

Triumph

August 2005



Special Olympics
New York

15th Anniversary Golf Classic a Success at Winged Foot

Event highlights ongoing relationships

On a scorching hot June day, more than 50 foursomes turned out at Winged Foot Golf Course for the 15th Annual Golf Classic. The event, presented by Toyota in partnership with Time Inc., has always been a featured event for the New York City area and this year saw continued success. Winged Foot will be the home of next year's U.S. Open, and the fabled course provides a beautiful backdrop for the day's activities.



Many invaluable new and repeat volunteers, and the wonderful staff at Winged Foot were also indispensable to the day's events. Chi Chi Rodriguez, famed golfer and supporter of the event since its inception, arrived in the morning to host a golf demonstration highlighting his talented golf skills, as well as his legendary humor. SONY athletes at the event also participated in the demonstration, hitting balls off the driving range and receiving pointers from Chi Chi.

SONY athlete Michael Patton matched Chi Chi joke for joke, and at the end of the day Chi Chi gave him his golf shoes as a memento. Bill Evans, meteorologist with WABC in New York City, was the MC for both the golf demonstration and for the evening's dinner program.

After a day of picturesque golf, photos with Chi Chi and countless bottles of water consumed to fend off the heat, the day commenced with a dinner and auction at the clubhouse. Paul Asaro, SONY Male Athlete of the Year and a Global Messenger, delivered an inspiring speech about his

Continued P. 2

Joining Forces

ELKS serves smiles at Pedal for Medal event

What do ELKS and Special Olympics have in common? Both organizations exist to serve, and each has a mission that focuses on giving help where the need is greatest.

In June, these two organizations came together to raise funds for programs that serve children and adults with intellectual disabilities throughout Central New York.

Pedal for Medals, a 300-mile, four-day cycling trek from the Adirondacks to the Finger Lakes, took place from June 23rd to 26th. The ELKS Lodges in Potsdam, Gouverneur, Oswego, Liverpool donated and served lunch on all four days of the ride, and made several monetary contributions to the ride as well. The value of these in-kind and financial contributions easily exceeded \$2,500. In each case, the ELKS traveled to a remote site along the cycling route to set up lunch, and then cheerfully

served the fast and not-so-fast riders that came through over a period of several hours each day.

The partnership was the brainchild of Potsdam ELK Bill LaPoint, whose son Mike a rider and a ride committee member. Bill asked if the Potsdam ELKS wanted to pitch in and help and they responded enthusiastically. He found the same eagerness to help at the Gouverneur, Oswego and Liverpool Lodges.

Gouverneur ELKS led by J. R. Swem served lunch on day two at Payne Lake. Jim Hassett and Tim Welpel met the riders the night before in Canton, where Tim gave an eloquent presentation about his years of service as a Special Olympics volunteer. On day three, Oswego ELKS Carol Dillabough, Jim Dillabough, John Rinaldo and Lolly



Liverpool ELKS and Special Olympics staff, volunteers and cyclists celebrate the successful completion of a joint project to raise funds for Special Olympics at Dwyer Park in Cortland.

Malone served lunch at the Oswego County fairgrounds and greeted the riders on their arrival in Fulton. And on the final day of the ride, Liverpool ELKS Ricky and Lisa Ryder, H. Kenneth Richards and Thomas Conley trekked to Dwyer Park in Cortland to put on a BBQ for riders and volunteers.

So what else do ELKS and Special Olympics have in common? They are helping organizations that will go way out of their way to help! ■

What's
INSIDE

4 DUCKS, Ducks and more



6-7 Torch Run Times

A Message from the President

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



On most days, leading a respected not-for-profit organization like Special Olympics New York is not unlike running a private corporation. There are conference calls, personnel

decisions, strategy sessions and the never ending paperwork and reports. Yet, every now and then, something happens during the course of a workday that reminds you why working for an organization like SONY can be so rewarding. Throughout my involvement with SONY I have been fortunate to experience many of these "special" moments, most recently when I received a letter from a gentleman who has supported our efforts in the past.

The handwritten letter detailed how

this gentleman, a veteran and disabled individual, became friends with an individual with intellectual disabilities as a child. Even though he lost touch with his old friend he still vividly remembered how proud this individual was of his participation in Special Olympics and how he enjoyed the fun and camaraderie of training and competing. The gentleman who wrote the letter, although never directly involved with Special Olympics, was so moved by his friend's joy that he became a consistent financial contributor.

