

Triumph



Special Olympics New York • APRIL 2004

Six SONY Athletes Set to Travel to Greece for World Festival

With the frost barely gone from the landscape, SONY athletes will join athletes from around the world for the World Festival, a weeklong competition on Rhodes Island in Greece from May 14 to 21.

The six Aquatics athletes from SONY's Genesee Region – Eric Byrd of Geneseo, Amy Clark from Heritage Christian Services, Kim Converse and Steven Kewin from School of the Holy Childhood, Hornell's Brenda Manhart and Craig Newmiller from Palmyra – will be joined by longtime SONY coach Sylvia Korn. Korn's history of coaching and directing aquatics programs dates back to the 70's, and she has taught children and adults to swim for over 35 years.

"I have known many of these athletes for years," Korn said. "They will be outstanding representatives of Special Olympics New York."



SONY Staff / David McEneaney

This group will represent SONY's Genesee Region at the upcoming World Festival in Greece. Athletes (left to right) Kim Converse, Steven Kewin, Craig Newmiller and Eric Byrd are in the back row. The front row features athletes Brenda Manhart and Amy Clark and coach Sylvia Korn.

SONY's swimmers will participate in events ranging in distance from 25 to 400 meters in Freestyle, Backstroke, Breast and Butterfly and a Freestyle relay.

"We are very proud of these dedicated Special Olympics athletes and are extremely pleased that they will be competing in this international competition," said David McEneaney, Regional Director of SONY's Genesee Region. "These athletes are the first international representatives of the new Genesee Region. We wish them well in this competition, and know that they will always treasure the memories this honor brings to them."

Byrd, Clark, Converse, Kewin, Manhart and Newmiller will train with Korn until they depart for Greece. All costs associated with sending these them to Greece will be covered by SONY's Genesee Region, and sponsorship opportunities are available.

For more information, contact SONY's Genesee Region at 585-586-7400. ■

This story was provided by Marian Turner, Director of Development and Public Relations for SONY's Genesee Region.

Special Olympics Athlete Sheds More Than 200 Pounds

Ogdensburg man uses TOPS and sports to lose more than half his weight.

In one sense, Bob Cooter is half the man he used to be. In another sense, he's more complete than ever before.

"I was 416 pounds," said Cooter, a 34-year-old SONY athlete from Ogdensburg. "Now I'm 199 pounds. I feel great."

Cooter's approach to weight loss was two-fold – he paired the Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) program with his Special Olympics involvement.

"I exercise every day and I watch what I eat," said Cooter, using a present-tense form of speech to illustrate that he is now

focused on keeping the pounds off.

"Bob regularly shares what he's accomplished with groups of people, and they walk away feeling very impressed and inspired," said Tim Welpe, Games Coordinator for SONY's St. Lawrence and Franklin County programs. "Bob always credits Special Olympics for helping him lose the weight and he feels that his involvement in Basketball and Softball gave him direction. He has achieved amazing results by pairing the TOPS program with a running and

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SONY Volunteer / Kay Richards

SONY athlete Bob Cooter (foreground), who used sports and the Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) program to lose more than 200 pounds, participates in the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

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

A Message from the President

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



I doubt that many of the individuals who work at not-for-profit organizations, which rely heavily on volunteers, can relate to this situation: Volunteers approach me after every SONY competition to

say thank you – thanks for the chance to have had such a great experience.

I often wonder, “How, after spending 14 hours in the sun or the rain or the snow, are you thanking me?”

But then I reflect. I look back almost 30 years, to the day when Herb Rosenblatt changed my life. It was as simple as Herb, who started Special Olympics in the Bronx in the 1970s, saying, “What are you doing this weekend?”

That Saturday is even more clearly etched in my memory. I spent it working with Special Olympics athletes at the Bronx-based Spring Games. It was a bright and sunny day at Fordham University.

I was immediately hooked.

I didn't know yet that I'd found my life's work – I would go on to be a SONY volunteer for 23 years before becoming a staffer – but I did discover what makes volunteers thank me today after they interact with our athletes. I experienced firsthand how inspiring Special Olympics athletes are in their capacity to demonstrate athletic skills and share joy. It is the “power” of our athletes.

I discovered that I get more out of working with Special Olympics athletes than I could ever give them. I'm sure every Special Olympics volunteer can relate to that feeling.

Herb certainly could.

