On Saturday, September 25, 2010, we celebrated the first annual Eunice Kennedy Shriver (EKS) Day. EKS Day has been created to inspire new fans, to experience her legacy, and embrace the movement she founded in her backyard. What started as an inclusive sports camp in the early 1960s has blossomed into a worldwide movement transforming lives in over 170 countries.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of the Special Olympics movement, was the leading international advocate for the rights of people with intellectual disabilities. In awarding her the first “Sportsman of the Year Legacy Award,” Sports Illustrated called her “…one of those revolutionaries who saw opportunity where others saw barriers, someone who started a movement and changed a world.”

Eunice Kennedy Shriver’s actions helped open the minds of all people to the gifts and talents of individuals with intellectual disabilities. She demonstrated how one person can make a difference and change the world. Carbon County Special Olympics is committed to improve and transform the lives of people with intellectual disabilities that still live with diminished opportunities and social disrespect. If one person can make a difference, imagine what we can do together!

Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) honored Delina Rodrigues during its Leadership Conference Banquet in Harrisburg, PA on Saturday, September 11. Delina received the Female Athlete of the Year Award for her outstanding commitment to the principles of Special Olympics Carbon County sports training and competition.

“Each year we honor some of our finest volunteers, supporters and athletes,” said Matthew Aaron, president, SOPA. “They are true leaders in our program and we are blessed with their unyielding passion for our mission of changing lives through sports.”

Delina Rodrigues not only participates in three sports offered through Special Olympics—Athletics, Floor Hockey, and Bowling, but she is also a part of her High School track team - training 5-6 days/week. She rarely misses training for any of the three Special Olympics sports in which she participates, and is often the first one to arrive and the last one to leave.

Rodrigues is a team player, a cheerleader for her teammates, a volunteer recruiter, a fundraiser, and an inspiration to all who know her. She is not only a model athlete, but she is one of our most faithful ambassadors spreading the word about our program to everyone she knows and meets.

SOPA Leadership Award recipients were chosen by a statewide panel of business and community leaders representing both the private and nonprofit sectors. Nominations come from local Special Olympics programs throughout Pennsylvania. The event is part of a yearly Leadership Conference designed to provide ongoing training and recognition for Special Olympics athletes and volunteers.
Mark Your Calendars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 30, 2010</td>
<td>Bocce Bash</td>
<td>Nelson Field House, Upper Campus, Bloomsburg University</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 20, 2010</td>
<td>Local Bocce Competition</td>
<td>Jim Thorpe Memorial Hall Skating Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1, 2010</td>
<td>First Floor Hockey Training</td>
<td>Jim Thorpe Memorial Hall</td>
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<td>December 3, 2010</td>
<td>First Bowling Training at Fritz Lanes, Lehighton</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5, 2010</td>
<td>First Bowling Training at Haja Lanes, Palmerton</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 5, 2011</td>
<td>Athletics (Track and Field) Training begins</td>
<td>Jim Thorpe High School (Tentative)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 19 or 26, 2011</td>
<td>Local Floor Hockey Competition</td>
<td>Jim Thorpe Memorial Hall Skating Hall</td>
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<td>April 2, 2011</td>
<td>Eastern Bowling Sectional</td>
<td>Jim Thorpe Memorial Hall Skating Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 30, 2011</td>
<td>Eastern Spring Sectional, Kutztown University</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 21, 2011</td>
<td>Local Athletic Competition</td>
<td>Jim Thorpe High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 8-11, 2011</td>
<td>Summer Games, Penn State University</td>
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Bingo by Kim Ruch

Well, another year is in the books for our Palmerton Festival Bingo tent and I’d like to thank each and every one of our wonderful volunteers. We have had the BEST helpers! This year even more high school athletic teams helped us. Besides thanking our individual helpers, who we so much appreciate, we would also like to thank the Lehighton Boys Varsity Soccer Team, the Jim Thorpe Cheerleaders, the Palmerton JV & Varsity Cheerleaders, the Palmerton Girls Varsity Basketball Players, the Palmerton Varsity and JV Football Players, the Jim Thorpe Varsity Football Players, and the Palmerton Boys Varsity & JV Basketball Players! Without all of you, it wouldn’t have been such a success. The best part of all is the many high school athletes who joined us had fun and want to come back next year. Not only is it a rewarding experience, but it is actually fun, too!

THANK YOU!

