

**Speech delivered by Janine Cesare,
President of Special Olympics PA at a CAMS Faculty Assembly
January 11, 2007**



Good morning. We are very pleased to be here today for a special presentation. I am here to tell you that there is no volunteer more deserving of this honor than Regina Mancuso. Regina ... you are the first of our "surprise recognitions for 2007!"

For someone small in stature, Regina is a giant in the world of volunteerism. Regina goes back to the roots of Special Olympics here in Pennsylvania. More than 30 years ago, Regina, with her boundless energy started a Special Olympics track & field meet at her school. Delighted with the success of that track and field event - Regina partnered with the YMCA and started an aquatics program for her Special Olympics athletes. And with the support of this wonderful school district and teachers... the movement grew. Regina's energy was contagious, and before long Adams and York County joined in and our SOPA Area N program was born.

Regina Mancuso exemplifies the difference that one individual can make to a community. She is proof of the impact that one individual can have on thousands. Over the years, Regina's drive, enthusiasm and leadership has fueled the growth of her program (now Special Olympics Franklin County) to 9 sports and 600 athletes. Her high expectations and standards have resulted in quality training and competition opportunities for her athletes, and have become her trademark with other programs throughout the state.

Regina's athletes are well- trained athletes that can challenge competitors at any level, but they are also the best of sportsman and people. They are respectful and giving-- just like Regina. In running her local program for 30 years, the tasks she has performed and the hats she has worn.... are many. Over the years she has taken on many hours of paperwork; she has prepared and lead meetings. She has transported athletes to competitions, and raised funds for the program. Regina, certified in 6 sports, possesses a vast knowledge of sports. This coupled with compassion and love for her athletes has also made her a stellar world and national games coach. She has attended at least 4 world games as a head or assistant coach and numerous state competitions as head of delegation. Because her energy is boundless, it has spread past the boundaries of her own program - and *so many* have benefited from her experience and knowledge. In fact, Regina graciously shared her expertise as a member of our board of directors for 10 years, where she was a voice for other programs. In addition, she helped shape sports training programs and policies as a member of our sports advisory committee. **With such an incredible volunteer resume, it was no surprise that in 2001, Regina was inducted into our Special Olympics Hall of Fame - (an honor reserved for our most coveted athletes and volunteers.)**

Regina's energy continues to spill across county lines, as she has been a steadfast mentor to our Adams County Manager. Thanks to her tutelage, Adams County is now standing independently and is very successful. **Regina Mancuso is truly a powerhouse who gets it done!** She has been there all along the way, as one of the bricklayers of Special Olympics Pennsylvania. And as a good leader should, she is insuring our Franklin program's future by introducing responsibilities to others. But, if you ask Regina about all that she's done she will simple tell you that *"it's the right thing to do for deserving athletes."* Regina, it is your kind of selflessness and giving heart that we come to recognize today. It is with great pleasure that we present you this certificate and basket with our gratitude and thanks.

Regina, I hereby present you with this certificate that reads:

"When the energy and drive of a single human being can move hundreds to reach out and touch the hearts of thousands. Thank you for reaching out to thousands of Special Olympics athletes in Franklin County Pennsylvania."

Again, thank you for changing lives through sports for all our Franklin County athletes!