When I look at his picture on the wall in my office, I think of a man who, even though he was only 43 years old when he passed away in 1991, made a world of difference to people with mental retardation. He dedicated his life to helping them showcase their abilities.

At a tribute dinner after his death, there was a slide show that showed photo after photo of Herb with Special Olympics athletes. As the images flashed on a screen, Bette Midler's “Wind Beneath My Wings” played, explaining how the athletes felt about Herb.

He was indeed the wind beneath their wings, as every SONY volunteer is. The fact is, my office walls are covered with photos of

volunteers who are just as important as Herb.

In so many of those photos, though, SONY's athletes are, as they should be, in the center of the shot. Often, the volunteers are out of focus.

They're always right there with the athletes, however, helping them take center stage.

So, after years of having volunteers thank me, it's my turn to say thank you.

As volunteers, you empower SONY's athletes. Your dedication allows them to enjoy sports and experience what most people take for granted, and I appreciate that. Thank you. ■



Volunteers like Steven Santoli, shown escorting Area 24 at Opening Ceremonies of SONY's 2004 Winter Games, empower SONY's athletes.

SONY Staff / Darcie Henderson

Triumph

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Inspire Greatness

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Miles for Medals™ Ready to Go the Distance in 2004

Walkathon program benefits the athletes of Special Olympics New York.

Miles for Medals, SONY's statewide walkathon program, has a new focus and a dynamic new leader.

"The biggest difference people are going to see with the 2004 program is that we're reaching out to Special Olympics athletes and their families," said Kristen Thorsen, a recently hired Director of Development at SONY. Thorsen formerly served as campaign manager for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Light the Night walks, and now oversees SONY's Miles for Medals program. "Miles for Medals is more than a fund-raiser – it's a way to celebrate what Special Olympics New York is all about: the athletes."

With that philosophy in mind, Thorsen aims to make sure that SONY's athletes are invited to participate in each of the 11 walks planned for 2004, more than double the number of walks held in 2003. The walks will average about three miles each with prizes for the top fund-raisers. Each participant who turns in \$100 by walk day will receive a

Miles for Medals T-shirt.

"Miles for Medals will be consistent statewide and it will be user-friendly," Thorsen said. "Everyone who participates will receive a walker-welcome kit prior to the walk, which will include fund-raising tips. There also will be team captain kits, which will detail how to organize a successful team, and there's going to be a Miles for Medals newsletter."

Dates are currently being worked out for Miles for Medals events in Buffalo, Long Island, New Paltz, Poughkeepsie, Saratoga Springs, Syracuse, Utica and SONY's Genesee Region.

New York Lottery and New York State United Teachers have signed on as sponsors for the Miles for Medals events in Saratoga Springs and Buffalo. New York



Racing Association is a sponsor for the Saratoga Springs event and HealthNow is a sponsor for the Buffalo event.

For more information on Miles for Medals, visit www.specialolympicsNY.org or contact Kristen Thorsen at 800-836-6976 or kthorsen@nyso.org. ■ JF

Your Chance to Swing With the Legends

Long Island golf tourney will benefit SONY.

SONY's Long Island Region will hold its 11th annual "Swing With the Legends" golf tournament at the Huntington Crescent Club in Huntington on May 17. Stephan M. Schector of Primary Healthcare Plus is this year's tournament honoree.

"The 'Swing With the Legends' charity golf tournament is a first-class event that features 32 former Major League Baseball players joining participants in a scramble format," said Anne Monsees, Director of Development for SONY – Long Island.



Participants will enjoy 18 holes of golf, an elite gift package and a fun day with a baseball legend. The outing includes a pre-event celebrity player reception at the

Huntington Hilton on May 16, a sumptuous breakfast and lunch, a cocktail hour, dinner, an awards ceremony and a memorabilia auction.

There will be hole-in-one cars and prizes for the longest drive, closest

to the pin, first, second and third team low gross and more.

"This tournament will bring back fond baseball memories while raising money for Special Olympics," Monsees said. "The roster of stars who have participated in the past represents a broad spectrum of Hall of Famers, All Stars and retired Major League heroes. Jim 'Mudcat' Grant, Bob Feller, Sparky Lyle, Dave Winfield, Goose Gossage and Rusty Staub are just a few of the legends who have recently played in this tournament. With that kind of lineup, it's easy to understand why the tournament is named 'Swing With the Legends.'"

