

Triumph



Special Olympics New York • April 2001

Wanna Adopt a Duck?

One lucky duck could win \$1 million at first time fund-raising event.

Thousands of rubber ducks will be dropped into the East River under the shadow of the Brooklyn Bridge in the first ever Million Dollar Duck Race to benefit Special Olympics New York in Manhattan on June 28.

The floating ducks will then race to the finish line at the South Street Seaport as hundreds of spectators cheer them on from shore.

The premise is simple: For a \$5 donation you can “adopt” a duck. Your duck is tagged with a number that corresponds with your adoption papers. The ducks are dropped into the East River and the race begins. The grand prize for the “parent” of the winning duck is a 2001

Honda Insight car. Also, one of every 3,333 ducks will be specially marked as a Million Dollar Duck. If one of these duck wins, its owner will receive \$1 million.

“It’s an outstanding opportunity when you can donate to a great cause and also

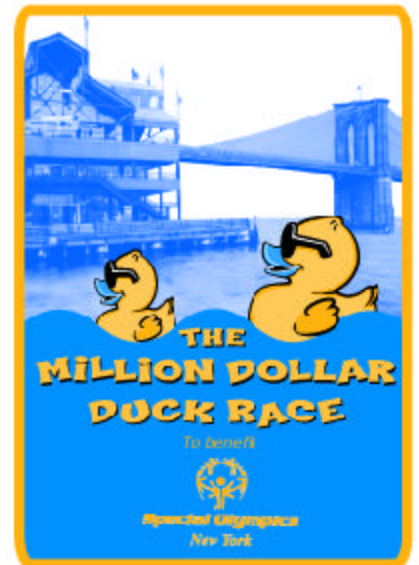
have the chance to win a really great prize,” said Robert Blaustein, associate director of development for Special Olympics

Everyone can participate.

**-- Robert Blaustein
Associate Director of
Development**

New York. “And everyone can participate, from corporate executives and their employees to children and adults, and of course, the hundreds of friends of Special Olympics.”

To adopt a duck, call the adoption hotline at 212-490-1062 or visit www.specialolympicsnewyork.org. ■



Chi Chi Rodriguez Returns for 11th Annual Celebrity Golf Classic

Prestigious event provides sponsors the opportunity to play at legendary Winged Foot Golf Club.



Staff Photo

Spring has finally arrived and many are looking forward to hitting the links.

Special Olympics has the opportunity for you to do just that on one of the country’s most legendary courses.

Toyota and Time Inc. will once again host the Special Olympics New York Celebrity Golf Classic on Monday, June 11, at the prestigious Winged Foot Golf Club.

Golf legend Chi Chi Rodriguez will headline the event, hosting a clinic for Special Olympics athletes, sponsors and participants.

“It’s great when the sponsors get to interact with the athletes,” said Linda Greenwald, director of development.

“They get to spend some time with the athletes who benefit from their generosity.”

PGA professionals from the metropolitan area will join Gold and Silver level sponsors during the 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. sessions.

Every golfer will take home a picture of his or her foursome with Rodriguez as a memento of the day. They will also have the chance to win an assortment of tournament and raffle prizes.

If you would like more information about the Golf Classic or are interested in purchasing a foursome or journal advertisement, call Linda Greenwald at 212-661-5217 or visit www.specialolympicsnewyork.org. ■

What's

INSIDE

3 Polar Plunge 5 World Winter Games Results and Pictures 6 Plane Pull

A Message from the President

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



The Special Olympics tradition is strong across the world. Stop anyone on the street and ask them about Special Olympics and they will have a positive comment. This tradition has been made strong

by the effort of the athletes, who inspire us with their courage.

Now there's an emerging service that will no doubt take its rightful place in the Special Olympics tradition. It's called Healthy Athletes. Many of you already know that the Healthy Athletes initiative allows athletes to be screened at competitions for conditions affecting the eyes, ears and teeth. In fact, the Opening Eyes, Healthy Ears and Special Smiles screening programs will become an even greater offering at the Metro Tournament, as well as Winter, Summer and Fall games.

Potentially, 5,000 athletes will be screened this year, but in order for the Healthy Athletes to succeed long-term, health care professionals must become involved. Already, the state Department of Health supports Healthy Athletes, as well as the New York State Dental Association and the Lions Club.

These agencies and organizations understand that people do not always seek health care, so sometimes we must bring it to them. If you happen to be at Metro Tournament or Summer Games in Buffalo, stop by the Healthy Athletes tent at Olympic Village. Say hello to the athletes and thank the health care professionals as they provide this very valuable service.

