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**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

**SABAH'S ANNUAL AUCTION GALA & DINNER
"SABAH CELEBRATES BUFFALO'S BEST"**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2007

5:30 PM AT THE STATLER TOWERS

Please Join Us for a Fun-Filled Tribute to W.N.Y.!

Chicken wings, beef on weck, the Sabres and Bills... These are just a few things that make Western New York a great place to live! This fall, SABAH will be paying tribute to all our area has to offer with its annual Auction & Gala.

- ? Many local samplings
- ? Wide array of silent & live items

Stay tuned for more details as we start "talkin' proud!"
We hope to see you there!

Donations and volunteer involvement for SABAH's 2007 Auction & Gala are greatly appreciated. Please call the SABAH office at 362-9600 for more information about the November 10th event.

**2007 AUCTION
"WISH LIST"**

LIVE AUCTION ITEM EXAMPLES

- Travel Packages/Accommodations
- Theme Packages
- Special Sporting Events
- Dinner Packages/Parties
- Large Home & Outdoor Items
- Artwork
- Celebrity Packages
- Jewelry

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

EXAMPLES

- Buffalo-themed Goods
- Local Gift Certificates
- Sporting Goods & Memorabilia
- Electronics
- Top Shelf Wine & Liquor
- Assorted Gift Baskets
- Children's Items
- Home & Yard Services
- Tools
- Kitchenware
- Event Tickets
- Artwork/Jewelry

Please call SABAH if you have ideas or would like to help!



Skating Athletes Bold At Heart

SABAH® SCENES

VOLUME XXX, ISSUE 3

A SABAH Year In Review

May 1, 2006 signaled another fiscal year for SABAH and with it, exciting changes for the organization entering its 30th season of operations. 2006-07 was a year of new beginnings.

A New Identity

In 2006-07, SABAH re-defined and re-embraced its mission: to challenge individuals with disabilities and their volunteer partners to experience the freedom, joy and accomplishment of therapeutic ice-skating while achieving personal growth. Complementing our new identity were the following changes:

- Adoption of a new tag line for the "SABAH" acronym: "Skating Athletes Bold at Heart" to better

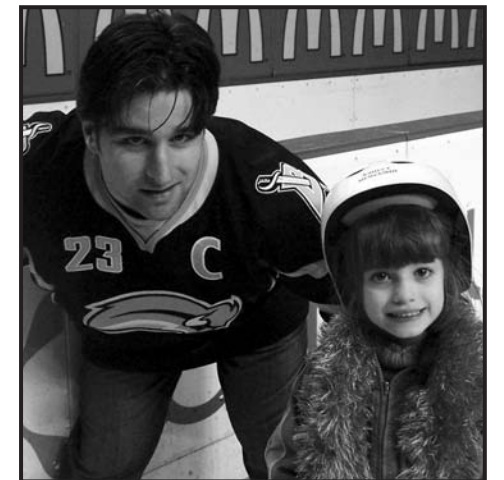
reflect the determination and dedication of our skaters.

- Design of a new blue and gold logo for the organization.
- Increased media coverage of SABAH's programs focusing on the season-long accomplishments of SABAH's skaters rather than solely the annual ice show.

New Friends

The Buffalo Sabres organization became a great friend to SABAH this past year. The hockey club arranged new office space for SABAH, funding a portion of the remodeling of office space adjacent to Riverside Rink in Buffalo. SABAH also uses the facility for our School-Day Program, sharing rink space with Hasek's Heroes and Buffalo Sabres Sled Hockey, two other local not-for-profit organizations. This three-way collaboration enables us to share resources and provide mutual support, allowing more resources to flow directly to services for our athletes.

SABAH was also fortunate in 2006-07 to capture the interest of Chris Drury, Co-captain of the Buffalo Sabres. Chris served as honorary chairperson of the SABAH Auction and Gala in November, provided the opportunity for SABAH athletes to attend several Sabres games, lent his name to fundraising efforts and personally hosted a skating session for SABAH athletes at HSBC Arena in



Chris Drury and skater Ashley Mercurio

February. Chris's kindness has made a lasting impression on the SABAH family.

In addition, SABAH enjoyed tremendous support from Wegmans. A major sponsor of SABAH's *Celebration on Ice 2007*, "SABAH Salutes the Oscars," Wegmans reached out to our athletes with great enthusiasm and generosity of spirit. Wegmans joined long-time SABAH sponsor NFA, (National Fire Adjustment Co., Inc.) as a top sponsor of the *Celebration on Ice*, with support also coming from Diversified Manufacturing, Inc. (DMI), HSBC Bank and Phillips Lytle LLP.

See **REVIEW** on page 3



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“My kids love SABAH and so do their parents!”
~A Teacher from SABAH’s School Day Program

★ Greetings From The Executive Director!

