

Breakaway!

A Fundraiser for the
Wheelchair Sports Federation
Sled Rangers



Wednesday
February 5, 2014
6:00–9:00 pm

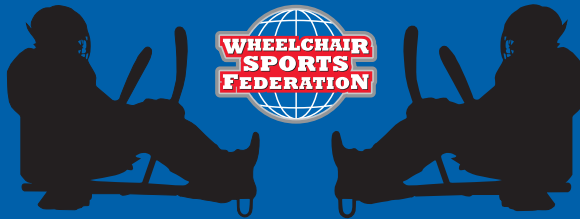


Breakaway!



A Fundraiser for the WSF Sled Rangers

Food • Drinks • Music • Live Auction



It is the mission of the Wheelchair Sports Federation Sled Rangers to provide opportunities to physically disabled youth to increase their independence, self-esteem, and self-confidence through the sport of sled hockey in competitive team play. Our aim is to provide this opportunity to any and all physically disabled children who would like to participate.

Breakaway!

Evening Schedule

Arrival	6:00
Skating Drinks Buffet Dinner	6:00-7:30
Presentation	8:00
Live Auction	8:15
Evening Concludes	9:00

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Lasker Rink, Central Park, New York City
Home of the Wheelchair Sports Federation Sled Rangers



Welcome

Hello All!

Welcome to “Breakaway”, our inaugural fundraiser for the Wheelchair Sports Federation (WSF) Sled Rangers. The WSF Sled Rangers are made up of boys and girls throughout the NYC area. They are from every neighborhood and are diverse as it comes.

WSF is a national non-profit that provides opportunities for people with physical disabilities to compete in adaptive sports recreationally and competitively. While adaptive sports such as wheelchair basketball have been around since post WW-II, other adaptive sports like sled hockey, wheelchair softball and football are relatively new to the athletic population. WSF is one of the first organizations to provide adaptive athletes with the opportunity to participate in multiple adaptive sports.

Thank you to our sponsors and you for being here to celebrate the abilities of these boys and girls! We hope to see you on the ice soon!

Sincerely,



John Hamre
President, Wheelchair Sports Federation



The New York Rangers

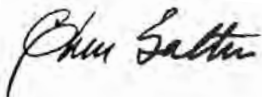
Dear Friends,

The New York Rangers are pleased to be a sponsor of the Wheelchair Sports Federation Sled Rangers and the “Breakaway” event.

The New York Rangers organization values our relationship with the Wheelchair Sports Federation and is proud of their accomplishments with both the adult and children's sled hockey teams. These children with disabilities that reside from all over the New York City and surrounding area are part of the Rangers Family and embody everything in an athlete.

We welcome you to the first of many “Breakaway” events and thank you for your commitment to these athletes and the sport of Sled Hockey. Let's Go Rangers!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glen Sather". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Glen" and last name "Sather" clearly distinguishable.

Glen Sather
President and General Manager
New York Rangers



Commissioner, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities

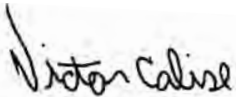
Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to welcome everyone to the Inaugural Breakaway event where you will meet some young athletes that are accomplishing great things through sport.

New York has been home to many extraordinary disabled athletes and activists, which has led to many accessibility initiatives throughout our great city. Together with city agencies, we are leading the way in accessibility and there is no greater example than the Wheelchair Sports Federation Sled Rangers. These children with disabilities are leading by example and proving that their ability defines them and not their disability. The Wheelchair Sports Federation works hard to ensure that all athletes with physical disabilities have an opportunity to stay fit and compete in regional, national and international tournaments, which is changing the way that people perceive disability.

On behalf of our city, thank you for supporting the Wheelchair Sports Federation Sled Rangers. My best wishes for a terrific evening and for helping to make New York City the most accessible city in the world!

Sincerely,



Victor Calise

Commissioner, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities



A Letter from Bill

When my son Sam was born with a rare birth defect of his spinal cord, rendering him paralyzed below his waist, little did I know that he would become the most athletic of my three children. Sam's favorite sport is sled hockey, which is a version of ice hockey with all the same rules but adapted for people with physical disabilities. Besides the fun and camaraderie of playing sports that all children feel, Sam has particularly benefitted from an increase in self esteem, self confidence, and independence. When he rolls into his classroom in his wheelchair, and he tells his able-bodied friends that he is a hockey player, it changes the way his friends treat him and interact with him, and that, in turn, changes the way that Sam perceives himself. Sled hockey has shown him what is possible and what he can achieve; It has made him realize that his only limitations are the ones he puts on himself.