The first priority of Special Olympics is to provide quality, year-round sports training. However, just as we have added value to the sports experience by encouraging athletes to become independent and productive members of their communities, we also understand that athletic performance and overall health are directly connected. If you're not healthy, you won't perform your best at work, in competition and in life. ■

2001 Calendar of Events

APRIL

- 21 Section 1 Basketball/Aquatics
Fordham University, Bronx
- 21 Section 4 Aquatics/Basketball
SUNY Oswego

Also scheduled during April, with dates to be confirmed:

- Training Schools – Scheduled as needed throughout the year*

May

- 5 Section 5 Aquatics/Volleyball, Canisius College, Buffalo
- 8 LETR Golf Tournament, Nevele Grande, Kerhonkson
- 12 LETR Plane Pull, Albany International Airport
- 19 Section 2 Volleyball, Hommocks School, Mamaroneck

Also scheduled during May, with dates to be confirmed:

- Training Schools – Scheduled as needed throughout the year*

JUNE

- 2 Metro Tournament, Riverbank State Park, Manhattan
- 2-14 LETR Statewide Torch Relay, Across New York state
- 2 Sections 3 and 4 Summer Games, University at Albany
- 9 Sections 4 and 5 Equestrian Competition, TBD
- 11 Celebrity Golf Classic, Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck
- 14-17 2001 Summer Games, Buffalo
- 28 Million Dollar Duck Race, Manhattan

Also scheduled during June, with dates to be confirmed:

- Training Schools – Scheduled as needed throughout the year*

JULY

- 28 - 29 Satins, Silks and Stars Weekend, Saratoga Springs

*** Please contact your Director of Field Services or the Special Olympics New York office for details**

Triumph

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Inspire Greatness

Special Olympics New York, Inc., 504 Balltown Road, Schenectady, NY 12304-2290

Phone: (518) 388-0790 Fax: (518) 388-0795 Web site: www.specialolympicsnewyork.org

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Eighty Supporters Take the Dive at Second LETR Polar Plunge



Staff Photo

Once again brave souls donned their swimsuits and took the plunge into icy waters.

A hole was carved into the ice of Lake Mariah in Fishkill on March 17 for the second Polar Plunge of the season.

At left, Special Olympics New York's Vice President, Development Audra Herman couldn't run out of the water fast enough after she took the plunge.

Below, plungers line up for their turn along the perimeter of the ice.

The Polar Plunge is one of many events organized each year as part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run. ■



Staff Photo

Man Against Machine – a Very, Very Large Machine

Plane Pull to be presented by New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, Southwest Airlines and Albany International Airport.

It will be a tug of war of sorts. On Saturday, May 12, at Albany International Airport, teams of 20 people will compete against a 145,000-pound Southwest Airlines 737.

The inaugural Plane Pull, presented by the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, benefits the 40,000 athletes served by Special Olympics New York. It is also a part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR), a year-round collaborative effort between Special Olympics New York and New York's law enforcement community to raise public awareness and funds for Special Olympics New York.

Teams competing to pull the Southwest Airlines jet 12 feet will consist of a maximum of 20 members, with five



alternates. The fastest team to cover the distance wins.

"In celebration of our first birthday in Albany, Southwest Airlines is excited about participating in this event," said Jeff Haag, Albany area marketing manager.

Activities for the entire family will begin at 5:30 p.m. There will be raffle prizes, including two round-trip tickets from Southwest Airlines, live entertainment, games and law enforcement equipment and demonstrations. The plane pull competition will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Since 1985, the LETR has raised more than \$1 million in New York. It has grown to include 4,000 law enforcement participants. Each year, more than 2,000 miles are covered by the annual Torch Run as it makes its way across the state to the Opening Ceremonies

Marist College hosts Basketball Invitational

Other than state games and sectionals, athletes normally don't get many opportunities to play teams outside their local programs. But thanks to Marist College and the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, 11 teams got to do just that.

On March 24, Marist College in Poughkeepsie hosted a basketball invitational for athletes from Areas 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10.

Marist is a member of the MAAC. For the past several years, the MAAC has been a partner with Special Olympics New York in several public awareness initiatives.

"Marist has been very supportive of Special Olympics and continues to reach out to their students in an effort to increase volunteerism and awareness," said Kathi Nolan, Area 7 coordinator and member of the Special Olympics New York Board of Directors. "But this invitational was something that had a direct impact on our athletes."

The impact was also felt by the volunteers.

