



Dwarf Giraffe News

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2011

What's Happening at DGAL

BASEBALL HOT STOVE EVENT

January 29, 2011

10AM to 1PM

Early Registration

Discounts and Giveaways,
Games, Contests

and Refreshments

Batting Cage Will Be Open

PRESIDENT'S DINNER

March 5, 2011

at

Russo's On The Bay

\$140 per Couple

\$70 Individual

Register on-line before

February 26

www.dwarfgiraffe.com

Inside this issue:

President's Message 2

Girl's Athletics 3

Baseball 4

Basketball 5

The Kids—Pictures 6

Boardroom 7

Registration / Building 8

DGAL Sponsors Special Olympics Athlete David Vizciano

Dwarf Giraffe is proud to become a sponsor of The Special Olympics and Athlete David Vizciano.

An accomplished Special Olympics athlete, David has won 30 medals. He has been playing tennis since he became a Special Olympics athlete in 2007 **"It doesn't matter who plays the best – what's important is doing one's best,"** David says.

David will be competing in tennis at the World Summer Games being held in Athens, Greece in July 2011. He is proud to be representing New York State on Team USA!



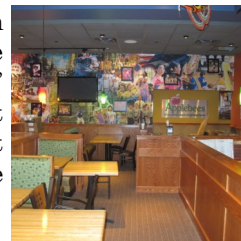
David Vizciano—Special Olympics

DGAL Photos Are Part Of The Neighborhood Mural Featured At The New Applebee's Store

When Applebee's marketing division contacted DG last fall by to participate in the "It's A Whole New Neighborhood" theme for their new store located at Skyview Park Mall on College Point Blvd and Roosevelt Ave, we were thrilled and accepted.

The store opened in December and features a large mural with pictures of our community which extends from Flushing to Whitestone.

Woven into fabric of that mural you will find pictures of our DGAL players representing our neighborhood. Stop by, have lunch and get to see our kids!



Left, finished mural in Applebee's. Right, close up; bottom, the mural before it was placed on the wall in Applebee's.



Lacrosse Inaugural Season A Success

This past summer Jason Pallen approached DG with the idea of bringing Lacrosse to DG. We didn't believe he would have enough time to get the September start-up program off the ground. His commitment and passion for Lacrosse helped him to create an eight-week instructional program that attracted 40 athletes. The program turned into a huge success. This spring, Lacrosse will be an available sport during our registration campaign.



Lacrosse Team



A Letter From The President - Dave Legaz

Vince Lombardi once said that individual commitment to a group effort is what makes a team work -- a company work -- a society work -- and a civilization work!

At DG that commitment starts with the dedication of the coaches. We are privileged to have coaches who practice regularly and are truly there to teach our youth athletes. That commitment is exemplified by those men and women who are currently coaching although their children have aged out of our program. Even more special are those older, active DG teenage athletes and those young adults who have played in our league and who are now coaching.

As a coach, I have found that the real measure of a successful sports coach is when the lessons taught are carried over into the life of the youth athlete outside of the sport. The true satisfaction of coaching is realized when an athlete is seen years later and he/she has been successful in his/her sport and also in his/her personal life.

It is our Sport Commissioners who truly embrace the individual commitment work ethic. It is because of their dedication to the youth of our community that our

programs have grown to become the best in the area. Under the direction of Commissioner Ben Tocharshewsky, our boys basketball program has grown to over 350 athletes, with over 65 athletes aged 4-6 in our Saturday morning program. Commissioner Ben has established DG basketball to be the area's premier recreational league.

Several years ago when Keith Martin became our baseball commissioner, he realized that we needed to revitalize our program. With that focus, he diligently researched and accomplished our affiliation with the Babe Ruth League. It was due to his strong commitment to making our baseball program better that he has arranged several hitting, pitching and fielding clinics throughout the years. Our baseball program has now successfully sent teams to the Babe Ruth tournaments and state championships.

When Joe Alessandro recently took over the Girls Athletic Program, he had a vision of making our girls basketball program better and more competitive. Due to his endless commitment, the program has grown 135% to over 96 girls.

On behalf of our young athletes, coaches and parents, I would like to

take a moment to thank all of our Sport Commissioners for their dedication and commitment to DG.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Jose Rodriguez. As of this year, Jose has decided to step down from his Board of Director responsibilities. He has been the backbone of DG for nearly two decades. Whether as our Hockey coach, Vice President, Recording Secretary, T-Ball coach, on-kitchen-duty or as our roaming cameraman, he has always had a smile on his face. When you see Jose in the gym, kitchen or on the field, please express your sincere thanks.

Dave Legaz



Visit us online at:
WWW.DwarfGiraffe.Com



Girl's Athletics

Letter from the Girls' Athletic Commissioner - Joseph Alessandro

To Our Players, Coaches and Parents,

It has been a great few months as Commissioner of the Dwarf Giraffe Girl's Athletics Program. I would like to thank Jay Vigorito, Ben Tockarszewsky and Keith Martin for their help and guidance during my first year as Commissioner.

