



## New PAL Young Professionals Event A Smash

“Make a Celebrity PAL” live auction and networking evening raises nearly \$50,000

For the first time in the Police Athletic League’s 56-year history, the organization held a fundraising and awareness event specifically for Philadelphia’s up-and-coming young professionals. On Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2003 from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., Rittenhouse Square’s posh **Denim Lounge** (1712 Walnut St.) hosted the first annual “**Make a Celebrity PAL**.”

Sponsored by **International Paper/xpedx** and **Personal Lines Insurance Brokerage, Inc.**, the star-studded evening featured a unique live auction of one-of-a-kind celebrity experiences. Items included a round of golf with Eagles quarterbacks Koy Detmer and A.J. Feeley, a day on the set and behind-the-scenes of the hit television show, “Trading Spaces,” four VIP tickets to MTV’s “Total Request Live” with a chance to meet the host of the show, and much more. In total, the evening raised more than \$47,000 for the girls and boys of the Police Athletic League.

The sold out event attracted over 300 local young professionals, along with several stars from the worlds of sports, music and entertainment, including **A.J. Feeley** and **Nate Wayne** of the Eagles; **Jeff Ratcliffe** and **Jeff Spano** of the Philadelphia Wings; reigning **Miss America Ericka Dunlap**; recording artist **Lauren Hart**; **Larry Mendte**, **Kathy Orr**, **Alycia Lane** and **Denise Saunders** of CBS 3; **Mike Missanelli** of WMMR-FM;



*PAL supporters mingle at the first-annual “Make a Celebrity PAL” event on Nov. 5. Denim Lounge (1712 Walnut St.) hosted the star-studded evening.*

Survivor’s **Gervase Petersen**; **Lou Tilley** and **Robyn Stevens** of CN8, and women’s soccer stars **Lorrie Fair** and **Heather Mitts**. FOX29’s **Don Tollefson**, a member of PAL’s Honorary Board, served as auctioneer.

“PAL has received tremendous

support from so many established individuals, corporations and foundations through the years,” said **Lt. Susan Slawson**, PAL Commanding Officer. “However, it is crucial for any non-profit organization to cultivate the involvement and support of future generations, and that was our motivation for putting together this event. We hope ‘Make a Celebrity PAL’ will inspire a younger crowd to take an active interest in the future of Philadelphia’s youth.”

Money raised from “Make a Celebrity PAL” will go towards the improvement of the Olney PAL center (Carlisle and Duncannon Sts.) in North Philadelphia. The center will be “adopted” by the newly formed **PAL Young Leaders Association**, which will give young professionals an opportunity to take an active role in the improvement of the center by attending events and volunteering.



*PAL’s Marissa James (l) and reigning Miss America Ericka Dunlap.*



## Coats, Cavalier, and Soul...



*Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson, PAL Officers and Charming Shoppes, Inc. employees unload boxes of winter coats outside the Cozen PAL center on Sept. 24. As part of their annual "Keeping Kids Warm" program, Charming Shoppes donated 800 brand-new winter coats to the Police Athletic League of Philadelphia.*



*On Nov. 12, former PAL kid and current Penn Charter High School senior Sean Singletary officially signed a letter of intent to attend the University of Virginia next year; and play point guard for the Cavaliers' basketball team. Sean grew up playing basketball for the West Oak Lane PAL Center in the PAL Citywide Basketball League and consistently led his PAL teams to national competitions.*



*Dwayne Missouri of the new Philadelphia Soul Arena League Football Team talks to youngsters about football fundamentals as teammate Corey Mayfield looks on. Members of the Soul visited the Cozen PAL center in November.*

## Officer's Arena

by P/O Tyrone Crawley  
Director, 23rd PAL Center

On Nov. 13, I had the great honor to be inducted into the New Jersey Boxing Hall of Fame. On that night, I was recognized for my professional boxing career, in which I compiled a career record of 21-2 from 1980 - 1987. Back then, I was known as "The Butterfly," for my quick hands and feet.

While I will always cherish my boxing career, the most fulfilling and rewarding period of my life began after my career was over, and still continues to this day.

I joined the Philadelphia Police Department in 1986 and two years later, in 1988, had the good fortune to be assigned to the PAL unit as the director of the 23rd PAL center. After being at the center for 15 years now, I can honestly say that the challenges and rewards of being a pro boxer are small compared to running a PAL center.

Working with kids, you see them grow up so fast. They face a hard reality day in and day out. Not everybody makes it, but there are a lot of success stories.