Camp for a Cause

Thanks to Steven Hayes, Wes Hurley, Sean Leslie and Terry Moll, Jim Thorpe High School seniors and football players, for organizing “Camp for A Cause”. It was a mini football camp open to boys in grades K through 8th grades. It was held at the Jim Thorpe High School football field on July 29. Proceeds from the camp benefited Carbon County Special Olympics. Youngsters that participated were Ryan McArdle, Traig Dempsey, Nicholas Rosahac, Nathan Rosahac, Jared Marykwas, and Justin Marykwas. The camp organizers ran some of their high schools drills with the participants. The participants were so excited and listened intently to the seniors. Coach Rosenberger even participated by having a mini game between the younger boys and himself.

The senior boys were hoping that more boys would participate, however, they were able to hold one on one drills with the small groups. Coach Rosenberger said that he hoped that the underclassmen would continue to run something like this every year. The seniors had t-shirts made for organizers and coaches. Wes even recruited his mother as camp photographer.

Bocce by Kim Ruch

Well we’ve heard your requests for new events and decided to try something fairly new to our area—Bocce! It has been a wonderful success! We have two new mobile bocce courts compliments of Billy George and Harry Shupp. We thank these gentlemen for their expertise and generosity. Thanks to the Palmerton Area School District who welcomed us to use their tennis courts. We started our season at the end of August and will finish the first weekend in November. Currently, we have 12 athletes participating. Now that everyone knows the rules, we’ve been having nothing but a great time! Everyone is welcome to come out and watch us play. We practice every Saturday morning from 9-11 a.m. Thanks to all of our bocce volunteers and to our coaches Dick and Darlene Nothstein, Sheri Anthony, and Kim Ruch. Anyone wishing to participate in bocce next year, we will be starting in early August. Hope to see you then! If you would like more information about Bocce, please contact Kim Ruch at blerjer@yahoo.com or 610-509-8094.
Horse Show Fundraiser by Joan Kostro

Sunday September 5, 2010 was a beautiful sunny day for our Second Annual Horse Show at the Getz Farm on Route 534 in Albrightsville. There were over 40 horses competing for trophies and ribbons for their owners. A variety of food was made and served by the management team including yummy homemade desserts.

There was a quilt raffle and a Chinese Auction with an assortment of donated prizes. Children’s games were held and a stick pony ride for anyone who wanted to ride. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and we appreciate all the volunteers and athletes who came out to support us and join in the fun. Thanks to our generous sponsors, bakers, and everyone who donated prizes to the Chinese Auction.

One of the highlights of the day was Delina Rodrigues being presented with a bouquet of flowers by Manager Maureen Foster on behalf of Carbon County Special Olympics. We are all very proud of Delina for being awarded Pennsylvania’s Female Athlete of the Year.

Please join us next year for another great day of horses, games, good food and good friends.

Bright Ideas

Do you feel there is something missing from the Family Newsletter? Please send comments and ideas for articles to mfoster@psea.org. All suggestions are welcome!

Update Your Records

Attention Athletes, Parents, and/or Caregivers:

Please call Sharon Bonser at (570) 499-6038 or email her at sbonser@spectrumcommunityservices.org to update your contact information. We may need you to get a physical and/or complete paperwork before the new season. It is especially important that we have your current address, telephone numbers, and email address. We wouldn’t want you to miss out on any important information about upcoming trainings, competitions, or other events.

Calling All Artists

Create a Volunteer T-Shirt Logo for the 2010 SOPA Sectionals!

- Artwork should be on high-quality, white, 8½” x 11” paper drawn in either black or dark blue ink (no crayon or pencil will be accepted). Computer-generated artwork will be considered, but is not necessary;
- Only one submission per athlete;
- Name and local program of artist should appear in small print in a small area of the artwork;
- Name and contact number should be in pencil on the back of the artwork;
- If not drawn with the design, the word VOLUNTEER will be incorporated either into the design or on the T-shirt;

The SOPA 40th Anniversary Logo will be incorporated into the design or on the T-shirt in an area that does not interfere with the design. However, keep the below image in mind when creating your logo.

- If drawing several sports figures, please include all sports held at SOPA Sectional Competitions: bowling, aquatics, athletics/long distance running, basketball, golf, softball, tennis, power lifting, soccer, volleyball, and bocce.
- The winner will be announced at Winter Games 2011 or the first event that he/she attends. The athlete will be given a T-shirt and sweatshirt with his/her winning logo.

All submissions are due by Friday, October 29th to SOPA, PO Box 1017, Lemont, PA 16851-1017.

“There is no joy like the joy of unleashing the human spirit. There is no laughter like the laughter of those who are happy with others. There is no purpose more noble than to build communities of acceptance for all. This is our glory.”

Eunice Kennedy Shriver