In 2012, Sam and I, along with our friend Victor Calise (a 1998 sled hockey paralympian), started the first NYC-based sled hockey program for disabled youth. We started as a rag-tag group of 8 kids and their families. When we began, none of the kids knew that they could play competitive sports. None of the parents knew that their kids could play competitive sports. As the practices and seasons progressed, I saw first hand the effects and benefits, for both the kids and their families, that I first saw with my own son. On the night of our first practice, one of our 10-year old players turned to his mother and said, "Mom, I'm FINALLY on a team".

We are now a group of 23 disabled athletes called the Wheelchair Sports Federation (WSF) Sled Rangers. Our athletes range in age from 5 to 23 and come from Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, Long Island, and Rockland/ Westchester Counties. We serve a very diverse population, and our team includes 6 girls and young women.

Seeing how we are changing perceptions and awareness, I have become determined to expand this opportunity to play sled hockey to even more kids. Our short term goal is to create our own NYC-based sled hockey league. Such a league could easily serve hundreds of kids. This aspiration can only be accomplished through your help and generosity, and we thank you for supporting us.

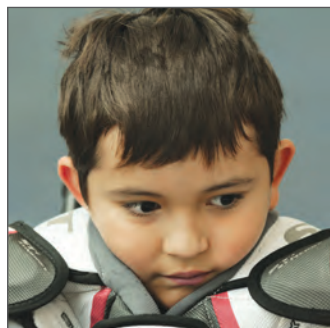
A Letter from Bill

But our ambition doesn't stop there. The benefits of sports for people with disabilities does not stop when the weather turns warm, or when kids turn 18. The Wheelchair Sports Federation already has programs in place to help people with disabilities get involved in other adaptive sports such as wheelchair softball, wheelchair tennis, adaptive rowing, etc. Additionally, the Wheelchair Sports Federation also is affiliated with an adult sled hockey team, also called the Rangers, and we aim to be a farm team for them.

Finally, if I am allowed to dream big, in the longer term, I can imagine this sled hockey program as just the introduction to providing kids with disabilities even more opportunities in their lives. With supporters like you, I can begin to imagine including an educational and academic component to what we are doing. With your help, we can be the catalyst to changing the lives of lots and lots of kids with disabilities.



Bill Greenberg
Manager, WSF Sled Rangers



About Sled Hockey

Even able-bodied individuals enjoy the sport of sled hockey, but are generally at a disadvantage due to the superior upper body strength of a wheelchair user.

History

Sled hockey, or sledge hockey, as it is referred to outside of the United States, originated in Sweden in 1940 and has been played in Europe since 1971. Canada soon followed the trend and boasts the largest program in the world. It was brought to the United States back in 1989 by John Schatzien, with the first and only national team at the time based in Minnesota. Today, many established programs conduct weekly practices and games throughout the United States. The national governing body of the sport is the United States Sled Hockey Association (USSHA).

Equipment

Players use the same type of equipment as in “stand-up hockey” with the exception of the skates. For this, they use a sled, which consists of a cushioned seat mounted on a tubular sled that has skate blades and a center pivot underneath. The player sits four inches above the ice and is held into the sled with Velcro® straps. Two shortened hockey sticks are used to handle the puck as well as propel themselves across the ice.



About Sled Hockey



Rules

Essentially all of the regular ice hockey rules that have been implemented and enforced in regular ice hockey leagues apply to many ice sledge hockey leagues around the world. The differences that have been created into the game of ice sledge hockey are modified for the athlete and their sledges. The first set of international rules was created in 1990 and was drafted from Canadian rules. The entranceways to the players' benches and penalty benches from the ice are designed evenly with the ice so the players can access them without the help of a coach or able-bodied person. Additionally, the surface area inside the players' benches and penalty benches are made of smooth plastic or ice, which is to avoid any damage to the players' sledges.

All players are required to have their ice sledge hockey equipment follow the standard that has been set by the IHEC (Ice Hockey Executive Committee), including their sledges, sticks, helmet, skates (if applicable), and other protective gear. The sticks for ice sledge hockey players have a curved blade (similar to regular ice hockey) at one end, and generally six to eight picks at the opposite end of the blade for maneuvering and propulsion. Movement is achieved by using the metal teeth as a means to grip the ice and push one forward. The metal picks cannot be overly pointy and protrude farther than 1cm beyond the stick so it cannot damage the ice or other players.