There are opportunities to be taken advantage of for those who stick with it. Some do, some don't. When they stop showing up to the center every day, you have an idea of what's happened and it can break your heart. All you can do is try to be there for those who want to be helped.

From my experience at PAL, I can better appreciate what some adults did to help me when I was growing up. I use that knowledge on a daily basis as I try to help the kids that are growing up now.



# PAL/Comcast Computer Program Rolls On

The Police Athletic League of Philadelphia's **Comcast Community Connection Computer Education Program** honored 40 PAL youngsters who successfully completed a three-month technology-learning program focused on improving computer skills. In its second year, the Comcast Community Connection Computer Education Program is funded exclusively through a generous grant from **The Comcast Foundation**.

The graduates were recognized at a ceremony on Monday, December 22 at the **Police Memorial PAL Center (Frankford Ave. & Ruan St.)** in lower northeast Philadelphia.

"Learning how to use a computer is a necessity for today's young people," said PAL Commanding Officer, **Lt. Susan Slawson**. "For many of our participants, PAL is the only exposure they have to computers. We are grateful to Comcast for helping us bring the latest technology to so many inner-city kids."

For over eight years, computers have been an integral part of PAL's expanding educational initiatives. In 1995, Comcast wired 11 PAL centers across the city for high-speed broadband Internet connectivity and continues to provide this service free-of-charge for thousands of PAL youngsters.

Last year, PAL's technology program took another giant step forward as The Comcast Foundation made a two-year commitment of \$100,000 to implement the Comcast Community Connection Computer Education Program. This program provides a structured technology-learning curriculum teaching a wide range of computer skills including



*Members of the West Oak Lane PAL/Comcast Community Connections Computer Education Program receive their diplomas.*

word processing, web design, and Internet safety. Introducing technology as a learning tool to the young people of PAL prepares them for future success in school and in the workplace.

"Providing high-speed broadband Internet connections in the PAL centers was a great first step, but PAL recognized that in order to truly take advantage of this technology they needed to provide knowledgeable volunteers and a structured computer

learning curriculum," said **Dave Watson**, Executive Vice President, Comcast Cable and PAL board member. "I am glad that The Comcast Foundation has funded this program to provide a fun and constructive way for the boys and girls of PAL to develop their computer skills."

In its second year, the fall 2003 Comcast Community Connection Computer Education Program met twice a week over a three-month period at three PAL centers with lessons becoming more complex each week.

Students began by learning word processing and spreadsheet design, then moved on to learn how to use web-based e-mail and Internet search engines. As a final project, students applied their new computer skills to create personal web pages. All youngsters who completed the course received a certificate of computer proficiency at the Dec. 22 graduation ceremony. Beginning in January, another 40 girls and boys will begin the 2004 session of this program which will run until May.



*PAL kids show Comcast's Dave Watson their final PowerPoint presentation.*



# World Class Runner Goes Distance For PAL

When **Jen Rhines** crossed the finish line in last fall's New York City Marathon with a time of 2 hours and 43 minutes, she not only scored an impressive personal victory, but also scored a victory for the 26,000 girls and boys of PAL.

**A Villanova University graduate and Ardmore resident**, Rhines is a former NCAA National Champion who recently finished second in the Philadelphia Distance Run. Also a 2000 Olympian, world-class distance runner and 2004 Olympic-hopeful, she picked the Police Athletic League of Philadelphia as her recipient charity for the 2003 ING "Run for Something Better" Program.

This year, the "Run for Something Better" program featured Rhines and three additional elite female runners from across the globe – **Lornah Kiplagat** of the Netherlands, **Marla Runyan** of Oregon, and **Ludmila Petrova** of Russia – who each competed not only to win the ING New York City Marathon on Sunday, Nov. 2, but also to raise



*PAL youngsters present Jen Rhines with a good luck card. Back Row (l to r): Richard Finn of the NYC Road Runners, Caroline Campbell of ING, Rhines, and Lt. Susan Slawson of PAL.*

money for park improvement projects and programs in their hometowns, like PAL. Based on where the runners finished in relation to each other in the race, ING will donate funds on the athletes' behalf to their respective community projects. For her performance, Rhines raised a total of **\$10,000** for PAL.

On October 22, two weeks prior to the big race, over 80 PAL girls and boys, along with **Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson**, hosted a special send-off party and pep rally for Jen at the Cozen PAL

Center (732 N. 17th St.). At the event, Rhines talked to those in attendance about her career as a long-distance runner, and emphasized the importance of tenacity and self-esteem in reaching one's goals.

