

ATHLETES *with* DISABILITIES Hall of Fame

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As most people know, I became Executive Director in July 2008, and it has been full speed ahead for me ever since. While joining a nonprofit in one of the worst economies in decades was an added challenge, my business experience and the passionate “believers” in Tony Sr.’s dream made it a little less daunting. More importantly, the athletes and many dedicated board members showed their unwavering support for the Hall of Fame, and allowed me to focus on providing leadership and adding structure to the daily operations at ADHOF. As a result, we are learning and growing.

In 2008 we outlined numerous operational procedures (with more to come), finalized 10 scholarships to deserving college students at Wayne State University and Michigan State University, extended an Education Grant to Michigan State University to underwrite the teaching of wheelchair basketball, expanded our community outreach activities, and celebrated one of the most financially successful induction ceremonies in our history.

We have also launched this newsletter as part of our new communication efforts. In particular, this year-end issue focuses on our 10th Annual Induction Ceremony. We have also dedicated editorial space for some of the incredibly generous event sponsors. We urge you to learn more about these companies whose financial support helps bring ADHOF programs to life.

On a personal level, thank you to those people who made me feel welcome. Together we will meet the challenges and opportunities that await us in 2009 and beyond.

Mary Kathleen Bujold, Executive Director (248-829-8353)

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame eNewsletter. The publication will be sent four times a year to keep you updated on the activities and programs that ADHOF brings to the community. What better way to launch this eNewsletter than with a celebratory look back at 2008—which was full of changes and growth.

2008 Induction Ceremony

On November 13, 2008 the Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame hosted its 10th Annual Induction Ceremony, Awards Dinner & Auction at the Troy Marriott.

We inducted James “Scott” Davidson and John Asquini. The evening’s honorees included Tony Priest, Mark “Doc” Andrews Rising Star; Mike Mushett, Rick Knas Lifetime Achievement; and Wheelin Team 457, Athletes of the Year. Cheryl Angelelli was our keynote speaker. (See an excerpt from her speech in this newsletter.) Mark Hogan of The VPG Group, a future manufacturer of vehicles for the disabled community, was the 2008 honorary chair. Katrina Hancock, weekend sports anchor/reporter for our local NBC affiliate, led us through the evening as our emcee.



With proceeds of over \$90,000 from sponsorships, donations, advertising, auction sales and ticket sales, the Hall of Fame looks forward to continued programs and services in 2009. Thank you to everyone involved!

We have included a few select photos from the event here. Be sure to check out additional photos at our website at www.adhof.org plus excerpts from our event program including biographies of all our honorees.

Cheryl Angelelli Inspires



2008 ADHOF Induction Ceremony

Paralympic medalist, world champion, American record holder, those are not the words used to describe my life 25 years ago as I laid in a hospital bed unable to move after suffering a spinal cord injury...In the hospital the doctors kept focusing on all the things I wouldn’t be able to do, at Rehabilitation Institute they focused on showing me all the things I could do.... including sports...

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ABOUT OUR SPONSORS: FRATERNAL ORDER OF FORESTERS

The 2008 Induction Ceremony welcomed many new sponsors including Foresters. Represented by Gary DesChenes on our Board of Directors, Foresters was a \$10,000 sponsor. We invite our ADHOF family to know more about the Foresters organization.



The modern day Foresters organization is dedicated to improving the lives of individuals through its business services. However, Foresters remains true to its proud heritage as a benevolent society—continuing to give back to communities through its charitable efforts. Founded 130 years ago as the Independent Order of Foresters, the organization created a fraternal bond among its members and continues to operate as a Fraternal Benevolent Society. The founding premise remains unchanged: to ensure that each member steadfastly helps each other through rough times and attends to each family’s welfare through subsequent generations.

Since the spirit of loyalty and giving that characterized the early organization remains strong, it has led to a membership of nearly 1 million in the United States, Canada and the UK. Membership in the Michigan Region totals about 25,000 strong.

Foresters’ strength comes in numbers but also in passion. Our organization members are committed to doing volunteer work in our communities in conjunction with other like-minded organizations. We target the less fortunate people in our communities and in particular we focus on making the lives of children better in and around the communities where we live.

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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR 2008 DINNER SPONSORS



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DMC Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan

DMC Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan (RIM) is dedicated to helping people rebuild their lives after a disabling injury or illness.

Voted the best rehabilitation hospital in metro Detroit, RIM is a trusted organization that attracts patients and health care professionals around the world. While best known for treating complex cases such as brain injury, spinal cord injury and stroke, RIM brings the same level of expertise to helping those with more common conditions including arthritis, back pain, and orthopedic and sports injuries. With its 94 bed inpatient hospital and 30 outpatient therapy sites, RIM is one of the nation's largest hospitals specializing in physical medicine and rehabilitation.

Ogletree Deakins

Ogletree Deakins salutes the Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame for its support and commitment to celebrating the achievements of outstanding athletes!

Ogletree Deakins is one of the nation's largest labor and employment law firms, with more than 400 attorneys in 33 offices across the country, including Bloomfield Hills. Serving as advocates for management, we help employers address legal issues in the workplace.

Employers & Lawyers, Working Together

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Adaptive Sports and Recreation Coalition

The Adaptive Sports and Recreation Coalition is a group of independent organizations that partner together to enhance sports, leisure and recreation for individuals with disabilities.

The 2009 meeting dates are January 20, March 31, and September 22. All meetings are at 6 pm at the Madison Heights office of Wright & Filippis.

The Coalition's goals for 2009 are to:

- Assist in recruiting nominations
- Provide links and resources to members as well as Paralympic and BlazeSports information
- Provide alumni updates



Ask about our 2008/09 Resource guide.