2014 WSF Sled Hockey Team Members



Bill Greenberg
Manager



Victor Calise
Head Coach



John Stieler
Assistant Coach



Edward, 17
Brooklyn, NY
Goalie



Sam, 11
Manhattan, NY
Defense



Michael, 6
Mahopac, NY
Defense



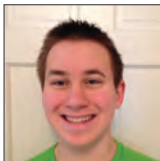
Emma, 11
Manhattan, NY
Offense



Zaria, 8
Manhattan, NY
Defense



Lorin, 24
Manhattan, NY
Defense



Matt, 14
Long Island, NY
Center

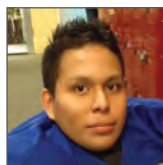


Te, 18
Manhattan, NY
Defense



Denis, 18
Brooklyn, NY
Defense

2014 WSF Sled Hockey Team Members



Luis, 16
Queens, NY
Center



Ryan, 7
Yorktown
Heights, NY
Defense



Nate, 5
Hopewell Jct.,
NY
Defense



Kenny, 18
Queens, NY
Defense



Marin, 9
Manhattan, NY
Offense



Michael, 19
Stony Point, NY
Defense



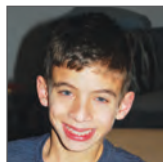
Chris, 19
Brooklyn, NY
Defense



Evan, 12
Monsey, NY
Defense



Michael, 12
Mamaroneck,
NY
Defense



Spencer, 10
Mamaroneck,
NY
Offense



Max, 6
Queens, NY
Defense



Alexander, 11
Norwalk, CT
Goalie



Henry, 6
Manhattan, NY
Offense



Joanna, 12
Manhattan, NY
Center



Francisco, 11
Bronx, NY
Offense









2014 WSF Featured Athletes



Nate, 5

Nathan is 5 years old, the smallest player on the ice. Before Nathan was born, and knowing he would be paralyzed, I remember going to a school talent show. In the parking lot, I saw a boy jump into a puddle, a seemingly simple act but I was heartbroken. I thought, "Nathan will never get to jump in a puddle or do any of the things that the kids in this talent show will do". I realize now that I defined Nathan's ability by parameters that applied to me. Sled Hockey has helped me realize that Nathan is able to do more than I ever imagined. To the WSF and to you our sponsors, we'd like to say thank you. Your generosity and support make this truth a reality for our present and future players. —GERRY REDMOND

"NEVER let anyone define what you are capable of by using parameters that don't apply to you."

—CHUCK CLOSE



Lorin, 24

Lorin loves sled hockey. It is one of her favorite things to do. Lorin is very competitive and participates in lots of sports like swimming, skiing, and indoor and outdoor rowing. She loves sled hockey because she can be part of a team. She loves being on the ice, trying as hard as she can, and hitting the puck. It gives her a great sense of accomplishment and boosts her self-esteem. Thanks to everyone who has made this possible for Lorin and her team.

2014 WSF Featured Athletes



Francisco, 11

Sled hockey to me is a great sport. I never imagined I would be playing a sport like this. I love playing with my teammates and discussing on the ice what our next move would be. Coach Victor is a great motivator.

I can't wait for the weekend to come so that I can play hockey again. It means a lot to me. Me and my whole family are grateful to have this great bunch of caring and loving individuals.



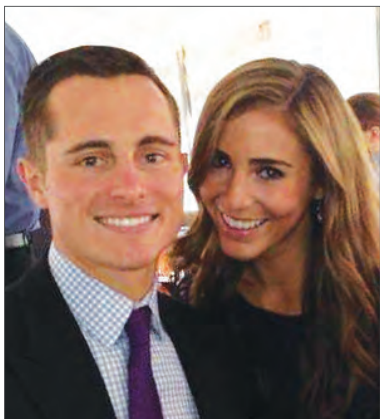
Emma, 11

Before I played sled hockey I didn't really participate in team sports. I did play a lot of sports at school but I never felt like I was part of a real team, because they didn't treat me the same. They gave me free walks to first base in kickball and let me get home runs. Now that I play sled hockey, I feel like I am part of a real team.

This is my second season playing and I am really enjoying it. Hockey has opened up a lot of things for me and my team. Some of my team got to skate in between periods at a Rangers game in November at Madison Square Garden! I have made a lot of new friends and we kick butt! Now I love hockey and can't get off the ice!

