



MIAMI-DADE PARKS DISABILITY SERVICES

April 2010

Contact Information

Disability Services Administration

7300 Crandon Blvd
305-365-6706

AD Barnes

3401 SW 72 Ave.
305-665-5319

Coral Estates Park

1405 SW 97 Ave.
305-226-1622

Gould's Park

11350 SW 216 St.
305-234-1673

Greynolds Park

17530 W. Dixie Highway
305-945-3425

Camp Matecumbe

13841 SW 120 St.
305-752-4966

Paralympic Sports

305-382-8160

Tamiami Park

11201 SW 24 St.
305-222-2128

Westwind Lakes Park

6805 SW 152 Ave.
305-380-9106

UNITED WAY DRIVE / LEISURE ACCESS FOUNDATION

Thanks to ALL of the Parks employees who have supported the Leisure Access Foundation throughout this years' United Way drive. We are happy to report that the 50/50 raffle and the iPod raffle brought in \$652.94. We want everyone to know how much the Disability Services staff and all of the athletes with disabilities that compete and participate due to the support of County employees, appreciates the contributions you make each year. It is particularly important to acknowledge this generosity during a time when paychecks are being cut. **THANK YOU! AGAIN!** Please come out and see what we do with your donations.

LEISURE ACCESS SERVICES CHANGES NAME TO PARKS DISABILITY SERVICES

Leisure Access Services will now be called Parks Disability Services. We believe this name change will make our mission more clear, and enable persons with disabilities to find us easier. This name change officially took place on January 01, 2010. We still do all the same things we have always done, we will just do it under a new name.

2010 PARALYMPIC ACADEMY FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH VISUAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

Saturday April 17, 2010 At Tropical Park (7900 SW 40th St.)

Registration by the Basketball courts begins at 10:00 am.

The Paralympics Academy is for children and adults with either visual or physical disabilities who want to participate in athletic sports. Judo and Goalball (for persons with visual impairments) and wheelchair fencing, handcycling and boccia (for persons with physical impairments) will be available for attendees to participate in.



For more information call (305)365-6706 or (305)382-8172



BELINDA PHILLIPS NAMED JUNIOR ORANGE BOWL COACH OF THE YEAR



Coach Phillips with swimmers Brian Douglas, Josh Corvington, Lissie Montoya and Gretchen Vega.

Miami Dade Parks Disability Services is proud to be the home of the Junior Orange Bowl Coach of the year. Belinda Phillips, CTRS and MS in Recreation Therapy. Coach Phillips has a wealth of Olympic experience she brings to her young athletes as a swim team coach. Defining the difference between “swim lessons” and “swim competition training” is one of the first lessons those working with Belinda learn. Eight swimmers with varying physical disabilities participated in the Junior Orange Bowl Sports Ability Swim meet on Dec. 4, 2009 at the Miami Springs Aquatic Center.

These young athletes won 20 gold medals in 20 events. Practice is held on Saturdays at the AD Barnes pool, 3701 Sw 70th Ave. On Sat. Dec 5th, these athletes also competed in the field events at Tropical Park. 6 year old Brian Douglas won the Sportsmanship Award .

Belinda helps children with disabilities become athletes. Thank you Belinda and congratulations on your “Coach of the Year” award.



Coach Phillips & Brian Douglas receiving his Sportsmanship Award.

PARALYMPIC PARTNER, CITY OF MIAMI PARKS HOSTS WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL TOURNEY IN THE NEW JOSE MARTI GYMNASIUM

The City of Miami Parks Department, one of our Paralympics partners has agreed to co-sponsor the tournament by allowing the Miami Heat Wheels to use their gorgeous new gym, paying only cost. THANK YOU CITY OF MIAMI PARK DEPARTMENT FOR SUPPORTING WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL. Thank you for being a good partner. We enjoy working cooperatively with our partners to improve sports and recreation opportunities for persons with disabilities.

SUMMER IS APPROACHING!

Parks Disability Services will hold their annual Summer Camp Program from June 14, 2010-August 20, 2010. This program is funded through The Children's Trust. The programs will be held at 6 sites throughout Miami Dade County. Children will participate in activities such as sports, art & crafts, literacy, field trips, and lots of fun activities. We will be getting “Fit to Play” while “Greening it Up”.



Remember that children with disabilities can also be included in general camps.

For more information on Parks Inclusion visit: http://www.miamidade.gov/parks/leisure_inclusion

CAMP MATECUMBE GETS A FACE LIFT

The Camp Matecumbe Adopt-A-Park volunteer project will take place on April 27, 2010. 200 Unum Insurance Company volunteers, Parks P.R.I.D.E. employees and Parks Disability Services staff will work together to renovate existing unused and unattractive classrooms. Camp Matecumbe is home to one of the Parks Out of School Program for children with disabilities and the Parks Paralympics Programs office.