Foursomes and sponsorships are available. For further information, call Anne Monsees at 631-254-1465 (ext. 11) or e-mail amonsees@nyso.org. ■

This story was provided by Anne Monsees, Director of Development for SONY's Long Island Region.

Cooter Loses 200 Pounds

Continued from P. 1
weight training plan.”

In fact, Cooter is now so light on his feet that he participates in road races and has escorted the Flame of Hope with the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR).

LETR is the largest grassroots fund-raiser and awareness vehicle for Special Olympics in the world. Each year, communities across New York state host an LETR leg as law enforcement officials and SONY athletes run the Flame of Hope to the Summer Games.

“Bob is a dedicated athlete, and losing weight has helped him tremendously,” Welpe said. “He’s much more mobile, and he has more endurance, confidence and self-esteem.”

“I know that it feels great to win a medal,” said Cooter, who has claimed gold in the past. “And now I have an even better chance to do it.” ■ JF



Bob Cooter

SONY Volunteer / Tim Welpe

Volunteers Honored With Their Own Week

April 18-24 marked as time to celebrate volunteers.

Volunteers across the United States will be recognized from April 18 to 24 as part of National Volunteer Week. This 31-year-old tradition sets aside time to celebrate the contributions of volunteers.

“Volunteers make it possible for Special Olympics New York to fulfill its mission,” said Neal J. Johnson, President and Chief Executive Officer of SONY. “Our volunteers are some of the most dedicated, passionate people I’ve ever encountered. Without them there’s no way we could provide cost-free sports opportunities to 40,000 children and adults with mental retardation.”

National Volunteer Week began in 1974 when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order establishing the week as an annual celebration of volunteering. In 2003, nearly 90 million volunteers contributed to their communities. That number includes the 30,000 volunteers who regularly give their time to SONY.

“When people volunteer, it makes them realize how lucky they really are,” said Nancy Logan, recipient of SONY’s 2004 Dorothy Buehring Phillips Award. The award is presented to a volunteer who has contributed consistently to SONY over the years. “It’s important to help out, to give something back. There are a lot of people in need of some kind of help. If we all give just a little bit, we can make a difference.” ■ JF



Nancy Logan received SONY’s 2004 Dorothy Buehring Phillips Award, which is given each year to a volunteer who has contributed to SONY over an extended period of time. Logan says: “If we all give just a little bit, we can make a difference.”

Upcoming Metro Tournament is New York City’s Signature Special Olympics Event

Athletes will have a chance to shine at the 16th annual tourney.

Athletes from the New York City, Long Island and Hudson Valley regions are currently preparing for the spring/summer sports season and one of the season’s premier events: the Metro Tournament. This five-sport competition will be held at Manhattan’s Riverbank State Park on June 5.

More than 1,000 athletes and coaches participate each year in the Metro Tournament, making it New York City’s largest Special Olympics competition.

“We’re excited to be able to add two

new components to Metro Tournament this year,” said Director of Competition Pete Lawrence. “Volleyball and Basketball Skills athletes will be invited to attend the tournament. This is especially exciting for Volleyball Skills athletes from the metro area who did not have a major sectional to attend before going to Summer Games.”

The Metro Tournament has become a signature event for SONY. The corporate community of New York City provides a majority of the volunteers; the New York City Fire Department lends support and

parade marshals; and Riverbank State Park offers a wonderful facility with scenic views of the Hudson River.

“Metro Tournament, like many of our events, has become an experience that the community embraces and looks forward to every year,” Lawrence said.

For more information on Metro Tournament or for a full schedule of competitive events in your region, visit www.specialolympicsNY.org or call 800-836-6976. ■ DH

TORCH RUN TIMES

Law Enforcement Torch Run News

Polar Plunge is a "Huge Success"

Fishkill event raises \$19,000 for Special Olympics New York's athletes.

Polar Plunge organizer and Town of Poughkeepsie Police Officer Chris Hamel was a highly sought-after man in the moments following the recent Polar Plunge at Camp Mariah (Sharpe Reservation). Plunger after plunger wanted to shake his hand.

"When everything comes together like it did today and people come up to you to say 'Thanks for letting me jump in 34-degree water,' you know you did the right thing," Hamel said.