"The student athletes who had the best time were the ones who were directly involved with the Special Olympics athletes," said Chandra Bierwirth, Marist's senior woman's administrator. ■

of the Summer Games, this year to be held in Buffalo. There are several events organized

Continued on P. 6



Staff Photo

Neal J. Johnson announces the Plane Pull to the media while law enforcement representatives and Special Olympics New York Board Chair Tony Bifaro look on.

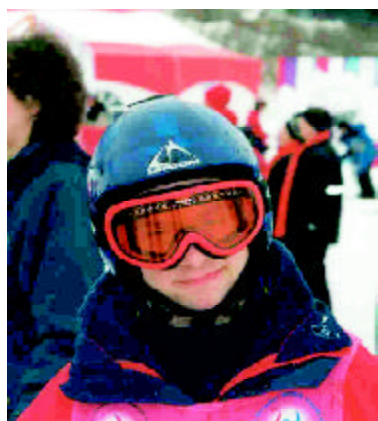
A Time to Remember

World Games athletes bring home medals and memories



Staff Photo

Team New York visits the site of the Iditarod dog sled race. This tourist attraction allows visitors to ride in a real dog sled.



Staff Photo

Alpine Skier Dan Voelxen at the Alyeska Alpine Ski Resort



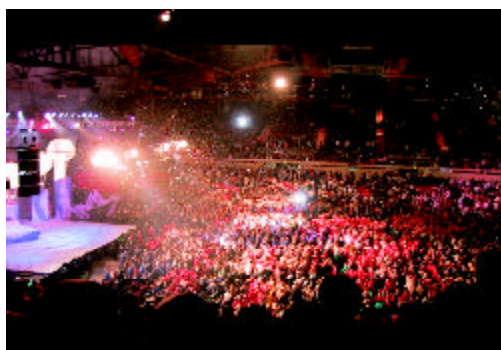
Staff Photo

Mike Rynish and Diane Budnar share a coach and athlete moment. Or is she laughing at his hat?

Special Olympics New York athletes returned victorious from the World Winter Games in Anchorage, Alaska. While they were tired as they stepped off the plane in Syracuse, their eyes were alight with the joy of accomplishment.

As these photos suggest, their smiles never ceased. They will forever remember the beauty of Alaska with its beautiful landscapes, the excitement of the Opening Ceremonies featuring 80 other countries during the Parade of Athletes, the thrill of competing against the best in the world and the joy of having a world medal or ribbon slipped over their heads.

Special Olympics New York is proud of these athletes and offers our congratulations to them. They were great representatives of New York state and the United States. ■



Courtesy of SONC

A sea of colors during the Opening Ceremonies.



Mary Rinaldo

Alicia Zeitz and Dan Voelxen, center, hang out with some new found friends from abroad.



Staff Photo

The view that greeted the team every morning.

Tray Greene Competes at National Competition

Speedskating phenom makes his mark against the country's best.

Tray Greene didn't get a chance to rest after his World Winter Games experience. After winning Silver, Bronze and a fourth place in Anchorage, this speedskating phenom jumped on a plane headed to Bay City, Mich. for the Amateur Speedskating Union's National Short Track Championship.

He placed fourth in the 1,500M and fifth in 500M. He also took a fifth in the 1,000M, finishing less than a second behind the winner.

Heading to the World Games, Greene already knew that he had qualified for the national competition - an incredible accomplishment for a Special Olympics athlete. And news traveled fast because as soon as he arrived in Anchorage he was the man everyone wanted to interview.

His story was told in local newspapers, on newscasts and was featured in the World Winter Games highlight show broadcast on the PAX network.

"Tray took everything in stride," said Director of Competition Peter Lawrence, who was also the team's head of delegation. "He knew he was there to compete first and foremost, so the day before his competition he didn't grant anymore interviews."

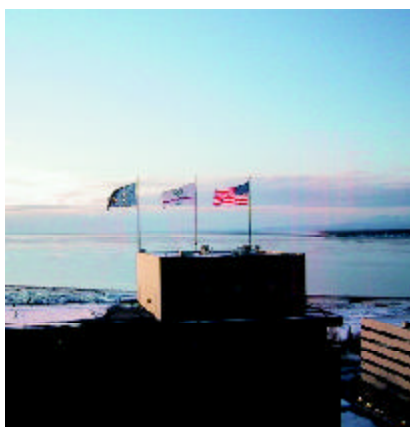
Once in Michigan, Greene was presented with a great challenge as he faced some of the top short track speedskaters in the country. He met the challenge and performed well in all of his events.

"This was a remarkable accomplishment for a great young man," said President and Chief Executive Office of Special Olympics New York, Neal J. Johnson. ■



Courtesy of Area 20

Greene with training partner and Olympic gold medalist Cathy Turner.