Each room will be turned into a specific theme area for children and adults with disabilities to express themselves, enjoy creative learning activities and get all the benefits Recreation Therapy has to offer. Designated areas such as Arts and Crafts room, Game and Library rooms will be created. In addition a Quiet room where participants can “chill out”, and a Family Conference room will be created. A Theater room is also being incorporated in the project which will include a small stage, backdrops for scene changes, mural and props. Here our kids can express their artistic talents by dancing, acting, singing and dressing up.

We thank Donna Peyton, MDPR Fundraising & Development Manager and Unum Insurance Company volunteers.

ZOT ARTS FOR ALL

“The Arts for All art tools, created by inventor Dwayne Szot (<http://www.zotartz.com>), are one of-a-kind products that offer individuals of all abilities an opportunity for creative expression through arts and mobility.”



The Arts for All tools are designed so participants with limited movement or lack of fine motor skills can be successful in using what mobility they have to create, paint, draw, print and more. Individuals roll out paint and draw with chalk - all while working on mobility skills and coordination through creative expression.

“Arts for All” tools enable children and adults of all abilities the opportunity to create large-scale visual art works, using specialty paint and chalk tools that can easily be manipulated by hand, arm, or even attached to an individual’s walker or wheelchair.

The artists will have the opportunity to have fun and express their creativity working individually and in teams, through the creation of wall and floor murals, table top prints.

Children with and without disabilities attending Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation summer camp programs are expected to participate

several “Arts for All Days” at Miami Dade County Parks.

These tools are excellent for promoting inclusion between children with and without disabilities throughout the Parks system.

For information on the Zot Art Lending Program call Celia Leyva at (305)365-6709, leyva@miamidade.gov.



PARKS INCLUSION PROCESS

Miami Dade Parks is committed to including children and adults with disabilities in all of its programs, events and facilities. For more information call (305)365-6706, or visit: http://www.miamidade.gov/parks/leisure_inclusion

PARALYMPIC NEWS



A program of Miami-Dade Parks & Recreation Leisure Access Services

PARALYMPIC SPORT CLUB ATHLETE: LUIS AMARO

March 26, 1999 was a day that changed Luis Amaro's life when he sustained a spinal cord injury which left him paralyzed from the waist down. Luis, now 32, has been participating in Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation programs for several years now. He is starting player for the Miami Heat Wheels Basketball teams and also enjoys hand-cycling and wheelchair tennis.

During the 2009 NWBA National Championship games, Luis won two brand new basketball wheelchairs. He kept one chair for himself and gave the other chair to a teammate. This winter Luis completed his first 10K marathon in a hand-cycle and has now set a goal to qualify for the Boston Marathon.

When asked what his motto is, he simply stated, *"Life rolls on!"*.



SWISS PALYMPIAN VISITS MDPR

November 17th-21st marked a special visit to the M-D Parks Paralympic Sport Club by Swiss Paralympian, Karin Suter-Erath. Karin, a two-time Paralympian and a bronze medalist in Tennis Doubles, came out to visit and participate in several of the Paralympic Sports programs offered by MDPR and the city of Miami such as handcycling, wheelchair tennis, and wheelchair basketball. She also assisted therapists during a wheelchair tennis clinic held at Centennial Middle School and a wheelchair basketball clinic held at the NFL YET Center for students that attend Miami Dade County Public Schools.

This was a unique and exciting opportunity for wheelchair athletes to speak one on one with a Paralympian regarding the hard work and dedication it takes to make it to the Paralympics and perform as an elite athlete.

For more information on Paralympic Sports, contact Jody or Belinda at 305-382-8160.

MDPR EXPNADS PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

Miami Dade Parks and Recreation is excited to announce a new Paralympic Judo program for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. In addition to Goalball, Judo allow individuals with visual impairments another choice of activity. The program is currently being held on Saturdays from 3-5pm at the NFL YET Center, located at 7090 NW 22 Ave. The program is funded by the USOC Community Outreach Grant & MD parks which covers the cost of judo instructors and uniforms. MD Parks judo participant Carlos Montas, states, "Judo is a sport that blind people can do like everybody else and it's very fulfilling. It gives people who are blind or visually impaired an opportunity to compete on a level of equality with their sighted peers".

For more information on the Paralympic Judo program call Parks Paralympics Sports at 305-382-8160.

For information on access for persons with disabilities, sign language interpreters (7 days in advance), or information in a accessible format call (305)365-6706.