As I look back at the 2006-07 year in review, I am amazed at what we as an organization have accomplished by working together as a team. New programs and new partnerships have developed, but the most important accomplishments are the smiles that grow on our athletes’ faces. To see that sense of pride brings into focus what is so special about our program.

The annual Ice Show celebrated the yearlong accomplishments of our athletes, but anyone who is associated with the program knows it only tells a part of the SABAH story. The magic

of SABAH happens each week through little moments not seen by thousands but between two people on the ice. These are the special bonds created between athlete and volunteer, among our athletes or in camaraderie between our volunteers. We accomplish a great deal physically, with improved balance and stamina, but the friendship, love and acceptance our athletes experience defines our program.

As we look ahead to the upcoming year I would love to hear

from you about your vision for SABAH. This is a program that belongs to you, and your ideas are important to us. If you have suggestions or ideas to make our programming better fit the needs of our skaters and volunteers, please e-mail me at sobrien@sabahinc.org. It is through our collective ideas that we can continue to build this truly wonderful organization. Thank you for a fabulous year!!!!

- Sheila O’Brien

Ingram Micro Funds Rink Accessibility At Riverside

Through the generosity of Ingram Micro, a worldwide technology distribution company with offices in Williamsville, SABAH will benefit from improvements to Riverside Rink, home of SABAH’s School-Day Adaptive Ice-Skating (SDAIS) Program. Modifications to the rink will make the facility handicapped-accessible and increase equipment storage capacity at the site, at a projected cost of approximately \$45,000. Upon completion of these improvements, Riverside Rink will be one of the few handicapped-adapted rinks in the United States and the only one in the Northeast.

The project is a collaborative effort undertaken by SABAH in conjunction with Hasek’s Heroes and Buffalo Sabres Sled Hockey, not-for-profit organizations that also operate out of the Riverside Rink. Hasek’s Heroes, initiated by former Buffalo Sabres goalie Dominic Hasek, provides hockey training for disadvantaged youths. Buffalo Sabres Sled Hockey serves individuals with physical disabilities who participate in its adaptive hockey program. All three organizations worked together in early 2007 to structure a proposal recently approved by Ingram Micro.

Specific improvements will include creating ramp access to the ice, installation of clear plexiglas along segments of the rink boards (for wheelchair viewing), ice access in front of team benches for players on sleds, widening of entrances and exits to facilitate use of assistive devices and increased storage capabilities for specialized equipment. Initial work on the project is expected to begin this coming July.

SABAH’s relationship with Hasek’s Heroes and Sled Hockey began with the support and vision of Buffalo Sabres’ management in securing shared rink space for the three groups at the Riverside Rink as of September, 2006. Since then, the organizations have worked together in numerous ways: sharing staff and computer resources in addition to rink space, staffing community venues together, sharing meeting facilities and developing a pilot hockey program for individuals with disabilities. The rink accessibility project is an outstanding example of how the three organizations are working together to maximize services for those in need while minimizing expenses. The potential for collaboration between the three groups is tremendous and continues to be explored. Look for updates on the project at www.sabahinc.org throughout the summer.

SABAH Mission

SABAH’s mission is to challenge individuals with special needs and volunteer partners to experience the success, pride, freedom and joy of therapeutic ice-skating while achieving personal growth.”

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- Jody Colby, Skating Instructor
- Julie Virostko-Ende, Skating Instructor
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- Andrea Michnik, Volunteer Coordinator/Marketing Assistant
- Robert O’Connor, III, Special Events/ Rink Operations
- Lynn Pullano, Marketing/ Development Director
- Lisa Reinhart, Database Manager
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CELEBRATION ON ICE 2007



“Can’t wait to see you next year!”
~SABAH Skater

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CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Do you have ideas for content you would like to see in the newsletters?

Is there an event or important news you would like to share with SABAH friends?

LET US KNOW!

Email:
sabah@sabahinc.org

Many Thanks

This year SABAH had the pleasure of working with a number of wonderful groups and organizations. Thank you to all of those who took the time to help:

? Twenty girls from Mt. Mercy Academy joined SABAH in February to help on and off the ice with our School Day Program. The girls learned about SABAH, students with disabilities and what they can do to make a difference.

? In March, students from Sacred Heart Academy visited SABAH to help assemble fundraising letters as part of the school’s service outreach Day of Caring. In just three hours the students were able to label and package over 5,000 pieces of mail!

? SABAH thanks photographer Mark Dellas for giving us the opportunity to sell his book “Sabres In Traffic” as a fundraiser. Book are still available at the SABAH office for those interested.

? SABAH would also like to thank the Walden Galleria for allowing us to sell raffle tickets and display information about our programs at the mall throughout our 2006-2007 season. Look for SABAH at the Walden Galleria in the coming months.

We couldn’t have done it without you!

REVIEW Cont’d.