Courtesy of SONG

The Special Olympics flag flew high over Anchorage during the games.



Mary Rinaldo

Alicia Zeitz knows the way home. It's that way, about 3,000 miles.



Mary Rinaldo

Nick Zmuda met a life long friend from Venezuela.

Team New York Results

Kevin Brown Nordic Skiing	3K Race - Silver 4 x 1K Relay - Gold 5K Race - Bronze
Diane Budnar Alpine Skiing	Downhill - Bronze Giant Slalom - 4 th Place Slalom - 4 th Place
Tray Greene Speed Skating	333M Race - 4 th Place 500M Race - Silver 777M Race - Bronze
Kim Kinsey Nordic Skiing	1K Race - 6 th Place 500M Race - Bronze
Daniel Voelxen Alpine Skiing	Downhill - Bronze Giant Slalom - 4 th Place Slalom - Bronze
Alicia Zeitz Figure Skating	Ladies Guest Skater - Silver Ladies Solo Dance - Bronze Pairs (w/ Zmuda) - Bronze
Nick Zmuda Figure Skating	Men Guest Skater - 5 th Place Men Solo Skate - 5 th Place Pairs (w/Zeitz) - Bronze

Thank you to:



Official Team New York
Sponsors

Around the State

Ulster, Dutchess and Sullivan Counties, Areas 6, 7, 32

The first-ever Riders Unite Rally 2001 will take place June 30 to July 1 at Cantine Field in Saugerties, Ulster County. The Blue Knights of New York will host the motorcycle rally for hundreds of riders across the state. The event will benefit Areas 6, 7 and 32. There will be a variety of activities, including a bike show sponsored by Don Clady Productions, Fireworks by Gucci and Special Olympics athletes demonstrating their sports. For more information, call Dennis Moeser, 212-661-3963, or visit www.rideruniterally.com.

Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery Counties, Area 9

Special thanks to the Insurance Women of Fulton County for making Area 9's inaugural walk-athon such a success. Their hard work in organizing the event is greatly appreciated.

Capital District, Area 10

The Special Olympics New York - Capital District Golf Tournament will be June 14 at the Burden Lake Country Club. For more information, call Gwen Berardi, 518-388-0791.

Chemung/Schuyler/Steuben Counties, Area 15

On Saturday, March 10, two athletes, Oliver Van Pelt and Aaron Barton, were honored at the Knights of Columbus annual banquet. Van Pelt has been a Special Olympics athlete for 10 years. He has won more than a dozen medals in Nordic Skiing and Track & Field. He specializes in the long distance events in both sports. Barton has been an athlete with Special Olympics for 12 years and also competes in Nordic Skiing and Track & Field. Last year, Barton won two silver medals in state competition. He also attends Alfred University.

Onondaga County, Area 16

On March 17, more than 75 athletes and coaches marched in the 19th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Syracuse. The Irish and the Irish-for-a-day weathered the sleet and snow to have the honor of saluting the Irish spirit and the Special Olympics spirit.

Spring Games Announced

For Area Spring Games schedules, visit www.specialolympicsnewyork.org and follow the program link to Area Management.

Please call, fax or e-mail your Area information to Doreen Hand, 212-661-3963, fax: 212-661-4658, dhand@nyso.org



Around the World

The First Ever Global Youth Summit took place in conjunction with the 2001 Special Olympics World Winter Games. Students with and without mental retardation from the United States, Paraguay, Lebanon, Guatemala, Ireland, Zimbabwe, Jordan, China, Poland, and Canada worked in pairs, reporting back to their schools and communities about events occurring at the 2001 World Winter Games. These children and young adults will serve Special Olympics in an advisory capacity for two years.

More than 1,000 Special Olympics World Winter Games athletes received more than 5,000 health screenings at the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes vision, dental, hearing, physical therapy, and health promotion venues at Special Olympics Town at the 2001 World Winter Games.

Special Olympics and Sesame Workshop announced a multi-year partnership targeted to preschool children, parents and health care providers that will help increase awareness of and acceptance of children with mental retardation around the world and help them reach their highest potential.

Millions of people from around the world were able to follow the action in Anchorage as as nearly 400 accredited media from 20 countries provided coverage.

On Feb. 22-23, the United States Leadership Council held its 2001 Business Meeting. During the three-day conference, participants discussed the most effective ways of delivering staff training, the U.S. athlete representation and election process, the status of collaborative technology initiatives, and the reorganization of the SOI North American region. Attendees also provided feedback on the sponsorship sales and how to develop long-term volunteers.