As I read the letter describing financial hardships and family obligations, my mind jumped ahead to the conclusion that we were about to lose a longtime supporter. Much to my amazement, the gentleman almost apologetically stated that instead of making several donations a year he would be forced to make only one, but we should be assured that he would still do the best

that was financially possible. As I thought about the words I had just read, a truth that I have always known came rushing to the forefront as if I had discovered it for the first time: this act of personal generosity is so typical of our committed volunteers and supporters.

They say the pen is mightier than the sword. On this day a simple, a heartfelt letter made life a little clearer and reminded me of how privileged I am to be with an organization such as SONY. ■



Golf Classic *Continued from P. 1*

experience competing in cycling at the 2003 Special Olympics International Summer Games in Ireland. Paul is also a golfer and spent the day on the course. A participant who had won a pair of American Airlines tickets was so moved by Paul's speech that he gave his tickets to Paul, making this the second year in a row that a participant has donated their airline tickets to the Global Messenger athlete at Winged Foot. The relationship between the golf course, the presenting sponsors Toyota and Time Inc., the sponsoring foursomes and the athletes continues to grow, and SONY looks forward to continuing to build on it in the future. ■

Triumph

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Inspire Greatness

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South Street Seaport to Host Million Dollar Duck Race

They're back! Yes, the little yellow ducks are returning to New York City again this year. On September 23, 2005 about 25,000 rubber ducks will make the swim into the East River. They'll start below the Brooklyn Bridge and race under Pier 17 to the finish line. Spectators and participants will watch from the South Street Seaport in Manhattan.

The ducks are all up for adoption and participation is easy. For a \$5 donation, you will be the proud parent of a racing duck. For a \$25 donation, you'll get five ducks or a "quack pack" entered into the race, a racing duck as a keepsake, coupons and other offers. Double your money and for \$50 a "quackers dozen" will be yours – 13 racing ducks, a souvenir duck and a coupon package.

If your duck is one of the pre-selected "golden ducks" and crosses the finish line first you'll win the million dollar grand prize! There will also be many other prizes awarded, including American Airlines tickets, ipods, digital cameras and more.

The excitement for this event is growing day by day being that the Duck Race is one

of the most fun and exhilarating events of the year. The always enthusiastic alumni of Lodi High School of New Jersey will be back for their fifth consecutive race. "The Million Dollar Duck Race is a great opportunity for New York City to show their support for Special Olympics and the intellectually disabled community while having fun," said SONY Director of Development Clare Healy. "Old friends, for whom the event has become a yearly tradition, and yet undiscovered new friends will unite to ensure that this is the most successful Duck Race yet."

The only thing left is for you to get involved! Adoptions can be made online at specialolympicsNY.org or by calling the adoption hotline at 212-490-1062. Make sure you're involved in this event, for it's one that you don't want to miss!

The 2005 Million Dollar Duck Race is presented by the New York Lottery and sponsored by American Airlines, NYSUT, Merrill Lynch, Daily News, Time Warner Cable, Amtrak, WABC, NYSC, Knights of Pythias and South Street Seaport. ■

Hero of the Month

Blimpie recognizes SONY athlete

Special Olympics New York Global Messenger MaryAnne Silverstrim and Ron Feigenbaum, the Director of Marketing for Blimpie Associates are pictured to the left. MaryAnne was the June 2005 Hero of the Month (sponsored by Blimpie), and was recognized for her work of spreading the message of Special Olympics New York through our Global Messenger program as well as her many accomplishments both on and off the field. MaryAnne got to go through the dugout onto and off the field and was able to see many of the Yankee players and coaches, including Joe Girardi, Luis Sojo, Bernie Williams, Jason Giambi, Derek Jeter and Tino Martinez who stopped to say "congratulations." She even got to see her name and photo on the jumbotron. MaryAnne loved it and it was great to see her out there on the hallowed grounds of Yankee Stadium. ■



ADOPT A DUCK FORM

Team Name: _____

Team type: (please circle)

Community / Corporate

First _____

Last _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Method of Payment:

Visa MC Discover Amex

Check # _____ Cash

Credit Card # _____

Verification # (Three digit number on the back of your credit card in the signature area): _____

Exp. Date _____

I wish to adopt _____ duck(s)
at a \$5 donation per duck for a total of
\$ _____

Quack Pack

I wish to adopt _____ Quack Pack(s)
at \$25 per pack for a total of
\$ _____

Quacker's Dozen

I wish to adopt _____ Quacker's Dozen(s)
at \$50 per pack for a total of
\$ _____

Total Donation: \$ _____

Mail completed form
and payment to:

Special Olympics New York
211 East 43rd Street
12th floor
New York, NY 10017

Adoption Hotline: 212-490-1062
www.specialolympicsNY.org

Southern Tier Excited for Fall Games 2005

More than 1,100 athletes and coaches to compete in Binghamton

Special Olympics New York is getting ready for the festivity that will be Fall Games 2005! The Games are being held October 7 through the 9th in Binghamton, and athletes, volunteers and the community are really beginning to feel the excitement.