I am happy to report that the Girl's Basketball program has doubled in size from last year to 96 girls. We have 4 teams in our Girl's Major Division (Ages 8 to 11) and 6 teams in our Girl's High School Division (Ages 12 to 16). We began the new basketball season with a clinic coached by Coach Mike Panella of

Manhattanville College held last November 16th. The clinic was well attended as we had over 50 girls participate in the clinic. Coach Panella taught various drills in ball control, balance and shooting skills. I hope to hold another player clinic in February of this year. I wish the best of luck to all my coaches, who have volunteered their time to coach the girls this season. Keith Martin, Greg Recupero, George Mirtsopoulos, Diane Klein, Scott Mattson, Frank Ecker, Ron Yudin Bill Lodico and Brett Burmester.

I am also pleased to report that registration is now open online for our Spring 2011 Softball season. We will begin the softball season

with a Pre-season Clinic, the girls will learn the proper "fast pitch" pitching mechanics and fielding techniques. The Annual DG Hot Stove event will be held on January 29, 2011 at 10:00 am. This is always a great day with contests and prizes during the event. I hope to see you all there.

I thank all the parents, coaches, players and sponsors for your continued support of the Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League and I wish you all happiness in the New Year.

Sincerely

Joseph Alessandro



"Be positive and work hard. I think it's possible to overcome anything, if you're willing to work at it." - Sheryl Swoopes, three-time WNBA MVP



Baseball

Letter from the Baseball Commissioner - Keith Martin

Happy New Year!!! 2010 was a very exciting year for DG baseball. We had our very first Cal Ripken District Championship team. Our 12u team coached by Frank Kerastos, went on to the state tournament in Staten Island and represented DG very well. We also had travel teams in the 12u and 10u divisions. Both teams played in various tournaments throughout New York and did well. We also had our first ever Holiday Camp for Baseball. This was done during the Christmas vacation and was a huge success. Coach Jamie Loeb from New York Tech gave a great clinic and we look forward to doing more of these in the future.

As we look forward to 2011 we are getting ready for our 3rd Annual Hot Stove Registration Kick-off Day. This will be held on January 29, 2011 from 10am to 1pm at the DG building. We will have food, games and prizes and our batting cage will be open. It is also a great day to register for the spring league as we will be giving a one day \$20 discount for all who register on this day. It is a great opportunity to get set for spring baseball and

save some money. Hopefully we will be able to see a lot of you sign up this day. Also anyone who registers early the batting cage will be open on Sundays from 12-2 pm so you can come down and get in some hitting before the season starts. Registration will be held each and every Thursday from 7pm to 8pm and Saturday mornings from 10am to 12 noon. This will start on February 3, 2011 and continue until March 19, 2011. Make sure to register early. And if anyone has any if you are interest in coaching please let me know. This league is run on volunteers and it is up to you to help out. Coaching is a great deal of fun and you will get a lot of enjoyment out of doing it, it is very rewarding. I hope to see you at the Hot Stove Event and if you have any questions about coaching or the program please do not hesitate to ask.

Keith Martin



"The greatest thrill in the world is to end the game with a home run and watch everybody else walk off the field while you're running the bases on air." - Al Rosen



Basketball

Letter from the Basketball Commissioner - Ben Tockarszewsky

DG BASKETBALL "A VIEW FROM ABOVE THE RIM"

As I write my report, I am looking out over the balcony at the DG building, viewing the empty court during the Christmas break. I reflect on the amount of time our board members, coaches, referees, volunteers, parents and players spend at this building. It truly is a community center that becomes a part of our members' lives.

We have seen many exciting and competitive games at the DG building thus far this season and expect more as we head into the 2nd half of the season and the playoffs.

Our program continues to grow, we now have over 400 boys in our program. We now have over 100 boys under the age of 8 in the program, a true litmus test for our future. Additions to the program include our expanded high school division, clinics, spring league, individual training by high school and college coaches and the establishment of our AAU travel teams.

Special congratulations to the former DG players who made their local High School teams. The list is becoming too large to individually mention. We also have several former DG members now playing for their college team!

The goal of our program is to be a league that welcomes all talent levels and have the children enjoy a positive atmosphere, learn the game and have fun. All of our commissioners and coaches continue to work to fulfill this goal.

Special thanks to our sponsors, coaches and parents for their cooperation and support.

See you at the gym!

Ben Tockarszewsky



"Push yourself again and again.

