

Triumph

October 2005



Special Olympics
New York

First Ever National Games Coming to Iowa in 2006

3,500 athletes will compete

Ames, Iowa will play host to the first ever Special Olympics USA National Games. From July 2-7, 2006, Ames will be transformed into an Olympic Village to host 3,500 athletes, 2,000 coaches and delegates, 12,000 family members and friends, 8,000 volunteers, and 30,000 spectators. This event promises to highlight thrilling athletic competition, exciting live entertainment, and provide experiences that will generate lifetime memories.

The inaugural Special Olympics USA National Games will take place on the Iowa State University campus. A list of sports for the 2006 USA National Games includes aquatics, basketball, bocce, bowling, golf, gymnastics, powerlifting, soccer, softball, tennis, track and field, and volleyball.

Mission of Special Olympics USA National Games

To provide a first-class sporting event that celebrates the achievements of Special Olympic athletes in an Olympic Environment to:

- Showcase their talents
- Promote understanding of the qualities and capabilities of persons with intellectual disabilities
- Increase public awareness and acceptance



More on the National Games Page 6

Special Olympics Fights Against Institutional Discrimination in Medical and Dental Community

For the first time at a New York State event, all of the Healthy Athletes disciplines were represented at this year's Summer Games. Clinicians and volunteers were available in the following disciplines: Fit Feet, FUNFitness, Healthy Hearing, Health Promotion, Opening Eyes, Sun Safety and Special Smiles. Coaches at this year's Summer Games also received Sun Sacks for the first time as part of the Sun Safety Healthy Athletes initiative to raise awareness of the risks of sun exposure.

This strong showing within our state is important, as Special Olympics International recently announced research results on the importance of the Healthy Athletes

program in providing medical screenings for athletes with intellectual disabilities, and the challenges our athletes face in countering widespread discrimination in their access to health care. In addition, physicians, dentists and other health professionals are not receiving adequate training to treat them. The studies are some of the largest and most comprehensive research ever conducted on the barriers to health care for people with intellectual disabilities. Sponsored by



Special Olympics

Healthy Athletes™

Special Olympics with the support of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the study collected data from more than 15,000 health screenings on 4,700 athletes from 146

countries at the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Ireland and the 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Japan. The data is the most extensive ever collected on the health status and needs of people with intellectual disabilities.

The research shows that more than one

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A Message from the President

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



If I were to ask what Special Olympics means to you I have no doubt that we couldn't fit all the positive responses on this page. It goes without saying that Special Olympics is equally important to

the athletes and families of every state program. Unfortunately, Hurricane Katrina has taken away the benefits and joy of SO programs for many of our fellow athletes.

By now we are all familiar with the devastation created by the storm. What we might not realize is that part of that devastation has rendered the SO programs in Louisiana and Mississippi inoperable. In response to this tremendous need, Special Olympics Incorporated has asked all state programs to appeal to their constituents for help.

It is with a sense of urgency and a heavy heart that I ask all members of the SONY family to support SOI's relief efforts to the maximum degree possible. Since the programs in Louisiana and Mississippi have no capacity to store equipment,

monetary resources are what is needed now. To facilitate this effort, SOI has set up a dedicated account to pool and disburse funds collected for the affected programs.

If you can help, please make your check(s) payable to either Special Olympics Louisiana or Special Olympics Mississippi but send them to Special Olympics New York at the address below. SONY will insure that they are forwarded to the SOI relief account.

Please accept my thanks now because I know the generosity that means so much to our programs will rise to embrace the programs in need. ■

Miles for Medals, Around the Bend

A Letter from Kristen Schel, Director of Development

We are days away from our first Miles for Medals Walk of the fall season! We kick off the season on October 2nd in downtown Corning, NY. This starts a series of nine walks, culminating on October 30th at Clove Lakes State Park in Staten Island. I am especially excited about this walk, because walkers get to trick or treat along the walk route. It will be fun safe way for your families to enjoy Halloween, and also feel like they are helping a good cause.