Community Outreach

We are grateful to the combined efforts of several people to bring education to the forefront. Tom Anderson facilitated the review and finalizing of the language for the ADHOF Expendable Scholarship for MSU students. MSU was issued a check for \$7500 on August 12, 2008 with the understanding that MSU will award the five individual scholarships for the 2008/2009 academic year.

Brian Sheridan facilitated the review and finalizing of the language for the Memorandum of Agreement for the ADHOF Annual Scholarship in the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (EACPHS) at WSU. The agreement was signed by Brian Sheridan on July 31, 2008. Scholarships will be provided for the 2009/2010 academic year.

The Hall of Fame agreed to provide Michigan State University with an education grant to subsidize the cost of the instructor, Jerry Sarasin, to teach KIN108W (wheelchair basketball) at MSU for the Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer 2008/2009 semesters. Classes are ongoing. We have also formalized the teaching agreement between the Hall of Fame and the instructor, Jerry Sarasin.

In addition to Jerry Sarasin's dedication to teaching wheelchair sports, particularly basketball, he and Chet Kuskowski (and others) have been busy reaching out to the wider community too. The ADHOF mobile displays and trailer have been to a great many of events in 2008, sharing our message of hope, active engagement and support to people in the disabled community.

Jerry Sarasin's tireless commitment to our mission as Director is undeniable. We hope to recruit more Hall of Fame alumni and young people to assist him in his efforts in 2009.



Foresters article continued

From 2004 through 2007 our members in Michigan donated over **190,000** volunteer hours and were responsible for over **\$1,200,000** fundraising dollars for local organizations that help the needy. Michigan branches can be found in Flint, Grand Rapid, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Livonia, Saginaw, Sterling Heights and Taylor. Our Region covers all of Michigan. Proudly, there are 25 Regions worldwide.

Members are offered financial planning and an array of financial products including annuities and life insurance products that are competitive with any other products offered by anyone. Along with those products, you are given benefits such as paid activities for you and your family. These activities may be free admission to selected movies and local sporting events—a reward for being a member. On top of that you have catastrophic illness protection so that if you are diagnosed with

cancer or any one of several other diseases, you are entitled to an up-front cash payment of several thousand dollars. Additionally, we offer an "orphan benefit" that says we will take care of your children should something happen to you and your spouse.

Annually Foresters offers several \$2,000 renewable four-year college scholarships. These scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement; volunteer hours in the community; and other criteria.

We do all these things because we believe they are the right things to do and it agrees with our moral fiber.

For more information, contact Tom Huston. He can be reached by mail at 7376 W. Stanley Rd., Flushing, MI 48433; by phone at 810-659-5766; or via email at tchutson@sbcglobal.net

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Walk the Line To SCI Recovery is a physician directed, intensive, activity-based training program with a focus on weight and load bearing exercises designed to facilitate recovery of function following traumatic spinal cord injury.

James sustained a C4 SCI in a car accident twelve years ago. Since starting "Walk The Line" only eight months ago James has regained function in muscles throughout his body, stood for the first time in twelve years and boxed his trainers. His attitude and determination combined with the community of support at Walk The Line have started James down his road to RECOVERY.

Walk The Line to SCI Recovery is a place of health, wellness, knowledge, social interaction and through these, RECOVERY!



In 1888, Dr. Allen DeVilbiss began a company with one goal in mind – to provide quality medical products that help people breathe easier. DeVilbiss Healthcare continues to provide a wide range of innovative products that address the respiratory needs of patients in institutional and homecare settings. Today, DeVilbiss products are distributed in more than 100 countries around the world. For 120 years, people have breathed easier because DeVilbiss has been there. And no one understands your respiratory needs better than we do.

For information on DeVilbiss Healthcare and its products, contact Customer Service at 800.338.1988 or visit www.DeVilbissHealthcare.com.



More from Cheryl Angelelli

– Note: Her full speech is available at www.adhof.org.

After 5 months at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, I finally went home and life went on...In Sydney [her Paralympic debut] I had reached by goal of competing in the Paralympics, now it was time to set a new goal, to stand on the podium at the Paralympics. Those dreams were fulfilled in Athens at the 2004 Paralympics where I won 2 bronze medals and again this past summer when I earned 2 silver medals at the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing.

The Paralympics are the second largest sporting event in the world. 4,200 athletes from 148 countries competed in Beijing. But because the U.S. is one of the only countries that does not televise the games, many people have not heard of the Paralympics.

Often the Paralympics is confused with the Special Olympics. When in fact they are very different. The Special Olympics is for athletes with intellectual disabilities and promotes physical fitness and self-confidence through sports. The Paralympics is a world-class competition for athletes with physical disabilities. The Paralympics is parallel to the Olympics and takes place every four year in the same venue as the Olympics. Athletes compete in 20 medal

sports and like the Olympics athletes earn the same gold, silver and bronze medals.

The doctors in the emergency room the night I got hurt were right about one thing, I would never again have an ordinary life, instead I would live an extraordinary life. My wheelchair has taken me places and opened doors my legs never would have. From my wheelchair I have visited 18 countries, swam on 6 continents, I've wheeled across The Great Wall of China, seen the Eiffel Tower and the Berlin Wall. I've been invited to the White House 3 times and met two United States Presidents and had a movie made about my life. Yes my life has not been ordinary indeed.

Not everyone has athletic dreams like me, Maybe your goal is to finish college, or make that career change you've always dreamed about or travel to some far away destination.

The point is.....If you dream big enough, work harder enough, want bad enough... amazing awaits. Your amazing is out there waiting for you. I hope you capture the moment.