On race day, a group of PAL youngsters travelled up to New York City to cheer Jen on as she ran in the Marathon. Under the supervision of a PAL officer, the girls and boys watched the race from a spectacular vantage point in Central Park, near the finish line. For many of the youngsters, it was their first time ever in the Big Apple.

## Fire Dept. Extinguishes Police In Live Chess

Exacting some revenge for last year's defeat, the Philadelphia Fire Department was victorious in the 2003 edition of PAL Live Chess.

"Live Chess" is the annual battle of good vs. good as two teams, representing Philadelphia's Fire and Police Departments, enact a chess match played out by PAL's citywide chess champions. PAL's chess program is sponsored by **the H. Chase and Ana Maria Lenfest Foundation**.

**Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson** and **Fire Commissioner Harold Hairston** once

again served as team captains and "Kings" with PAL youngsters acting as "Pawns." The remaining pieces: Bishops, Knights, Rooks and Queens, were filled out by distinguished Fire and Police personnel and prominent television news celebrities, including **Kerri Lee Halkett** of FOX29; **Steve Bucci** of CBS3; **Steve Highsmith** of WB17 and **Denise Nakano** of NBC10. PAL provides each "chess piece" with the appropriate hat or costume for their position. The event was held at the Franklin Institute for the second straight year.



*(l to r) Fire Commissioner Harold Hairston, Denise Nakano of NBC10 and Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson.*



# PAL Golf Classic Sets Fundraising Record

In a further testament to the limitless generosity of Philadelphia-area individuals and corporations, the 2003 PAL Golf Classic smashed previous records by raising an impressive \$89,000 for the Police Athletic League of Philadelphia.

In its 12<sup>th</sup> year, the event was once again held at the immaculate Manufacturer's Golf and Country Club in Fort Washington, Pa. in early September. Led by Gold Sponsors **Anne and Ron Krancer**, **Verizon Wireless**, and **Altadis USA, Inc.**, the Golf Classic has become entrenched as PAL's second-most important annual fundraising event.

Spearheaded by Golf Committee Chairman **Steve Head**, the Golf Classic has grown by leaps and bounds in the last few years. This year over 110 golfers from over 20 separate companies and organizations participated. Several notable individuals also played, including former Philadelphia Eagles coach, **Rich Kotite**, as well as the past



(l to r) *Derrick Roman, Jim McCabe, Tom McCabe and Jim Schleif.*

four PAL Commanding Officers, not to mention countless PAL board members and business leaders from the Delaware Valley region.

In addition to the scramble tournament and raffle, it was also possible for players to win bonus prizes on certain designated holes. Prizes were awarded for 'closest-to-the-pin' and 'longest drive.' On hole numbers four and thirteen, participants had the chance to win cars by

scoring a hole-in-one.

Each year the golf committee is faced with the challenge of exceeding the previous year's results," said Head. "We are so fortunate that year after year, sponsors step up to the challenge of raising funds for the 26,000 PAL youngsters during uncertain economic times. A special thanks to our gold sponsors, Anne and Ron Krancer, Altadis U.S.A. Inc. and Verizon Wireless."

## 2003 PAL Golf Classic

### Gold Sponsors



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## Board News

### *Congratulations...*

...to **Betty Tuppeny**. Betty was recently named Small Business Person of the Year by the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

...to **Roy Shapiro**. Roy recently retired as General Manager of KYW Newsradio after leading the station for nearly 20 years.

...to **Steve Cozen**. The University of Pennsylvania Law School recently announced that an endowed professorship will bear Steve's name.

...to **Irv Borowsky**. Irv and his wife Laurie Wagman will be honored at the Philadelphia Theater Company's Sweetheart's Brunch on Feb. 8.

## Staff News

### *Welcome...*

...to new PAL Education Coordinators **Patricia Lewis** and **Tamarah Pinkney**.

Patricia is a Philadelphia native, a Temple University graduate and had previously served as a volunteer dance instructor for the PAL Dance Program.

Tamarah is a native of Nyack, NY and a May graduate of Temple University. PAL is pleased to have them on board!

### *Best of Luck...*

...to **Brendan Lee**, **Emily Baddeley** and **Terez Wood**.

After 17 years with PAL, Officer Lee recently retired from the force to take a position with the School District of Philadelphia.

Former PAL education coordinators, Emily and Terez are pursuing other exciting opportunities in the Philadelphia area, best of luck to all!

