



Dwarf Giraffe News

Volume 1, Issue 2

September 2011

What's Happening at DGAL

This year you will be able to register for Spring Baseball and Girl's Softball Early!

Update on Special Olympian David Vizciano

DGAL and its families helped support sending David to Athens in June for the 2011 Special Olympics - we are proud to report that

David came home with two Silver and a Bronze medal in Tennis.



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DG ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

On Saturday June 25, DG held its annual family picnic at Harvey Park. This years event drew over 300 family, friends and supporters of DG. There was a wide assortment of family games from egg toss to three legged races, face painting for the kids and Cido the Clown performed some magic tricks which even had the adults scratching their heads. Trophy's were also handed out to teams—a great turn out this year which provided a lot of fun for all!



ZUMBA...ZUMBA...ZUMBA...ZUMBA!

This year during our annual picnic, DG introduced ZUMBA to everyone that attended. ZUMBA Marsha and her staff conducted a 1 1/2 hour ZUMBA session that left everyone breathless. The session sparked so much interest that we now hold two ZUMBA classes per week at our building on Thursday evenings at 7PM and Family ZUMBA on Saturday mornings at 10AM. All of this could not have been made possible without the enthusiastic support of Ms Mary Lou Branda Rodriguez who had a vision and brought her idea to the board at DG and well...the rest is history as they say! And lets no forget to thank all of the participants for their support in making ZUMBA at DG a success!

HOT OFF THE PRESS—DG TO HOLD A ZUMBA FUND RAISING EVENT ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 1, 2011 from 11AM till 12:30PM—DONATION \$25.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Along with ZUMBA Marsha, Mary Lou and members of ZUMBA International there will be a fund raiser at the building for the Susan B. Komen Foundation "Hope for a Cure" Proceeds from this event will go to the Foundations. So come out and make a difference! Check our Web Site for registration information.

www.dwarfgiraffe.com





A Letter From The President - Dave Legaz

The success of DG is founded on the collective dedication of our parents, coaches, commissioners, board members, elected officials and sponsors. It is these men and women who every year give of their time voluntarily to ensure that our children are introduced to the wonderful world of sports and that the programs are run as smoothly as possible.

At DG, we require that our board of directors and commissioners have a combination of vision, dedication, enthusiasm, and financial restraint.. It is not overstating the case to say that none of the success that DG enjoys today would have been achieved if it were not for those volunteers.

As I complete my second and final year as President, I would like to thank my board of directors and commissioners for their commitment in making DG the community sports league of choice.

Our basketball program grew by nearly 35% with over 100 registrants in the last two years due to the focused dedication of Jay Vigorito, Jay Ehrlich and Commissioner Ben Tockarszewsky. With the untiring support of Joe Alessandro, our past Commissioner

of Girls Athletics, the Girls Basketball program grew by 100% with its addition of 48 players. Joe also selflessly stepped up when we needed a baseball commissioner this Spring. Joe is also running our summer baseball leagues and he has done this while maintaining his elected DG duties as Treasurer. For that, Joe, we thank you. George Mirtsopoulos not only relieved Joe as the Commissioner of Girls Athletics but he also coached a girl's softball team which ended up winning the HS division championship. George did all of this while upholding his elected DG duties as Corresponding Secretary. This past year had experienced the emergence of a new and exciting sport - Lacrosse. It was the enthusiastic vision of Lacrosse Commissioner, Jason Pallen, that has kept kids ages 7 to 13 engaged.

A special thanks to Anthony Castellano, our computer coordinator, for creating our newly designed website which is an excellent portal for everything DG - from schedules to photos, to important news and upcoming events.

Our future is bright at DG with the addition of Robert Downward to the

executive board early this year, along with top coaches John Hempel and Brain Sutton becoming members of our board of directors.

Most importantly, I would like to extend our thanks to two men who are committed to the continued success of DG even though their children aged out of the league. Jay Vigorito and Jose Rodriguez are truly the backbone of DG and we are all proud to serve alongside them for the youth of our community.

It is not only our players that learn teamwork, sportsmanship, mutual trust and a great work ethic from sports. As volunteers, we also have these values inculcated in us and as a result become better spouses, fathers, mothers and neighbors while our youth athletes become better sons, daughters, sisters, brothers and students.

Dave Legaz

There is no "I" in Team but there is a "u" in volunteer!

As you can see many board members have multiple positions...

We invite you to coach, attend a board meeting, be on a committee or assist in an event.