The Opening and Closing ceremonies will be held at the Event Center at Binghamton University. Athletes will compete in eight Olympic-style events including golf, softball, cycling, cross-country running, soccer, equestrian, bocce and roller skating, which will all take place around the Binghamton region.

Golf competitions will be at the Traditions at Glen in Johnson City, with the soccer, cross country and softball skills events at Otsiningo Park. Softball team competitions will be held at BAGSAI in Binghamton and Schnurbush Park in Conklin. Cycling will take place at the Kirkwood Industrial Park, equestrian at El Rancho De Paz in Owego, bocce at the Sons of Italy, and roller skating at the Reva Rollerdome in Windsor

Fall Games is among the largest of more than 400 Special Olympics competitions held across New York each year. Chris Porreca, Director of Development for

SONY, is very enthusiastic about this year's event, "SONY and Binghamton have been trying to make this the best Fall Games yet, and thanks to all the hard work of the local organizing committee that goal is very much in reach." The Fall Games are heading to Binghamton for both 2005 and 2006.

"Binghamton is going to be a great host for the Fall Games this year, and without a doubt next year as well," said Neal J. Johnson, President and C.E.O. of Special Olympics New York. "The community has welcomed us with open arms and is going to make it an incredible experience for our athletes."

Many people from Binghamton and surrounding communities will volunteer throughout the weekend, and many more fans and family members are

expected to come cheer on the athletes. We'd already like to thank the members of the Local Organizing Committee for their

dedication to make these games **INSPIRING!!**

Individuals are invited to come out for Opening Ceremonies, which begin at 8 p.m., Friday, October 7 at The Events Center at Binghamton University.

SONY would also like to thank our media sponsors: WBNG-TV Action News 12, Press and Sun Bulletin, Time Warner, and Citidel Radio. Other sponsors

include the New York Lottery, the Greater Binghamton Convention and Visitors Bureau and Merrill Lynch. ■



Neal J. Johnson, Global Messenger Kim Richards and Mayor Richard Bucci raise the Special Olympics flag at a June press conference.

Central Region's Summer Enterprise

Making new friends in a new structure

Written by: Karen Bruno the Head of Delegation for the Central Region

Merriam-Webster defines the word 'enterprise' as "a project or undertaking that is especially difficult, complicated or risky." None of that turned out to be true as the Central Region descended on Enterprise Hall at Hofstra University for its first Summer Games experience as a Region. Approximately 180 athletes and 60 (somewhat apprehensive) coaches from eight counties paraded in bright yellow to Opening Ceremonies essentially as strangers, but in true Special Olympics fashion, by midday Friday friendships were forming. Karen Bruno, an aquatics coach who also attended the event as the group's Head of

Delegation, stated that a favorite part for her was meeting terrific coaches from all of the other parts of Central Region. "I also really enjoyed the opportunities our athletes had to get to know one another better and to support each other during their events. Everyone had a bigger cheering section!"

Central Region Program Director Jeff Mickle was also pleased with the results from the region's first Summer Games "The concerns the coaches had going into the games began to dissipate once everyone arrived, and got into the spirit of the competition."

Mickle said the Summer Games left him excited about the future of Special Olympics in the Central Region. "Change is always tough, and the regionalization process is an evolving one, but anyone who saw the athletes interacting at Hofstra had to be pumped up."

Athletes and coaches are preparing for the fall season that will culminate in a state competition scheduled for SUNY Binghamton on the weekend of October 7th-9th. For more information on Special Olympic opportunities in the Central Region please call (315) 473-2933 or e-mail Jeff Mickle at jmickle@nyso.org. ■

Miles for Medals Walkathon Great Success

Kickoff of Summer Games Week

Special Olympics New York's Miles for Medals walkathon took place on June 11th at Hofstra University on Long Island, and it was a great way to kick off our Summer Games 2005. Presented by Whelan's International, we had over 150 walkers and raised \$44,000 and the money is still coming in!