## PAL Snapshots...



*In December, the Philadelphia Police Department's SWAT unit gave a presentation to PAL's Commissioner's Club at the Cozen PAL Center. Pictured are (l to r) Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson, Police Officers Kobierowski and Haughton of the SWAT team, and PAL Commissioner's Club members Steve Head and Charlie Kahn.*



*In November, Rizzo PAL (pictured) rolled over the competition en route to their second indoor soccer title in the last three years. In the championship game played on Nov. 18, Rizzo PAL defeated Tacony PAL. Sixteen teams competed in PAL's 14 & under coed citywide indoor soccer league this year.*



*ACE INA CEO Dominic Frederico (3rd from right) presents a check to Mill Creek PAL Officer Darren James (far right) and other Police officials in November. ACE INA has generously "adopted" the Mill Creek center, allowing for several improvements.*



# Holiday Season Brings Citywide Celebrations

The Police Athletic League marked the holiday season by taking part in several festive celebrations across the city throughout December.

Wissinoming PAL got the ball rolling by throwing its annual holiday party for the children of the St. Vincent's Home on Dec. 12. At this unique party, members of Wissinoming PAL's "Girl Power" program held a holiday carnival complete with food, games, and gifts.

On Dec. 15, the girls of 23rd PAL's "Positive Images" program celebrated the holidays with kids at Shriners Hospital for Children. All children received gifts and pizza, sponsored by **Aetna, Inc.**

## PAL Holds First Health Fair

On Oct. 23, the Police Athletic League of Philadelphia and **Aetna, Inc.** held a citywide Children's Health Fair at the 23rd PAL Center, located at 1845 N. 23rd St. from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. PAL, which has expanded its programs to include important educational and cultural initiatives in recent years, hopes the Health Fair will increase awareness of health-related issues affecting Philadelphia's inner-city communities.



*PAL kids and Lincoln Financial Group employees celebrate the season at Cozen PAL.*

Employees from **ACE INA** threw their annual holiday party for the kids of Police Memorial PAL on Dec. 17. The evening featured arts and crafts and Santa giving away gifts

donated by ACE.

In addition, on Dec. 18, **Lincoln Financial Group** employees held a similar holiday celebration for the kids of the Cozen PAL Center.

The evening included interactive displays and demonstrations by over one dozen Philadelphia area health and medical organizations, as well as a physical fitness presentation by PAL Police Officers. Door prizes were awarded and dinner was served. **FOX 29's** medical reporter, **Dr. Brian McDonough** was also on hand to address attendees, answer questions and help hand out prizes.



*FOX 29's Dr. Brian McDonough (l.) and Michael Ungvary (r.) of Aetna, Inc. present a check to young people from the 23rd PAL center at the PAL/Aetna Health Fair.*



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**Lt. Susan Slawson**  
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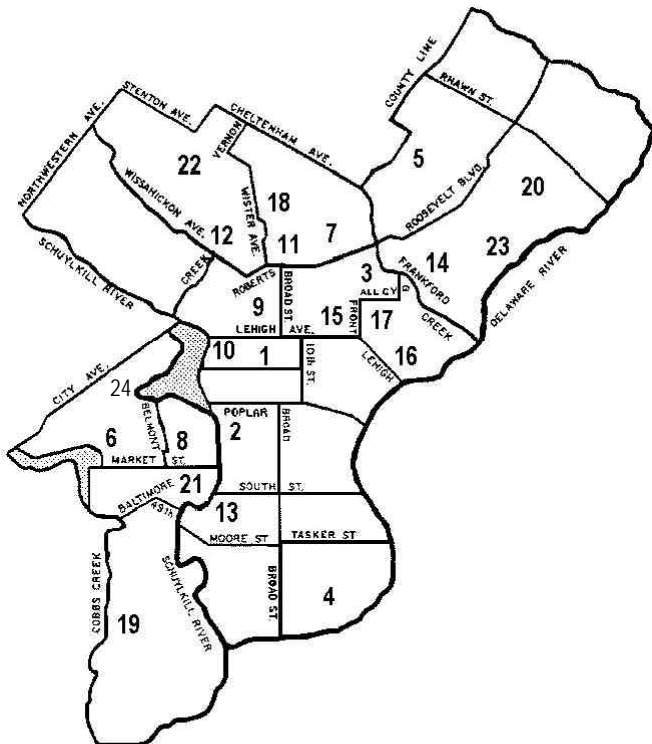


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The Official Newsletter of the Police Athletic League of Philadelphia



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