I love the rush you get when you trick someone and do something unexpected. That's what I like when I watch my teammates! My love of the game isn't the only thing that keeps me on the ice, it's also the good friends I have made throughout the seasons.

2014 WSF Featured Volunteers



Kristina & Brad

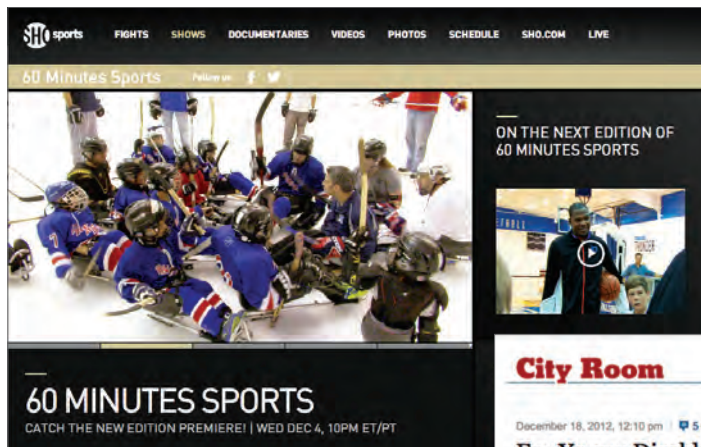
From the very first Sled Rangers game we attended we knew we found something special. What we didn't expect was how personally rewarding this would be for us. What began as something fun to do on Saturdays quickly evolved into a passion that we can't envision going without. What keeps us coming back is the fun and excitement of watching these youngsters go onto the ice with the passion and heart shared by hockey players of all ages and talent. We have seen the impact the organization has had on the players and families. We honestly cannot imagine a better way to spend our Saturday afternoons.



Alexandra

I'm in 9th grade and I attend the Brearly school in NYC. When I first saw the Sled Rangers preparing for a game at Lasker Rink, I knew I wanted to be involved. Every week, I get to combine my love of the game with our family tradition of community service. Being on the ice with my partner Michael is really fun! He loves speed. He has had a couple of shots on goal and is looking forward to scoring. I love sharing my sport with the team.

WSF Sled Rangers in the Press



Showtime Sports

The WSF Sled Rangers were featured in the December episode of 60 Minutes Sports. A link to the segment can be found at www.wsfsledrangers.org/60-minutes-sports.

New York Times

In addition to this web page:

http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/12/18/for-young-disabled-athletes-a-chance-to-glide-and-compete-on-the-ice/?_r=0

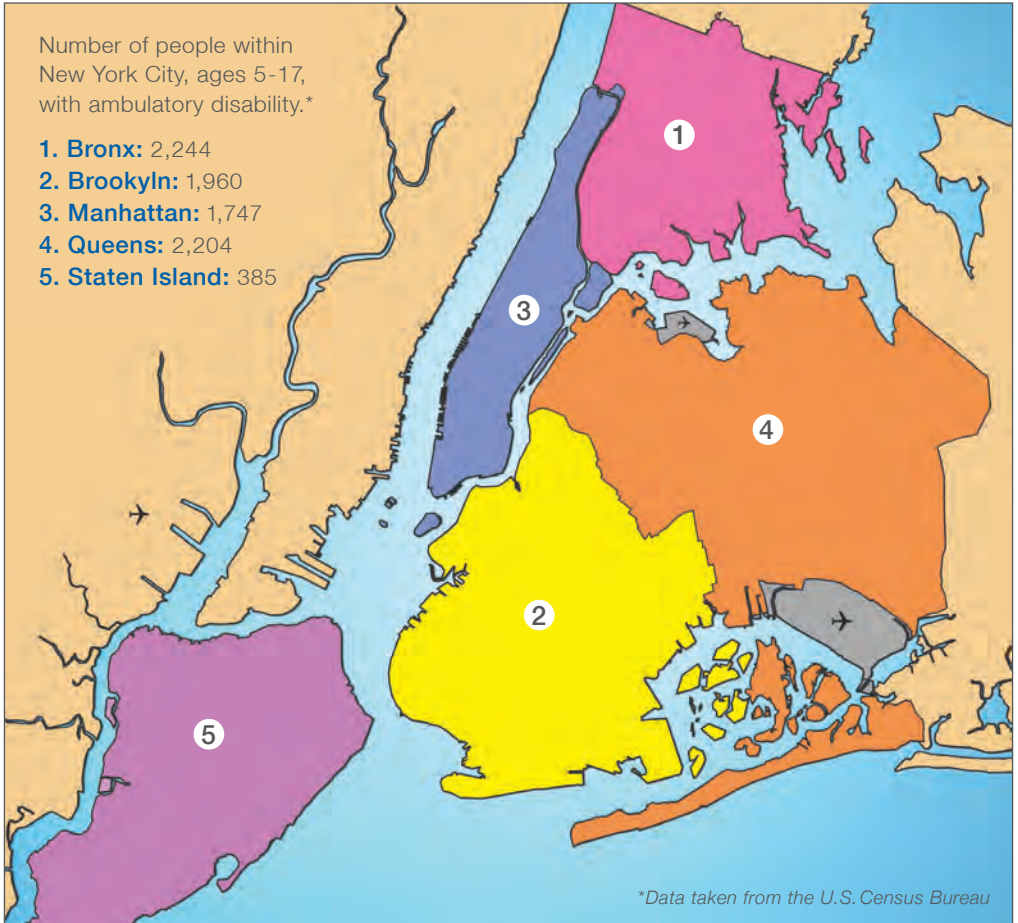
This article also appeared in print on December 19, 2012.