Your community league needs you!

Jose and Jay at President's Dinner



2011 4th Annual Golf Outing



**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 year for the Dwarf Giraffe Girl's Basketball Program. I am happy to report that the Girl's Basketball program has doubled in size from the previous year to 96 girls but the program was a huge success. I have to thank Jay Vigorito, Ben Tockarszewsky and the DG Board for their support throughout my first season as Girl's Basketball Commissioner.

We had 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 on November 16, 2010.

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. I want to thank all my coaches, who have volunteered their time to coach the girls this season.

All games during the season were well attending by the girl's parents and I thank you the parents for their continued support for their girls and Dwarf Giraffe. The girls all had fun during the season and the season came down to two very exciting Championship games. The Girl's Major Division Championship was between Holy Trinity and DG's Ranshaw Fuel Oil. In a hard fought game, Holy Trinity won the Championship by a score of 6 to 4. The Girl's High School Division Championship

was between Empress Travel the 2nd Seed overall and LockDoctor Security Solutions, the 6th Seed overall. This was a very good, hard fought game by both teams with LockDoctor Security Solutions pulling out a thrilling victory. Congratulations to all the coaches and girls on a great season and we hope to see you all this year.

I am also pleased to report that registration is now open online for our 2011/2012 Basketball season. Registration is open to all girls ages 4 to 18.

I thank you all for your continued support of the Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League.

Joseph Alessandro



"An athlete gains so much knowledge by just participating in a sport. Focus, discipline, hard work, goal setting and, of course, the thrill of finally achieving your goals. These are all lessons in life." - Kristi Yamaguchi



Lacrosse

Letter from the Lacrosse Commissioner - Jason Pallen

Thinking back to what I enjoyed most this past season, I think of the first few practices when it was still getting dark around 6:30pm. It was great to have the opportunity to play, coach, and watch our kids on this new field at Ulmer or The College Point Fields. The Astroturf under the lights, it's a great place to play. Lacrosse has not been popular in Queens in the past, perhaps because of its unfortunate lack of field space. However lacrosse has proven to be quite a popular sport in its surrounding areas. Our NYC Parks Department, Senator Tony Avella and our Councilman Dan Halloran have all been such a tremendous support to DG and we have them to thank for that great sports complex at The College Point Fields.

The kids did a great job this year and I really saw improvement with everyone's skills. It's not an easy sport, especially when you're young, but with a little practice they all improved. We have Anthony Abicca to thank for that. Anthony, along with Charlie Burger and Rich Magagna have worked very hard practicing with the Minors and really have kept it exciting. Tony Skoros has continued to work with the Majors and he says that we will be ready to play in a

game really soon. The kids are very excited about that. Tom Michaelson and his team of professionals at 365Lax have also helped us tremendously. If anyone is interested in private lessons, I encourage you to check out his website at 365lax.com. Remember, the best practice is playing catch with someone else or simply throwing the ball against a wall.

We will have a short session of practices in the fall to keep the kids playing. Email me at DGlax@ymail.com if you have any questions.

Did you know there used to be 6 private golf courses in Queens? The Bayside Links, Oakland Golf Club, Fresh Meadow, Pomonok Country Club, St. Albans Country Club and Queens Valley Golf Club. Some of these courses hosted the US Open and the PGA Championship in the 1930's. The reason why I am talking about golf is because we would like to know who is interested in a golf clinic for kids between 10 - 16 years old. I think lacrosse, basketball, baseball and softball are all great sports to play in high school and college. But so is golf. More importantly, golf is something that many of

us will be able to play forever with our families and friends. So if you are interested in golf at DG, email me at DGgolf@ymail.com with your names and ages so you don't miss out on this limited space opportunity.

I hope everyone is having a great summer and I'm looking forward to seeing you all again in the fall.