It was a highlight filled event thanks to our four great teams: Babylon Bobcats, led by Debi Whelan; Walkers Walkers, led by Ken Walker; Team Tumblers, led by Nick Mort; and Lindy Bulldawgs, led by Heather Johnston. Each of the teams were decked out in their team T-shirts and baseball caps.

The event was a memorable one for all of the athletes and everyone else who was involved. Our top fundraiser was super athlete Chris Sudmann, who raised over \$6600 himself and with the help of his family!

All of the walkers had a great time at the

walk along the University's famed botanical gardens. They also enjoyed food, refreshments and entertainment before and after the walk, as well as a visit from President and C.E.O. of Special Olympics New York, Neal Johnson.

There are more Miles for Medals Walks scheduled for this October across New York. Find a walk site below and register either online at www.specialolympicsny.org or call us at 1-800-836-6976 ext 129. ■



- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| October 2 nd – | Corning High School East, Corning |
| October 15 th – | Delaware Park, Buffalo Colonie Town Park, Latham |
| October 16 th – | Marist College, Poughkeepsie NYCC, Seneca Falls |
| October 23 rd – | Saratoga Spa State Park, Saratoga Springs Burnet Park, Syracuse |
| October 30 th – | Clove Lakes State Park, Staten Island |

Adirondack Motorcycle Ride

Event grows in its second year

🔥
Sunday July 10 under clear blue skies nearly 100 bikers rode 100 miles through the Adirondacks in support of the Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics New York. The event started at the Olympic Regional Development Authority and traveled to the Timber Lodge in Tupper Lake for a barbeque lunch. Event organizers were from the Adirondack Correctional Facility in support of the DOCS initiative to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics New York. "It was a great event everything went very smoothly and all the riders had a lot of fun," said Jeanne Grebert, LETR Liaison. "In fact we had riders from across New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida and North Carolina participate." ■



Pictured left, organizers from Adirondack Correctional Facility; Amy Fellion, Bill Burke, Shari McDonald and Ginger Slater. Rally Riders toured the Adirondacks on their way to the Timber Lodge in Tupper Lake, NY.

TORCH RUN TIMES

Law Enforcement Torch Run News

Big Guy, Bigger Heart

Written by: Jeanne Grebert



The Special Olympics New York 2005 Summer Games are now behind us. Most of the staff has recovered and are enthusiastically moving on to the next event, competition or fundraiser. The murmur amongst the staff this year - they were by far the best games ever. What made these Games different?

We probably can't put our finger on anyone thing - but it is clearly evident that some very special moments or events took place. It takes thousands of hours and hundreds of volunteers and staff to pull off such a grand event. Again - we probably can't put our finger on any one person or individual - but sometimes there is someone who stands out in your mind who you know deep down in your heart, wow, they really made a difference.

I am fortunate enough to work with a volunteer on a regular basis who has literally changed the direction of the Law Enforcement Torch Run. As I often say to the officers I work with, You usually are working with everything that is wrong in our society, I on the other hand get to work with everything that is right in our society.

It's no different for Sergeant Mike Murray of Auburn Correctional Facility. On any given day, Mike is spending his work hours with those who have chosen to make the wrong choices in life with serious and often lifetime consequences. But what drives Sgt. Murray to tirelessly and unselfishly show society what an impact one individual can make.

Sgt Murray has been volunteering for Special Olympics New York and serving on the LETR State committee for just over 2 years now. In that time Mike has become

someone who lives and breathes Special Olympics. This weekend was as an exceptional example of how he has chosen to Inspire Greatness and Make Dreams come true.



Sgt. Mike Murray, Auburn Correctional Facility

It's just about a 7 hour drive from Auburn NY - but this is something Mike has gotten used to. This time he has his daughter Megan in tow. Mike and his wife Sue have taught their children that volunteering is an important value. Mike and Megan arrive on Thursday afternoon and are immediately put to work - off loading equipment trucks, working on the final leg



and Opening Ceremonies. As the weather deteriorates I inform Mike

I'm not able to accompany the Final Leg because the weather is going bad and we

have a lot to do to bring the Opening Ceremonies inside - would he mind taking over? He's never quite done that before as usual he'll figure out what needs to be done - and he did. He's with us until way after Opening Ceremonies and agrees to do a live television interview at 6:30 a.m. Even after a 20 hour day - 4 hours of sleep will surely be enough.