I hope that you too can join us at any of our walks. Miles for Medals is impor-

tant for Special Olympics, because at these walks, *everyone* can participate, and have a chance to give back to an organization that has changed so many lives. As we walk in local communities, we invite local organizations, businesses, schools, and Special Olympics teams to walk and show their support. This is a time to be proud of Special Olympics and strut our stuff! Please walk with us, and show the local community that you are proud of Special Olympics, and our athletes. For more information on a walk near you go to www.specialolympicsny.org. Thank you! ■



Triumph

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Inspire Greatness

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Institutional Discrimination *Continued from P. 1*

in three of the athletes had not received an eye exam for more than three years, and more than a quarter had never received one at all. More than three in 10 athletes failed hearing tests, which is nearly six times higher than rates seen in the general population. More than a third of all athletes screened had obvious signs of tooth decay, one-third needed prescription eyewear and half of them received it for the first time ever at the health screenings. The study also revealed that half of the athletes screened had one or more foot diseases or conditions.

There was also a complementary study on the attitudes of health-care professionals toward people with intellectual disabilities. The study found disturbing evidence that individuals with intellectual disabilities face widespread discrimination in their access to health care. More than half of the health-care professionals who participated in the survey responded that medical and dental school graduates are not competent to treat persons with intellectual disabilities. Almost three in five medical school deans responded that clinical training regarding intellectual disabilities is not a high priority at most schools.

The studies emphasized Special Olympics' commitment not only to athletics, but also to cutting-edge research and evaluation to promote better understanding of issues surrounding intellectual disabilities. Many Special Olympics athletes cannot see the

finish line to win a race, and so Special Olympics created Healthy Athletes® to help alleviate some of the disparities to health care access for people with intellectual disabilities. Healthy Athletes provides health assessment, health education, disease prevention and, in some cases, corrective health care for Special Olympics athletes. Volunteer health-care professionals who participate in these screenings learn about the health needs of Special Olympics athletes, and gain knowledge and confidence in volunteering their clinical skills to work with people with intellectual disabilities. To learn more about the findings from Special Olympics International, visit <http://northamerica.specialolympics.org/research/>



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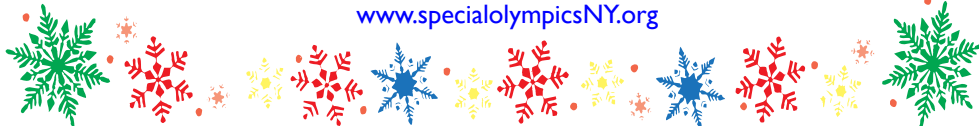
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Help Rebuild Greatness

DISASTER RELIEF APPEAL

Hurricane Katrina inflicted significant damage to the Special Olympics programs in Louisiana and Mississippi. If you can provide financial assistance, make your check payable to any of the two Special Olympics programs listed above and mail it to Special Olympics New York. We will see that it gets to the designated program in its entirety.



Special Olympics
New York

SONY Goes to the New York State Fair

August 25 – September 5

When the gates opened at the New York State Fair on Thursday, August 25, Special Olympics New York was ready and waiting to get the message out. Over the next 12 days the McNeil & Company Art and Home Center was home to the SONY booth, where passers by were able to pick up

information on SONY competitions, fund raisers and request more information on how to become an athlete, coach, volunteer or sponsor.

The booth was manned by SONY staff, volunteers and athletes. More than 960,000 people attended the 12-day Fair. “What an

experience,” said Regional Director Glenn Ivers. “We had the opportunity to touch close to a million people with our booth and we hope that it will provide a shot in the arm not only to the Central Region but for the entire state.”



Syracuse athlete Andrew Bowman hands out brochures.



Central Region's Program Director Jeff Mickle speaks with a group of people who stopped by the booth.

More than 50 Central Region athletes and coaches march in the parade at the first day of the Fair.