Jason Pallen



"Lacrosse was my love, my passion. All the time, all the years, I never made a nickel. It was for the love of the sport." - Doug Favell Jr



Baseball

Letter from the Baseball Commissioner - Joseph Alessandro

To Our Players, Coaches and Parents,

Now that the Spring Season of Baseball has ending and the Summer Travel Season is in full swing, I would like to thank all my coaches and volunteers for your help this season. Your tireless efforts do not go un-noticed and are appreciated wholly by the Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League. It's a great feeling when you coach a team and years later the boys and girls are grown and they see you in the street and yell out "What's up, Coach?". Without you our program would not be able to run and I thank you for all the time and effort you put into our program. This Spring, DG had 14 teams in our program from Tee-ball (4 to 6 year olds) to Pony Baseball (13 -14 year olds). DG also has 4 Summer Travel teams, 1 each in the Mites, Minor, Major and Pony Divisions. Congratulations to all our Spring teams especially the Minor Division team coached by Hector Bourren as his team brought home to DG the Northeast Queens Baseball Alliance Championship after battling a very tough LND team in the finals and pulling out a 3 to 2 victory. The Mites Division team coached by Anthony Marotta on his second place finish as his team lost a close game against Glen Oaks by a score of 3 to 1.

I would like to congratulate the 12U Major Division Summer team, coached by Frank Mezzanotte on winning the Cal Ripken District Championship and going on to compete in the Cal Ripken State Finals at



Kingsbridge Park in the Bronx. This is DG's second District Championship in the last two years. I would also like to congratulate the 8U Mite team, coached by Anthony Marotta and the 10U Minor team, coached by Hector Bourren on their valiant efforts in the Cal Ripken District Championships. The 8U team competed in a very tough Long Island Division and came within one game of the finals and the 10U team battled a very tough team in the Queens Division and came within one win of the District Championship. Well done by all. These teams, along with the 14U team, coached by Dino Cinquemani are going on to compete for the District 26 Championships in their respective Divisions.

I would like to welcome and introduce Frank Mezzanotte and Steve Wilson as my Assistant Commissioners for the upcoming season. Frank coached in the Tee-ball Division this past season and is coaching our 12U Summer Travel team and Steve Wilson coached in the Tee-ball Division for the last two years. Their baseball knowledge and tireless efforts on and off the field will help build this program for years to come. I thank you guys for coming on board.

I am pleased to report that registration is now open online for our 2012 Spring Baseball season until December 31, 2011. Registration is open to all boys ages 4 to 18 and girls ages 4 to 6. Girls 7 to 18 will have the ability to register and compete in our Babe Ruth Softball League. DG will be closing registration early this year in an effort to have player evaluations completed and teams formed by late January 2012. This will allow the coaches to get more practices in with their teams prior to the beginning of the season and make DG teams better prepared to compete with other teams. Once the teams are formed, DG will have a uniform fitting day. This will avoid over-sized or under-sized uniforms for our players.

As one season closes and a new season begins. And that new season begins with you, the parents, who support the Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League as volunteers and coaches. DG needs all your efforts for our plan to work. Please register your child early, so that we can get a jump start on the new season and make the Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League better than the great year we had this season.

I thank you all for your continued support of the Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League.

Joseph Alessandro

"If my uniform doesn't get dirty, I haven't done anything in the baseball game."

Ricky Henderson



Girls Softball

Letter from the Acting Commissioner - George Mirtsopoulos

This year, DG went through some last minute changes in personnel that required some quick thinking and shuffling of current board members and commissioners to make sure that all the spring and summer sports programs got off with as little disruption as possible. So I took a leap of faith and volunteered to run the girls softball program. And not only that, I also coached a team in HS division. Having coached my son and other boys programs for a dozen years I wasn't sure what I was in store for. Well it turned out to be nothing less than a wonderful experience.

The season started with Freddy's Pizza, who were last year's champions returning not only to defend their championship, but to dedicate their season to their fallen teammate Theresa Buccellato. The opening day ceremony started with DG retiring her number 7 in all sports at DG in her honor.

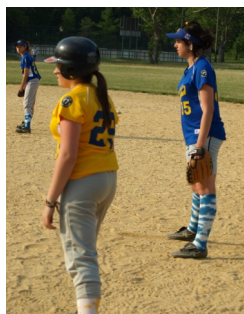
Freddy's Pizza then proceeded to play a fantastic season only to run into a team that wouldn't give up in the championship game, Bowles Corporate Services. Freddy's took a 5-2 lead going into the top of the 6th of the championship game when the girls of Bowles Corporate Services put on their hitting shoes and scored 9 runs in the inning and won the championship by a final score of 12-6.

I would like to thank the coaches of Freddy's Pizza, Dom Favalora and Joe Scibilia and the coach of Whitestone Pets Motel – Christa LaTrenta for their dedication in working with the girls all season long, particularly Christa who turned her team around through practice and motivation which turned them a formidable opponent going into the playoffs.