The Sixth Annual event was a record-setter with 66 people raising at least \$100 each to earn the privilege of entering the water, and a total of approximately \$19,000 being generated for SONY. The previous high amount raised was \$15,000.

Since the Polar Plunge is a Law Enforcement Torch Run event, it made perfect sense that the leading fund-raiser was a probation officer: Martin McQuade of Poughkeepsie raised \$4,302.

McQuade, who has now plunged for five consecutive years, begins his fund-raising effort in December each year.

"Special Olympics athletes give their all when they compete," he said. "That makes me want to go all out and raise as much money as I can."

"This is a huge success," Hamel said. "To break the record and raise \$19,000, I'm elated."



SONY Staff / Jeff Foley

Polar Plunge organizer Chris Hamel, also a Town of Poughkeepsie police officer, carries 5-year-old Kyle Narod of Wappingers Falls out of the water at Camp Mariah (Sharpe Reservation). Narod was the youngest participant at the Sixth Annual Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics New York, which raised approximately \$19,000.

LETR is the largest grassroots fund-raiser and awareness vehicle for Special Olympics in the world and is run by volunteer law enforcement officials. Efforts like Hamel's enable SONY to provide cost-free sports opportunities to children and adults with mental retardation. ■ JF

April is Law Enforcement Torch Run Awareness Month at CARQUEST Stores

CARQUEST Auto Parts is the premier International Partner of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, and one way the organization fulfills its sponsorship is by designating April as Law Enforcement Torch Run Awareness Month.

CARQUEST coordinates fund-raising efforts year-round, but April is when its stores get together and collectively put forth their best efforts. The Torch Run

supports a wide variety of local fund-raising activities with CARQUEST, with 100% of all local funds remaining in the state or province where they are raised.

CARQUEST's involvement grows each year and, since 1998, CARQUEST has raised nearly \$3,000,000 for Special Olympics.

"One of the rewards of being part of the CARQUEST family is enjoying the relation-

Continued P.6

Up Against the Column

Torch Run Times Meets Triumph.

Our job here at Special Olympics New York is constantly changing and yours probably is, too. If we're not changing things and making things better, well, then our workplace can become stagnant. And who wants that? With that in mind, a few important and necessary adjustments have been made in the Law Enforcement Torch Run efforts.



The first thing you'll probably notice is that we have integrated *Torch Run Times* into *Triumph*. We've done this for several reasons:

- Instead of coming to you four times a year, we'll now be able to update you on a monthly basis.
- The other key reason is that we felt it was extremely important that you be able to see the larger picture and go beyond just what is happening with the Law Enforcement Torch Run. What better way to show you how much of an impact you have on our athletes than to show you all of Special Olympics New York's accomplishments?

I sincerely hope you enjoy the new format, and I welcome any comments you may have.

The other big change around here is one that many of you are aware of, but it is well worth repeating. We've always known that the potentials of the Law Enforcement Torch Run activities are incredible. But in addition to recruiting new volunteers, the need for additional staff was evident.

So, I am thrilled that Chris Porreca joined us in January and, in just a few short months, he has already made an incredible difference. Chris' efforts will be event-focused, allowing me to spend more time on the road recruiting and speaking of the wonders of Special Olympics New York.

We have great inspirations and goals for the 2004 Torch Run. Please join us for a year you'll never forget!

Jeanne Merck

April 2004, TRIUMPH 5

One, Two, Three ... Pull!

Teams are needed for the Third Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run/Western New York Fire Truck Pull to benefit SONY. The event will take place on May 22 at Lancaster's Twin District Volunteer Fire Department.

"This is a really cool event," said Jeanne Mesick, LETR liaison for SONY. "It's a chance to test yourself. After all, how often do you get to see if you can move a 46,000-pound fire truck? Plus, you'll be doing a good deed."

All of the funds raised by the Fire Truck Pull will help create sports opportunities for children and adults with mental retardation."

Fire Truck Pull teams will consist of 10 people, with alternates, and each team will attempt to pull a fire truck 20 feet. Each team will get two tries and the team that covers the distance in the quickest time wins. There is a \$500 entry fee per team.

The Fire Truck Pull is open to the community.

"This is no ordinary event, but neither is the support and dedication that law enforcement officials provide to Special Olympics New York," Mesick said. "Law enforcement officials have a reputation for going above and beyond, and we're hoping the community will join them for this event. In addition to having teams made up of police officers, firemen and corrections officers, we're hoping to have teams of college students and teams from area gyms, churches and other community groups. We'd love it if everyone pulls together for the athletes of Special Olympics New York."