The generosity of these and many other local supporters made the 2007 ice show one of the most successful ever, and we are most grateful for their assistance.

Events, Old and New
SABAH’s signature event, *Celebration on Ice 2007*: “SABAH Salutes the Oscars,” brought an audience of thousands to their feet in delight, applauding outstanding performances of movie-based songs. Returning as this year’s hosts, comedian Tom Irwin and WIVB’s Victoria Hong helped our skaters showcase their skills and accomplishments. The spirit and determination of our amazing athletes, combined with the dedication of wonderful volunteers produced a heartwarming event that won’t soon be forgotten. Kudos to all!

Other events in 2006-07 that helped generate enthusiasm and support for SABAH’s athletes included:
• “Cruz the Falls,” a PT-Cruiser car show with SABAH as the beneficiary.
• SABAH’s Summer Dance at St. Mark’s Catholic Church in July.
• Fundraising promotions at the Walden Galleria and local sporting events.

In addition, SABAH’s ever-growing Auction Gala was the largest to date, held in November, 2006 at the Statler Towers with a Hollywood theme, raising over \$60,000 for SABAH programs.

In January, School-Day skaters were treated to a visit by Disney characters and Disney on Ice skating professionals, who spent time teaching and encouraging our athletes.

To recognize the outstanding support of volunteers and corporate

sponsors, our Awards Night was held in March at Rizzo’s Banchetti Restaurant. The event provided the opportunity to thank those who showed extraordinary commitment to our athletes in our mission to serve individuals with disabilities.

New Accomplishments
SABAH’s most important accomplishment is turning possibilities into realities for our athletes who face special challenges. All our efforts center on the personal goals of our skaters. It is their determination, enjoyment and development that drive this organization. In 2006-07, SABAH athletes showed outstanding physical, cognitive, social and emotional growth.

While our athletes’ smiles and pride perhaps best tell the story of their successes, this year we began to collect and evaluate developmental data more systematically. We are pleased to report the great strides being made by our athletes. For example, in our School-Day program, athletes whose progress was measured experienced an average 72% improvement in Communications, ADL (Activities of Daily Living), and Gross/Fine Motor objectives.

SABAH athletes participated for the first time in a pilot hockey program, offered in conjunction with Hasek’s Heroes and Nichols High School. The sessions were enjoyed by SABAH athletes, who learned hockey skills from some of the best local teen players. Plans are in the works to offer this successful program on a more widespread basis in the coming skating season, involving additional SABAH skaters and area high schools. Stay tuned for more details! (*See photo below.*)

Recreational programs were filled to capacity at our Amherst Pepsi Center and Hamburg rinks, and enrollment increased at Niagara University and North Buffalo. In all, SABAH coordinated six programs at five local rinks this past season, with more than 600 skaters and over 400 volunteers.

And More to Come...
SABAH is positioning itself to provide increasingly relevant and accessible recreational education for individuals affected by physical, cognitive and emotional challenges. The past 30 years have seen much growth and change in the organization, but the best is yet to come!



“SABAH gives students an opportunity to grow outside of the classroom.”
 ~SABAH’s School Day Program Teacher

Donor Appreciation

Thank you to all individuals, foundations, corporations, organizations and businesses who have helped SABAH since August of 2006. Our organization would not exist without your help. We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for your generosity and continued support.

** Although every effort has been made to acknowledge the generosity of our donors correctly, it is possible that we might miss someone. Please call SABAH to notify us of any omission so we may correct it in our next issue.**

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The United Way offers the opportunity for you to designate some or all of your gift to SABAH. If you would like more information on how to designate your gift, please contact the United Way or your workplace representative. Together we can make a difference... helping people in our community live better lives. **SABAH’s United Way Designated Account Number: 658161**

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 Mr. and Mrs. Gregory A. Krauza
 Ms. Margaret M. Mergenhagen
 Mr. and Mrs. James C. Neal
 Ms. Jayne K. Rand
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Sillence
 The Sunshine Club of Mercy Hospital
 Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Webber
 Wittburn Enterprises
 Ms. Margaret R. Young

In memory of: Clara Gelfand
 Ms. Edith Gelfand

In memory of: Gary George, Jr.
 Ms. Melissa Coffta
 Mrs. Jennifer Ess & Family
 Mr. and Mrs. Gary George, Sr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Karl Haist, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Porebski
 Mr. and Mrs. William F. Stevens

In memory of: John Green
 Amherst Bantam Minor AA

In memory of: Emily Hermance
 Mr. and Mrs. George Hermance

In memory of: Armod R. Law
 Mrs. Sandra S. Cammarata

In memory of: Anne and John McKay
 Ms. Sheila A. McKay

In memory of: Peter J. Miller
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Truscio

In memory of: Laura Patterson
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Riga, Jr.

In memory of: Elaine Rejewski
 Ms. Julianna Rimo

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