Did You Know...

Number of people within
New York City, ages 5-17,
with ambulatory disability.*

1. **Bronx:** 2,244
2. **Brooklyn:** 1,960
3. **Manhattan:** 1,747
4. **Queens:** 2,204
5. **Staten Island:** 385



**Data taken from the U.S. Census Bureau*

We are ...



We are 6 females and 18 males

■ Blue – Boys ■ Pink – Girls



We are kids and young adults

■ Blue – 5-8 ■ Yellow – 13-16
■ Pink – 9-12 ■ Orange – 17+



We are from all over

■ Blue – Manhattan
■ Pink – Bronx
■ Orange – Queens
■ Yellow – Brooklyn
■ Tan – Suburbs



We are many disabilities

■ Blue – Cerebral Palsy
■ Yellow – Myelomalacia
■ Orange – Spina Bifida
■ Tan – Spinal Muscular Atrophy
■ Light Blue – Spinal Cord Tumor
■ Dark Blue – Caudal Regression Syndrome

We are the NY Sled Rangers

Breakaway Event Sponsors



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Jefferies



Continuing Sponsors



When we work together, the whole community wins.

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grow stronger and reach higher.
In that same spirit, Bank of America
is honored to support the Wheelchair
Sports Federation's Sled Rangers
Hockey team for the physically
disabled youth. We are inspired by
your perseverance, commitment
and resolve.

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RBC Capital Markets

Proud to support the Wheelchair Sports Federation.

RBC Capital Markets is pleased to sponsor *Breakaway!* in support of the Wheelchair Sports Federation NY Sled Rangers. We admire and support their mission to increase the independence, self-esteem and self-confidence of physically disabled youth in New York City.

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Pine River Salutes
The WSF Sled
Rangers

Breakaway NY Sled Rangers!

Jefferies is proud to support the inspirational work of the Wheelchair Sports Federation New York Sled Rangers providing esteem-building and team spirit opportunities to the children, young adults and families of our community.

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Congratulations

To the WSF Sled Rangers
from your friends at Pinehouse Capital



We celebrate the success of

Breakaway!

and we honor their
extraordinary work in inspiring
physically disabled athletes
to reach their highest potential.

GLENVIEW

CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

J.P.Morgan

J.P. Morgan congratulates the New York Sled Rangers and supports the Wheelchair Sports Federation's mission to empower disabled adults and youth through the athleticism of adaptive sports.

jpmorgan.com

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J.P. Morgan

We are proud to support the WSF Sled Rangers
and to celebrate its important work.





Citi is proud to support
disabled youth sled hockey
and the WSF Sled Rangers

Breakaway!

Thanks the following individuals:

JOHN COLE | *Video*

EZRA KNIGHT | *Emcee*

BRIAN ALBERT | *Journal Design*

ALISTAIR NICHOL | *Auctioneer*

JASON JONES | *DJ*

MATT PETOSA | *Photographer*







www.wsfsledrangers.org



Wheelchair Sports Federation
6454 82nd Street, Suite 2
Middle Village, NY 11379

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Design: Brian Albert
bkadesigns@yahoo.com