For more information, call 800-836-6976. ■ CP

Save the Date for LETR

The 2004 Law Enforcement Torch Run calendar is quickly filling up. Here are a few events you should put into your date book:

May 1: *Attica Torch Run* – Law enforcement officials will begin to escort the Flame of Hope across New York state to Hofstra University, where it will be used to light the Special Olympics Cauldron and kick off SONY's 2004 Summer Games.

May 21: *Ogdensburg Torch Run* – Ogdensburg-area law enforcement officials will take a turn with the Flame of Hope as it continues its long journey.

May 22: *Third annual Law Enforcement Torch Run/Western New York Fire Truck Pull* – Teams of 10 will pay \$500 each to attempt to pull a 46,000-pound fire truck. All the proceeds will benefit SONY.

May 24: *AXA Advisors present the Union Vale Golf Classic to benefit Special Olympics* – Golf tournament at The Links at Union Vale will benefit SONY's athletes.

July 18: *Auburn Fire Truck Pull* – In addition to the fire truck pulling competition, participants will enjoy an Auburn Doubledays baseball game.

July 31: *Glens Falls Kiwanis Duck Race* – Ticket sales from this Kiwanis event will benefit the athletes of SONY.

August 23: *Northeast Chiefs of Police Golf Tournament* – In Ballston Spa.

LETR Gear for 2004 Ready to Debut

New Law Enforcement Torch Run merchandise will be available soon.

"We're always looking for new and innovative ways to promote Special Olympics New York through the Law Enforcement Torch Run," said Jeanne Mesick, LETR liaison for SONY. "We put a lot of thought into this year's items, and we can't wait for them to hit the market. I really think law enforcement officials will like what they see."

The 2004 LETR offerings will include T-shirts, golf shirts and hats, as well as items that have not offered before.

"You'll be able to wear your Law Enforcement Torch Run gear with pride," Mesick said.

Be sure to check out the May issue of *Triumph*, which will feature photos of some of the new merchandise. ■ CP

LETR Awareness Month

Continued from P.5

ship we have with the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics," said Bill Rosenberg, Senior Vice President of BWP Distributors, Inc. in Armonk. "We are pleased to be part of the effort to raise awareness and funds for such a worthwhile cause."

"It is such a gratifying experience when you get out there and get a chance to interact with the athletes," said Jenny Weaver from CARQUEST's Buffalo Distribution Center.

"Whether the CARQUEST stores in your area are selling Torch Run icons or merchandise, or if they're having a hotdog sale and a car wash or even if they're hosting a bowl-a-thon, please make sure you visit your participating store and support their fine efforts," said Jeanne Mesick, LETR liaison for SONY. ■ JM

Cops & Lobsters/Law & Orders

It must be spring because it's time for the annual Cops & Lobsters/Law and Orders events taking place at restaurants and Red Lobsters across New York state.

This annual fundraising event, which is organized by the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, features law enforcement officers volunteering as celebrity waiters. They receive contributions to raise funds for SONY.

"Cops and Lobsters/Law & Orders generates tremendous community goodwill and public awareness for Special Olympics and law enforcement," said Jeanne Mesick, LETR liaison for SONY.

Contact Jeanne Mesick or Chris Porreca at 800-836-6976 for more information. ■ JM

Point of View

By Chris Radz

Wow, I can't believe I was asked to write about my second most favorite thing to do in the whole world. For me, volunteering for Special Olympics New York is like being on "Who Wants to be a Super Millionaire?"

But I win much more than money when I volunteer for SONY. I have won true fulfillment.

Ironically, it was an inspiring article in a SONY publication nine years ago that prompted my phone call to begin the process of becoming a certified volunteer. Prior to that momentous call to headquarters, I had spent much of my free time working out, running, teaching aerobics,

Through the tears of happiness and joy – and it was indeed a joy to accompany all of those wonderful athletes – my heart beat faster and faster as music from the movie "Rocky" played. I was overwhelmed by the laughter of the athletes and the cheering of the spectators. Of course, the lighting of the torch, the sight of the skydivers and, last but not least, the fireworks spurred my emotions to such a high that I could barely sleep the first night.