With the interview done the next morning - he's ready and raring to go. Numerous phone calls home to check on Mike and Sues two other children's activities - did they win their games last night? More loading and unloading of the truck and then on to two days of assisting with the

Power Lifting Competition. Later that evening, he's out there with staff and volunteers putting together thousands of lunches for the next day and working the ice cream social put on by Carvel. Megan is still right behind him. Neither one of them have stopped smiling yet. That night too goes late but early the next morning Mike is

Continued P. 7



Continued from P. 6

the first one there for the Powerlifting competition. He works it all day - and before you know it we are gearing up for the Closing Ceremonies and the Victory Dance. Mike (albeit somewhat reluctantly) decides to help out the staff with a little beach number on the stage for closing ceremonies. But with a 7 hour return drive scheduled for that evening he wouldn't be able to stay for the whole dance. As circumstance would have it, Mike's assistance was needed again as he and Megan headed out the door. It delayed Mike and Megan another 3 hours. But that was okay because he still had time to be back in Auburn by 5:30 a.m. where he was scheduled to be a cook at the Fathers Day Pancake Breakfast. He'd make it just in time - and he did.

When I returned to the office on Monday, I had a voice mail from Mike Murray. It was left on Sunday morning at 2:40 a.m. He was calling to thank us at Special Olympics for allowing himself and Megan to be part of such a wonderful experience. He was thanking us? He'd be home in plenty of time for his next volunteer commitment and he would be sending an email to see how he could become more involved with the Power lifters from across New York. My eyes well up at his message. Wow, how am I so fortunate to work with the likes of Mike Murray? How wonderful for our athletes.

Yup Mike Murray is a big guy - shirt size is XXXL. But his heart - Well I'm just not sure if there is a shirt large enough for that. What an example Mike sets - to his wonderful family, his community, other volunteers, and most of all our athletes. Sgt Murray - everyone at SONY - staff, volunteers and athletes - is tipping their hat you.

A job well done, thank you for your energy and drive. ■

5th Annual Plane Pull in State's Capital

Make sure you're at Albany International Airport on Tuesday, August 9th, 2005 to celebrate half a decade of the Plane Pull. The 5th Annual LETR Plane Pull is a fundraising event where teams compete to pull a plane. This year, it's a B-17 World War II Replica airplane that needs to be pulled a distance of 20 feet in the shortest time. Teams consist of a maximum of 20 members, with 5 alternates, all of whom must be at least 16 years of age. The team entry fee is \$500.00, which can be raised via a corporate sponsor or by each of the team members donating \$25.00. The event will benefit Special Olympics New York.

The competition will begin at 6:00 p.m., with team registration opening at 4:00 p.m. Bring the whole family out for the day as there will be raffle prizes, local law enforcement equipment along with demonstrations, live entertainment and refreshments, and best of all admission is free! ■



LETR Fire Truck Pull Comes to Auburn

The 3rd annual Law Enforcement Torch Run's Auburn Fire Truck Pull will take place August 20, 2005 at Casey Park. Everyone is welcome to compete in the event, with teams consisting of a maximum of 10 members plus 3 alternates, and all must be at least 16 years old. The entry fee is \$500.00, and trophies and t-shirts will be awarded.

This will be the second of three annual LETR Fire Truck Pulls, which are quickly becoming one of the most popular fundraisers across the state. The last Fire Truck Pull of the year will take place on October 1st in LaGrangeville, NY. The Auburn Fire Truck Pull will benefit Special Olympics New York and is being presented by the Auburn Correctional Facility and the Auburn Double Days. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. with the competition beginning promptly at 11:00 a.m. Pre-registration is greatly encouraged. Admission is free to the public and the entire family will enjoy a day of entertainment and fun! The event will kick off the night before with Special Olympics Night with the Auburn Double Days at Leo A. Pinckney Field, and doors will open at 6:00 p.m. ■



Pulling together for our athletes.



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*Don't forget to send your letters to the editor. Submit letters to Eric Wohlleber,
Special Olympics New York, 504 Balltown Road, Schenectady, NY 12304, or e-mail them to ewohlleber@nyso.org.*



A VERY wet Mike Patton hugs Long Island Coach Terry Uellendahl after competing in the 50 meter freestyle event at the Special Olympics New York Summer Games at Hofstra University.

SONY's 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.