Around the World is published periodically by Special Olympics, Inc. and Special Olympics New York. To learn more about Special Olympics program around the world visit www.specialolympics.org

Plane Pull

Continued from P. 3

by New York law enforcement officials throughout the year, including Cops & Lobsters events at Red Lobster restaurants, golf tournaments, Polar Plunges, T-shirt sales, a Harley Davidson raffle and now the Plane Pull.

Colonie Police Chief John Grebert serves as the president of the Chiefs Association and co-chair of the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

"The law enforcement community has been associated with Special Olympics for many years," said Grebert, whose Chiefs Association is celebrating its centennial year. "At the Chiefs Association, we can't think of a better way to celebrate our own milestone than to support Special Olympics. I've heard it over and over again: Anyone who has spent any time at a Special Olympics event says they always get more out of it than they put in. The dedication and



Southwest Airlines will be donating the use of a 737 jet like this one for the Plane Pull.

enthusiasm of the athletes is inspiring."

For more information, call Director of Development Rita Cox at 518-388-0793

Statewide sponsors of the Law Enforcement Torch Run are Cingular Wireless, New York State Corrections Officers & Police Benevolent Association, New York State United Teachers, ING Financial Services, and Red Lobster.

Sponsor Spotlight :

Merrill Lynch Increases Support to \$25,000

As a supporter of the Section 1 Floor Hockey Tournament for more than five years and a longtime supporter of the Metro Tournament, Merrill Lynch exemplifies the dedicated and caring spirit of corporate and volunteer support for Special Olympics New York.

Year after year, dozens of Merrill

Lynch employees volunteer at these two events. Merrill Lynch recently increased its annual sponsorship from \$1,000 to \$25,000, and they have pledged to continue their outstanding volunteer support.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Maury Leone, Eileen Kennedy and many of Merrill Lynch's volunteers," said Special Olympics New York Director of



Merrill Lynch

A tradition of trust.

Development Linda Greenwald. "And I can honestly say that they are truly some of the nicest, most sincere, and hardworking volunteers I have ever worked with."

Every year, Leone, the national client associate relationship manager, arrives in his black and whites as he officiates the Floor Hockey sectional. And Kennedy, New York City district service manager, is the unofficial head cheerleader.

Special Olympics New York is extremely grateful to Merrill Lynch for its long-standing support. While their financial support is generous, their enthusiastic volunteers show that they understand the true spirit of Special Olympics. ■

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12.5 percent of each paid subscription is donated to Special Olympics New York.

Letters

Editor's note: This letter was addressed to Peter Lawrence, Special Olympics New York's director of competition. Mike Rynish was the Nordic Skiing head coach for the Mid-Atlantic Region of Team USA in Alaska. He is also a coach for Area 10.

Dear Pete,

First of all I would like to thank you for being a great coach and state delegate. It is always comforting to have someone in the delegation as knowledgeable as you are. I appreciated your advice and support and I will continue to value your friendship. I had a great time and you helped make it possible.

From this year's World Games I have a couple of thoughts I would like to communicate. I feel that the most rewarding aspect of the entire experience was the way all the Nordic skiing athletes and coaches 'jelled' as a team and supported one another in all of their races. We traveled together for 12 days and never once did I hear any voices of discord. The

athletes genuinely cared for one another, and were interested in how each of their teammates performed. I sensed that perhaps they all liked the 'feeling' we had as a team, and I believe that they all drew strength from their team members.

I simply asked that each athlete attempt to do a personal best. If they fell, to get up quickly, because everyone falls and the athlete who gets up faster usually wins the race. Lastly, I asked that we all stick together to support and care for one another because we were a team, and we could accomplish more as a cohesive group.

As total experiences go, this trip to Alaska was larger than reality. Anchorage and its citizens put on a genuine event that welcomed the world. They showed that, though this city is very far away and known for cold weather, they made us feel like residents with their very warm welcome.

I had a great time and would not trade it for anything.

Regards,
Mike Rynish

In The Next Issue of Triumph

*The Year of the
Volunteer*

*Summer Games
Update*

*Satins, Silks & Stars
Weekend*

*Scenes From the
Plane Pull*

Submit letters to Doreen Hand, Special Olympics New York., 211 East 43rd Street, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017, e-mail: dhand@nyso.org.



Special Olympics

New York

504 Balltown Road
Schenectady, NY 12304

www.specialolympicsnewyork.org

Comments, story suggestions
can be directed to:

Special Olympics New York, Inc.
Public Relations Department,
504 Balltown Road, Schenectady, NY 12304,
or by fax to 518-388-0795,
or by e-mail to dhand@nyso.org.



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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.