In 1997, I saw a need for an adaptive Aquatics program in Saratoga County because there were many athletes who needed a more therapeutic pool setting. I

“Parading from the athletic field to the bleacher area with thousands of athletes and hundreds of coaches, volunteers, friends, parents and dignitaries was the proudest evening of my life.”

– Chris Radz,
Capital Region Aquatics coach and volunteer coordinator

swimming and partaking in various other recreational activities.

After reading the article in the Special Olympics newsletter, though, I began to think it was selfish of me to exercise and work out just for myself. Why not share my energy and enthusiasm with someone who needs help? So I made a decision that very day to devote my time to helping people with disabilities.

I'd finally found my niche in life.

The first year I became a certified Aquatics coach, I was selected to go to the Summer Games at the State University of New York at Albany. From the moment I put on my purple uniform for the Opening Ceremonies, I had a lump in my throat.

Parading from the athletic field to the bleacher area with thousands of athletes and hundreds of coaches, volunteers, friends, parents and dignitaries was the proudest evening of my life. It was honestly more special than anything I have ever experienced in my life.

requested permission to pursue this from the area committee and they unanimously agreed.

The program is a huge success. Many athletes who never would have had the opportunity to participate in Special Olympics because of severe disabilities are now able to train for the adaptive 10- and 15-meter assisted and unassisted events in the Special Olympics Aquatics program.

It has been a dream-come-true for me. The first time we brought an athlete to the Summer Games to compete in an adaptive event was definitely a highlight in my nine years of volunteering for Special Olympics.

In 2000, dear friends from the SONY program in Saratoga County – Margo and Mike Bagneschi – blessed me with the opportunity to take their daughter Megan to the Summer Games in Buffalo. This was the first time she was chosen to go to the Summer Games, and her first time away from home and Mom and Dad. We had the most wonderful time and Megan came home with a gold medal from the 15-meter assisted



Stephen Benya

Capital Region Aquatics coach and volunteer coordinator Chris Radz escorts SONY athlete Austin Hunt during the Special Olympics New York Summer Games at the State University of New York at Albany.

competition.

Needless to say ... I don't know if Margo or I shed more tears of joy!

Then, in 2001, Coach Mama Rosa Amato and her husband Lorenzo allowed me to bring their daughter Maria to the Summer Games in Buffalo. This also was her first time away from Mom and Dad to compete in the Summer Games. Maria brought home a silver medal, which she won in the 25-meter freestyle competition. It was a great feeling!

Another significant experience that is truly noteworthy is listening to my dear friend, Global Messenger Steve Caruso of the Capital Region, when he speaks on behalf of athletes all over the world. In a powerful voice, Steve conveys what Special Olympics is all about: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

Thank you, Special Olympics!

Point of View is written periodically. Chris Radz is a Capital Region Aquatics coach and a volunteer coordinator. To submit a Point of View idea, contact Jeff Foley at 518-388-0793 or jfoley@nyso.org. ■



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Picture of the Month

Players from the Capital District Devil Dogs (white jerseys) and the Schenectady Patriots position themselves to gather in a rebound during a SONY exhibition game. The game was played during the second round of the 2004 Men's Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Basketball Tournament at Albany's Pepsi Arena, and Ezra Canty of the Devil Dogs thrilled the crowd with several breakaway layups. The MAAC is in its seventh year of helping raise awareness for SONY.



SONY Volunteer / Michelle Darcy

2004 Calendar of Events

APRIL

- 17 Section 4 Basketball and Aquatics, Oswego
- 24 Section 1 Basketball and Aquatics, Fordham
- 25 Section 2 Basketball and Aquatics, TBD

MAY

- 1 Section 5 Basketball, Volleyball and Aquatics, Canisus
- 8 Section 2 Volleyball, TBD
- 14 Roller Skating - Horizon FX
- 15 Aquatics – *Genesee Region*, Letchworth Central
- 17 Swing with the Legends Golf Tournament
- 22 Volleyball – *Genesee Region*, Chemung
- 22 3rd Annual Western New York
Fire Truck Pull at The Twin District Fire Department
- 29 Spike's Hike – *Genesee Region*, Frontier Field
- TBD Monte Carlo Night – *Long Island Region*,
Stewart Thomas Manor

* For more details, please contact Special Olympics New York office.

Mission: To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-style sports for children and adults with mental retardation, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.