can foster the development of a better and more peaceful world.

“China is our movement’s future,” said Timothy Shriver, President and CEO of Special Olympics. “This pioneering effort to bring the Special Olympics message to the largest nation on earth opens the chance for change, for with sports achievement comes achievement in family, in school, on the job and in life.”

NYSOPBA Steps Up to Plate and Pledges World Games Support

The New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association has pledged to become our lead sponsor of the New York 2007 World Games Team. Each of the NYSOPBA facilities across the state will be “sponsoring” a World Games Athlete to help underwrite the cost of their amazing opportunity. April has been named “Special Olympics” Month within the facilities where they will be raffling off New York Lottery Boards with all the proceeds benefiting this initiative which is expected to exceed \$35,000. Each athlete will also have a fundraising page set up on Firstgiving.com to raise additional funds!

For more information on this, or to donate to a World Games Athlete logon to www.specialolympicsNY.org.



Capital Region

Breakfast With Champions

Come join us on **Saturday, May 5th from 9 - 11 am** for a breakfast presented by Price Chopper Supermarkets!

Price Chopper, Clifton Shoppers World
Rt. 146 and Plank Road
Clifton Park, NY

\$5 advance

\$7 at the door

Free for ages 6 and under, Special Olympics athletes and coaches

Seating is limited, so inquire for tickets at your local participating Price Chopper Supermarkets. All proceeds benefit the World Games Capital Region Volleyball team, Capital District Express.

For more information please visit our website www.specialolympicsNY.org or call 800-836-6976 x107



2007 Winter Games - Syracuse

Season concluded with smiles for all.

Over 1,000 athletes and coaches from across New York State participated over the February 23-24 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, always provide our athletes with an opportunity to come together and showcase their athletic skills and celebrate the spirit of Special Olympics.

Friday, February 23 at 8:00 PM, the pageantry and entertainment of Opening Ceremonies began at Driver's Village in Cicero and culminated with the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Athletes Tina Gilbert and Dan Cuddy, escorted by law enforcement officers from around the state, carried the Flame of Hope which ignited the Special Olympics Cauldron.

Saturday, February 24 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, athletic competitions were 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.

A special thank you to our 2007 Winter Games Presenting sponsor P&C Food & Pharmacy along with New York Lottery, New York State United Teachers, National Grid, media sponsors Time Warner Cable, News10Now and Galaxy Communications.

Visit www.specialolympicsNY.org for photo gallery and competition results.



Genesee Region

New Sponsors to Welcome

The Genesee Region would like to thank a new sponsor, the Friends of Marian Turner. Marian Turner, former Director of Development and Public Relations for the Genesee Region, had been involved with Special Olympics for 16 years. She began her tenure as part of Monroe County and watched the program grow throughout the years into the 11-County region it is today. Upon her retirement and to honor her years of dedication, many donated in her name to purchase needed equipment for the athletes. Hockey equipment for both floor and poly hockey was purchased and used by the athletes at the Regional Poly Hockey Tournament and the Super Regional Floor Hockey Tournament. We thank Marian for her years of support and honor her with this sponsorship.

The Genesee Region also welcomes Best Times Financial Planning as a new sponsor. We are looking forward to a long relationship and welcome them to the Special Olympics Team.

Seeking Volunteers

The Genesee Region is seeking volunteers interested in forming a committee for the first annual Special Olympics Talent Show to be held at the Hyatt Rochester in the Fall. We have many talented athletes involved in music, dance and acting programs across the area and are excited about the possibility to highlight their skills, while supporting Special Olympics New York.

Anyone interested in helping with the planning process, please contact Lisa Best at (585)586-7400 ext. 109 or lbest@nyso.org.



Capital Region

Cabin Fever Swim Meet

The Swim meet was held on "Super" Sunday, February 4 at Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk High School. Coordinated by Jack Dennis, the event included 53 athletes participating from Glens Falls, Columbia, Albany, Saratoga, and Schenectady Counties. Over 30 club swimmers from the Adirondack District Swimming League volunteered and many participated in a Unified Relay at the end of the meet.



Upcoming Events

- July 28 Silks & Satins 5K Run Saratoga Springs
- July 28 Satins Silks and Stars Annual Black Tie Gala Saratoga Hotel & Conference Center
- July 29 Special Olympics Day at the Track Saratoga Springs

Contact: Karen Gladstone at 518-388-0790 x 129 or email kgladstone@nyso.org for more details.

2007 Statewide TORCH RUNS

Reminder to schedule runs to Final Leg destination.

On behalf of the Law Enforcement Torch Run State Committee, we invite you to participate in the Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg for the 2007 Special Olympics New York Summer Games.