While we did not field any other teams in girls' softball this season, we had some younger girls that registered. We decided to run some developmental mini clinics to get them a head start going into next season. Coach Linda Romanelli took the girls into the gym and worked on hitting and fielding. My team and I took them onto the field to work alongside with the older girls during practices. I believe it was a worthwhile experience for all of them.

With everyone's help, our players, parents and coaches, we hope to build a bigger and better girls' softball program next season.

George Mirtsopoulos



"Never limit yourself, never be satisfied, and smile—it's free."

Jennie Finch, USA NATIONAL SOFTBALL TEAM



Basketball

Letter from the Basketball Commissioner - Ben Tockarshewsky

DG BASKETBALL, WRAPPING IT UP....

As we end another successful Boys basketball season, I would like to thank our players, parents, coaches and sponsors for all of their work and support. DG Basketball continues to grow. We have over 350 boys in our program, in 9 divisions and encompassing 11 age groups. Our future looks bright as over 100 of the boys were under the age of 8.

With a vibrant Spring program and several travel teams, we are now expanding our program beyond our Winter Season. We continue to be the largest non-profit basketball program in Northern Queens.

An update of the programs offered are as follows:

Our age 6 and under Instructional Program, (the feeder to our leagues), had over 60 children enrolled. Here, we introduce the fundamental skill sets to the children in a structured and fun environment. Many of our former/current DG High School League players also assist with coaching in the program. A special thanks to Jay Gorga for helping me coordinate Saturday mornings.

Our Mites Division includes fundamental instructional and reinforcement through our weekly competitive games.

The full court press and 3 point shooting aspects of the game are part of our Bantam (Ages 9 & 10) and Minor Division (Ages 11 & 12). We had 9 teams in the Bantam and 7 teams in the Minor Division this year.

Our Major Division (Grades 8th and 9th), is utilized both as a participation league for our recreational players and a springboard to the high school programs for our advanced players.

Our High School Division, had over 50 players. We were fortunate to have several High School Varsity players displaying their talents in our weekly games.

A special note of thanks should be made to Jay Ehrlich for all of his assistance this year and to Jose Rodriquez and Rob Downward for coordinating the kitchen.

We welcome all talent levels to our league and strive for the children to enjoy a positive atmosphere, learn the game and have fun. Once again thanks to our sponsors, coaches and parents for their cooperation and support.

See you at the gym!

Ben Tockarshewsky



"Michael, if you can't pass it, you can't play."

Coach Dean Smith to Michael Jordan



The Kids





BOARDROOM

President	<i>David Legaz</i>	Baseball Commissioner	<i>Joseph Alessandro</i>
Vice President	<i>Jay Vigorito</i>	Basketball Commissioner	<i>Ben Tockarszewsky</i>
Treasurer	<i>Joseph Alessandro</i>	Commissioner of Girls' Athletics	<i>Joseph Alessandro</i> <i>George Mirtsopoulos</i>
Corresponding Secretary	<i>George Mirtsopoulos</i>	Lacrosse Commissioner	<i>Jason Pallen</i>
Recording Secretary	<i>Robert Downward</i>	Sponsor Coordinators	<i>Michael Fuchs</i> <i>Tom Nazario</i>
Web Site Coordinator	<i>Anthony Castellano</i> <i>Jose Rodriguez</i>	Commitment Coordinator Equipment Coordinator	<i>Brian Sutton</i> <i>John Hempel</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 Edward M. McKee
Post 131

Anaconda Sports
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Arthur Dibiase Mason Contractor
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Benateris Italian Deli

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Braunstein's Bridge Builders

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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.

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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.

Pyro Signal & Suppression

Queens Physical Therapy PC

Queensboro Lodge #892 of Free and Accepted
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Ral-Bar Electric Inc.

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RE MAX Millennium

R&R Restorations

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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

Van Brunt Building Corp.

Verdi's of Whitestone

Welcome To Whitestone

Whitestone Community Post 4787 VFW

Whitestone Diner

Whitestone Hardware

Whitestone Pets Motel

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

**Register On-Line By Visiting
us on the Web at:
www.dwarfgiraffe.com**

BUILDING RENTALS

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



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

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

2011 FALL REGISTRATION

Boys and Girls Basketball, Lacrosse

REGISTRATION TIMES

EVERY THURSDAY from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

and EVERY SATURDAY from 10:00 AM to 12 Noon

Thursday Dates September 8, 15, 22, 29

October 6, 13, 20, 27

Saturday Dates September 10, 17, 24

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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