Don't give an inch until the final buzzer sounds." - Larry Bird



The Kids





BOARDROOM

President	<i>David Legaz</i>	Baseball Commissioner	<i>Keith Martin</i>
Vice President	<i>Keith Martin</i>	Basketball Commissioner	<i>Ben Tockarszewsky</i>
First Vice President	<i>Jay Vigorito</i>	Commissioner of Girls' Athletics	<i>Joseph Alessandro</i>
Treasurer	<i>Joseph Alessandro</i>	Web Site Coordinator	<i>Anthony Castellano</i>
Corresponding Secretary	<i>George Mirtsopoulos</i>	Sponsor Coordinators	<i>Michael Fuchs</i> <i>Tom Nazario</i>
Recording Secretary	<i>Robert Downward</i>	Community Service Coordinator	<i>Michael Cholowa</i>

2011 Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League Sponsors

IT IS THEIR GENEROSITY THAT HELPS DEFRAY THE COSTS FOR ALL OUR DG FAMILIES. THEY ARE A KEY ELEMENT OF DG AND DESERVE OUR THANKS AND PATRONAGE.

AD Manufacturing Trophy
American Legion Post 131
Anaconda Sports
Anchor-Astoria Lodge No. 729 of Free and Accepted Masons, Inc.
Arthur Dibiase Mason Contractor
Axon Electrical Contracting Corp.
Baschnagel Bros. Roofing
B&M Auto Repair Inc.
Benateris Italian Deli
Bowles Corporate Services
Braunstein's Bridge Builders
C. Johan & Sons, Inc.
Cherry Valley Deli & Grill Inc.
CKC Maintenance Corp.
Councilman Dan Halloran
Delgado Travel
Empress Travel
Fierce Dragon Martial Arts Academy Inc.
Freddy's Pizza

Harpell Chemists
J.D. Opticians
Laz Parking
Lee's Jewel Box
Legaz Team - Keller Williams Realty
LockDoctor Security Solutions, Inc
Mark Tielis Landscaping
MCF Associates Inc.
Mike & Maggie's Pizzeria Inc.
New York Digital Print Center Inc.
New York Paving Inc.
Nubreed Martial Arts Academy
Nuway Heating and Air Conditioning
Ozanam Motor Sales Corporation Society of St
Vincent de Paul
Pizza Chef
P.J. Mechanical Corp.
PyroSignal & Suppression
Queens Physical Therapy PC
Queensboro Elks Lodge #878

Ral-Bar Electric Inc.
Ranshaw Fuel Oil
RE MAX Millenium
Senator Frank Padavan
Studio Square Beer Garden
Tasty Grill
Temco Building Maintenance
The Clinton Restaurant
The Inn
The Mattone Group
The Mulholland Group LLC
The Stone Tavern
Vanbrunt Building Corp.
Verdi's of Whitestone
Welcome To Whitestone
Whitestone Community Post 4787 VFW
Whitestone Diner
Whitestone Hardware
Whitestone Physical Therapy of Queens, P.C.
Zankera Construction

We invite you to become part of the process. If you have any comments, ideas or suggestions please feel free to contact us at Info@DwarfGiraffe.com or attend one of our weekly Thursday night meetings.



**DWARF-GIRAFFE
ATHLETIC LEAGUE
PO BOX 570035
Whitestone, NY 11357**

Building Address

149-50 15th Road
Tel (718) 746-1539
Fax (718) 746-0363



Instructional Lacrosse

**McNeil Park from 3pm-6pm
on Saturdays - Ages 7-12**

(Ages are subject to change)

7-9 year olds 3pm-4:30pm

10-12 year olds 4:30pm-6pm

Travel Lacrosse Team ages 10-12

Ulmer Field—Saturdays from 6pm-8pm

Weekday Travel Locations



ONLINE REGISTRATIONS

Please feel free to avail yourself to this convenient option. Credit Card processing is done by highly secure VeriSign company and will accept MasterCard and Visa. The sport registration prices are posted on the site. The multiple child same sport discounts still apply. You can also register in person at the DG Building located

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO

Dwarf Giraffe would not be the successful league we are today without having the continued support of our local politicians.

NY State Senator Tony Avella

NY State Senator Toby Stavisky

NY City Councilman Dan Halloran

Queens Borough President Helen Marshall

District Manager Community Board 7 Marilyn Bitterman

And A Special Thank You To

Former NY State Senator Frank Padavan

For His Many Years Of Support To Our Organization

2011 Spring Baseball, Girls Softball, Spring Basketball and Lacrosse Registration

Registration for our Spring Season will be held every Thursday and Saturday at the DG Building beginning at Our HOT STOVE EVENT on Saturday, January 29 at 10 AM through March 26, 2011. [Please see our note on Lacrosse above.](#)

**Register On-Line By Visiting us
on the Web at:**

www.dwarfgiraffe.com

REGISTRATION TIMES

**EVERY THURSDAY from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM
and EVERY SATURDAY from 10:00 AM to 12**

BUILDING RENTALS

*Need a place to hold your
event? - Please Call
718 746-1539 for info on
renting our DG Building.*

Thursday Dates February 3, 10, 17, 24 - March 3, 10, 17, 24

Saturday Dates February 5, 12, 19, 26 - March 5, 12, 19, 26

DGAL Your Community League....It's About The Kids