The Games are being held June 14-17 in Albany, NY. The event promises to be a spectacular showcase for over 3,000 athletes, coaches, volunteers and supporters.

The Final Leg is being held on June 14, in the Capital Region, and ends at the Opening Ceremonies on the Campus of the University at Albany. Registration packets are available and anyone who wishes to participate can contact Renee Snyder, Torch Run Liaison at 800-836-6976 x 103.



New York City Region Urban Strategy

Updates on new members, committees, and actions.

The NYC Urban Pilot Initiative Advisory Committee continues to grow with new members Eric Handler of YES Network, who will focus his efforts on the marketing and public relations working committee; Susan Matlow, American Express Company, and Stacey Dutton, Park Agency, who will work with the Regional Director to manage and direct the work of the Advisory Committee; and Matthew Margolin, Goldman Sachs, who will organize NYC's youngest and brightest New York professional Junior Committee. Commissioners Sapolin and Podziba are actively working with the Regional Director to secure additional city participation on a Blue Ribbon Committee. The Advisory committee officially launched on November 13th at a VIP reception held at The New York Historical Society.

Long Island Region

Special Olympics Athlete Honored

Induction into the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and Museum

Craig Ludin, a Special Olympics athlete from Long Island, will be inducted into The National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and Museum officially April 29, 2007. Craig, winner of two bronze medals and one silver at the 2006 Special Olympics National Games, 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.

The National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and Museum honors Jewish athletes, coaches, executives and others who have distinguished themselves in 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 affiliated with JCC Association. "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 was one of the inductees for 2007."

Continued from P.2



RAISING BILLIONS TO EDUCATE MILLIONS



Long Island – Excitement was high on the Long Island Sound as 200 plungers charged into the water of Bar Beach, raising over **\$80,000!** A special thanks to Deputy Inspector Bob Brown and Kevin Clark who led the cadets of the Suffolk County Police Academy into the world of Polar Plunges. The cadets, who graduate this month raised more than \$20,000 earning the title of highest fundraising team in Special Olympics New York Polar Plunge history! FOP Lodge 25 President Bob Lucente and committee chair brought in more than \$17,000 and added to the fun of the day with hot dogs and hamburgers and a classic car show! The town of North Hempstead provided an amazing venue for this growing event. Thank you to our sponsors - Panera Bread, Apple and Eve Juice, musical entertainment provided by Tom Maxwell, WBAB, Geico, 1800 Flowers, and the Nassau County Bureau of Special Operations. Thank you to dedicated committee co-chairs Kevin McDonald and Joe Branzetti for their dedication to make this event grow to this level!



Hudson Valley – Over 100 plungers took the leap into chilly waters of Sharpe Reservation in the 9th Annual Fishkill Polar Plunge, splashing up a record breaking total of **\$44,000** for the athletes Hudson Valley Region. A special thanks to Polar Plunge Committee Chair Chris Hamel and his volunteers for bringing this event to the next level. NYSCOPBA president Larry Flanagan took his inaugural plunge this year raising an amazing \$10,316.

Congrats to the Top Individual Fundraiser; President Larry Flanagan of NYSCOPBA, Top Fundraising Team; Greenhaven Correctional Facility, Youngest Plunger; Ethan Narod (4 yrs) Oldest Plunger; Ron Tytlar, Top Fundraising School; Spackenkill Spartans, Best Costume; Ann Hertel (HVR athlete), Special thanks to our sponsors Axa Equitable, John A. Vita, Jr. and Associates KissFM 96.1 Star93.3 and the Poughkeepsie Journal.

Mark your calendars we're gearing up to make a big splash with the 10th Anniversary Plunge in '08!



New York City Region

The 3rd Annual

Peter Aquilone Memorial Hockey Tournament a great success.

On Saturday, January 13, 2007, Special Olympics New York held the 3rd Annual Special Olympics New York City Regional Peter Aquilone Memorial Floor Hockey Tournament at The Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. Over 350 athletes competed from New York City, Long Island, Hudson Valley, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New Jersey. More than 75 coaches and 200 volunteers joined them.

The tournament is named in honor of Peter Aquilone, a former employee of both Special Olympics New York and the National Hockey League, who passed away suddenly in 2004.

"The New York City Initiative is an exciting endeavor for us," said Neal Johnson, President & CEO of Special Olympics New York. "The Peter Aquilone Memorial Floor Hockey Tournament is a wonderful event that brings the New York City community together. The athletes, coaches, volunteers and corporate community all contribute to make this day a success. It is also a wonderful living memorial of Peter Aquilone's heart"

The tournament was made possible through the generous support of the National Hockey League, ITG – Investment Technology Group, Blimpie, and H&H Midtown Bagels East, as well as teams of volunteers from Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs, NHL, ITG, Friends of Peter Aquilone and members of the New York City Fire Department and Emergency Medical Technicians.