A Giant Experience for SONY Athletes

On Tuesday, August 16 more than a dozen Capital District Region athletes were invited to step onto the same field where the New York Giants practice. The New York Giants call Albany home for summer camp where they practice at the University at Albany.

SONY athletes were invited to come and take part in a Punt, Pass and Kick competition. Each athlete gave it their best shot while their teammates cheered them on. “It was a fantastic opportunity and I would like to thank the New York Giants and their staff for inviting us,” said Vice President of Public



Affairs, John D'Alessandro.

“The athletes had a great time, but I would have to say that the Giants staff enjoyed it more. They were cheering on our athletes and having a

lot of fun in the process.” Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate, just as the competition was ending the skies opened up and everyone ran for shelter to keep dry. It rained so hard that the athletes and the Giants staff were stuck outside, but under cover, for about 45 minutes. Because of the rain the afternoon practice was cancelled as was the opportunity for the athletes to take pictures with members of the Giants.

Even though the athletes missed out, Kevin Brown kept everyone entertained during the storm with his many jokes. “In retrospect the rain out wasn't all bad, the Giants staff members had more time to be around our athletes and Kevin was definitely keeping them entertained,” said D'Alessandro.



Time Warner Cable Gives Heart, Time and Funds to Make 13th Charity Golf Tournament a Success

Event benefits SONY athletes in Saratoga County

Thirteen years ago, Time Warner Cable employee Mike McGuire started the Time Warner Cable Charity Golf Tournament to benefit the SONY athletes in Saratoga County. This year, McGuire sadly and conspicuously was absent, after having succumbed to cancer earlier in the spring. His son, Kevin, 17, played in his father's usual foursome at this year's event, continuing the tradition that his father began. TW Cable also honored McGuire at this year's event.

The event raised \$25,000 this year, bringing the total amount raised since the first event in 1993 to over \$200,000. This year's tournament was held at the Albany Country Club for the third consecutive year, moving from Saratoga National Golf Course in 2002 and Hiland Golf Club in Queensbury from 1993-2001. A total of 140 golfers enjoyed a sunny, hot day on June

27. Activities included access to the driving range and putting green in the morning, lunch, and a shot-gun start round of golf including various contest holes. The day's activities were followed by an awards dinner, video presentation and raffle. Three area athletes played in the tournament and Jennifer Delaney, another area athlete, worked as a volunteer and then spoke at the dinner presentation. Delaney thanked "TW Cable for another great event and Mike McGuire for starting it."

SONY recognized the Saratoga-Glens Falls office of TW Cable in 2001 with the corporate sponsor-supporter

award. This office is now part of the Albany Division of TW Cable, but the same people who worked on the early tournaments continue to lead this fundraiser. Stephen Pagano, President of the Albany Division,

presented a check to four athletes from Saratoga County; Peter Taubkin, Vice President, was the M.C. at the awards dinner; and Mark Loreno, Vice President, was the tournament chairman. SONY would like to thank these individuals and TW



Cable for their continued support of our athletes in Saratoga County. ■



From left to right: Mitsui USA President & CEO Motokazu Yoshida, Special Olympics New York President & CEO Neal J. Johnson and Mitsui USA Foundation President & CEO Shinichi Hirabayashi.

Mitsui & Co. began its relationship with Special Olympics New York last year when they supported our athletes who competed in the 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Nagano, Japan.

Along with financial support, Mitsui, along with Toyota and the Nippon Club in New York City, hosted a cultural orientation evening for our delegation and the families before the World Games. In addition they were at JFK Airport to see our athletes off and to wish them the best of luck. ■

A Special Thank You

Letter from Global Messenger Stephen Caruso

I would like to thank John D' Alessandro and Eric Wohlleber for asking me to speak at the Satins, Silks & Stars weekend on July 30th and 31st. I had such a wonderful time at these great events, both at the Gala and the luncheon the next day at the track. I also was able to meet some wonderful stars who came out to support all of our athletes. I also want to thank Holly Gray who is my mentor as a Global Messenger and the entire SONY staff, they were wonderful all weekend. They worked very hard to put this wonderful event together and everyone had a great time. ■



Stephan Caruso speaking at the 15th Annual Satins, Silks & Stars Gala, his touching remarks were answered with a standing ovation.

SONY to Build on Success of Innovative Program with NYC Department of Education

With the start of the 2005-06 school year, a pioneering partnership between Special Olympics New York (SONY) and the New York City Department of Education (DOE) enters its third year and continues to build on its previous success. The goal of this innovative initiative is to offer cost-free sports opportunities to all students with intellectual disabilities within the DOE school districts. Students are drawn from two areas:

1. Special Education District 75, which serves over 23,000 students city-wide with special needs, including intellectual, physical and behavioral disabilities.
2. Adapted Physical Education (APE) students, who come from schools within all DOE districts.

Students are eligible to participate in SONY programs if they have a qualifying intellectual disability and are age 8 or older. There are approximately 16,000 athletes currently participating in SONY within the DOE, an increase of over 6,000 new athletes just last year. The majority of these new athletes have been drawn from District 75. Over the next few years, SONY expects

approximately 25,000 athletes from the DOE will be involved in its programs, or about 6% of the total New York City public school population. "Right now, the majority of funding for this program is provided by a grant through Special Olympics, Inc. To sustain the anticipated growth it is imperative that we build corporate partnerships and identify external grant support," said Neal J. Johnson, President and C.E.O. of SONY.

In addition to sustaining funding, an added challenge is to ensure that eligible students have access to necessary medical screenings. A medical screening and check-up is required for students to participate in SONY events. Currently, there are many eligible athletes in New York City who have difficulty obtaining the

required check-up on their own. In response, SONY is organizing a MedFest in Manhattan this fall in conjunction with



medical professionals who will donate their time to provide these necessary medical evaluations for DOE students. SONY hopes to duplicate the MedFest initiative across the other boroughs. ■

Opening of 18.5-acre Corn Maze Promotes 2006 Special Olympics USA National Games in Iowa

Special Olympics has announced the opening of an 18.5-acre corn maze designed in the shape of the 2006 Special Olympics USA National Games logo. The maze, located just outside of Knoxville, Iowa, opened to the public on Labor Day weekend, and will remain open during weekends through October as part of the organization's campaign to bring national awareness to the first-ever Special Olympics USA National Games.

Organizers are hoping the corn maze will become the world's largest temporary crop maze, according to Guinness World Records, and efforts are being made to secure that title. The maze was designed by Dan-D Farm owners Dan and Jana Dennison in support of the 2006 USA National Games, and to draw attention to the state of Iowa as the host of the first Games.

Organizers of the 2006 USA National Games believe the corn maze will be a good means of promoting the upcoming event to the nation. "We wanted to do something that would visually appeal to Iowans and to people beyond our borders, and excite those people about volunteering or participating in the National Games," said Rich Fellingham, Executive Director of Special Olympics Iowa. "It's really a great honor for the state of Iowa to host the first-ever Special Olympics USA National Games. To successfully host such a large event, we're counting on the support of about 10,000 volunteers. The corn maze is simply one way for us to promote the National Games, and simultaneously get people enthused about helping out next summer." ■



TORCH RUN TIMES



Law Enforcement Torch Run News

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 Upon receipt of payment, raffle tickets will be mailed. **Drawing Date: December, 2005**



Special Olympics New York

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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.*



Picture of the Month

Future staffer Evan D'Alessandro mans the Special Olympics New York booth at the Great New York State Fair. Evan donated two days of his summer vacation to help out SONY and his father, Vice President of Public Affairs John D'Alessandro.

SONY's mission is to provide sports training and athletic competition to individuals with intellectual disabilities. 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.