The event kicked off the second year of the New York City Urban Strategy Initiative. The Initiative is part of Special Olympic's broader program aimed at increasing the involvement and improving the experiences of athletes in cities around the globe.

Goals of the New York City Initiative include: increasing the number of athletes in the city from 20,000 to 40,000 by 2010; expanding sports programs in the New York City public school system and building new community-based athletic programs in partnership with city agencies.

For more information on the Peter Aquilone Memorial Floor Hockey Tournament or for a full schedule of competitive events in the New York City region, visit www.specialolympicsNY.org, or contact Colleen Everett at (212) 661-5217.

Central Region

A Special Thanks

The Central Region would like to note of the retirement of Alyn Jones. Al has been a dedicated coach, supporter and friend of all our Special Olympic athletes for the past 33 years. During his time with Special Olympics he coordinated countless local competitions, developed bocce and cycling programs, and stepped in wherever and whenever needed. He has been recognized as an Outstanding Coach, Outstanding Training Club and Outstanding Area, but we bet he would tell you his best reward has been working with the amazing athletes and families in the Central Region. We will miss Al and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

Pedal For Medals

Event set for June 28 – July 1, 2007.

The date is drawing near for our annual Pedal For Medals bike ride – have you signed up to go yet? Pedals is a 4-day, 300 mile ride from the Adirondacks to the Finger Lakes. The ride is fully supported with medical help along the way for both you and your bike! Overnights are spent in hotels, with all your meals provided. We do ask that each cyclist raise a minimum of \$600 to participate in the ride. New this year is the ability to set up your own fund-raising website on-line through: www.firstgiving.com/pedalsformedals. It's fun and easy, and we know will help everyone to make this event successful.

For more information please check in the Central Region section of www.specialolympicNY.org or contact Laurie Kennedy at (315)473-2933 or lkennedy@nysso.org

DID YOU KNOW

... there is a new tax break for IRA owners?

This new law provides the opportunity for you and those close to you to continue your commitment to Special Olympics New York.

As an IRA owner, age 70 ½ or over, you can directly transfer tax-free, up to \$100,000 per year to an eligible charitable organization. This option is available in tax years 2006 and 2007. Eligible IRA owners can take advantage of this provision, regardless of whether or not they itemize their deductions. Distributions from employer-sponsored retirement plans, including SIMPLE IRAs and simplified employee pension (SEP) plans are not eligible.

To qualify, the funds must be contributed directly by the IRA trustee to the eligible charity. Amounts so transferred are not taxable and no deduction is available for the amount given to the charity.

Before you make a gift decision, please consult your legal or financial advisor. You can also visit the Internal Revenue Service website for more details www.irs.gov. *If you wish to make an immediate gift, please instruct your IRA Administrator to send it to Special Olympics New York, IRA Rollover Group/Chris Smith, 504 Balltown Road, Schenectady, NY 12304, email csmith@nysso.org.*

Hudson Valley Region

SAVE THESE DATES!



Miles for Medals Walk

April 29, 2007

FDR Park

Yorktown Heights, NY

Call Chrissy Shields for more information at 845-878-9722



Bresnan Bike Tour 2007

June 8-10, 2007

From Patterson, NY to Bennington, Vermont

Call Maria Madero for more information at 845-878-9722
www.bresnanbiketour.com



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 - June 14-17, 2007 Summer Games - Albany



Each spring thousands of athletes from all over New York State come together and participate in a multitude of sports at Area and Regional sites. From there over 2,000 athletes and coaches will descend upon the **Capital District June 14-17** at the University at Albany and other venues to compete in our State Summer Games.

Facts on the 2007 Summer Games

- ✓ Over 2,000 athletes and coaches, 2000 local volunteers and 400 family members will participate in the Summer Games.
- ✓ Events include: aquatics, basketball, bowling, power lifting, gymnastics, tennis, volleyball, and track & field.
- ✓ Components of the event include a spectacular Opening Ceremonies, Olympic Village and Healthy Athletes where participants will be provided free Dental, Hearing, Feet and Eye Screenings, Sun Safety and Nutrition Information.
- ✓ **Price Chopper Supermarkets** is presenting sponsor and **Mona Golub** will once again be the Summer Games Chair.

Look for upcoming details at www.specialolympicsNY.org

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.