COOPERSTOWN TOURNAMENT WEEK

PATHFINDER UPDATE
Each September, it is our privilege to welcome golfers, tennis players, sponsors, and good friends to the Otesaga Hotel Seniors Open & Pro-Am, and the Chobani Tennis Classic and Juniors Tennis Classic, which support scholarships at Pathfinder Village in Edmeston, New York. Founded in 1980, Pathfinder Village is a remarkable, inclusive open-access residential community and service provider for people who have Down syndrome and developmental disabilities, and is a vibrant place where people from all walks of life learn, work and play, creating lives of meaning and independence.

Our key sponsors have been steadfast partners and have insured the success of these events. We are honored to have the tremendous support of our Seniors Open Title Sponsor, The Otesaga Resort Hotel, and our Presenting Sponsor, NBT Bank. Chobani, which has won world-wide acclaim and revitalized New York's dairy industry, is Title Sponsor for our Tennis Classic and new Juniors tournament. We also extend our deep gratitude to our other major tournament sponsors: Corporate Sponsor Coca-Cola Refreshments, Platinum Sponsors NYCM Insurance and the Nicolais Family.

We would be remiss if we did not extend our gratitude to all tournament sponsors, especially those who have been with us from the beginning. Together, with their tremendous support, the tournaments have helped raise over $2.6 million for Pathfinder, and have created a tradition that is unmatched anywhere.

On behalf of the Tournament Committees and everyone at Pathfinder Village, we thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Daryl R. Forsythe
Seniors Open Co-Chair

Dan W. Spooner
Seniors Open Co-Chair

Bob and Pat Hanft
Tennis Tournament Chairs

Paul C. Landers, M.Ed.
CEO, Pathfinder Village
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Hall of Famer Rollie Fingers returns to Cooperstown as celebrity host

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A heron fishes in Otsego Lake during the 2015 Pro-Am.

Photo credits: Kevin Doonan-Chobani, Lori Grace, Paul Kidder, Milo V. Stewart, Sandy Truax

We apologize that a gift from Mr. & Mrs. Walter J. Carey, in memory of Janett Wiswell, RN, was incorrectly listed in the 2015 Pathfinder Village Annual Report.
One of baseball’s strongest closers, Hall of Famer Roland Glen Fingers, returns to Cooperstown as Celebrity Host for the 34th annual Otesaga Hotel Seniors Open & Pro-Am on September 6th. With his iconic moustache and signature sense of fun, Rollie will rally everyone in support of Pathfinder Village scholarships and the Education Programs at the National Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum.

As part of his duties, Rollie will spend part of Labor Day at Pathfinder, an inclusive residential community for people with Down syndrome and other disabilities. An avid golfer, he will play in Tuesday’s Pro-Am, and then take part in the tournament’s Awards Banquet at The Otesaga Resort Hotel.

Rollie’s previous appearance at the Pro-Am, back in 2013, was highlighted by a ball game and autograph session with Village residents. "It was a memorable visit, and Rollie loved sharing baseball stories with our diehard fans," said Paul Landers, the Village’s Chief Executive Officer. "One fan had an impressive notebook of Rollie-era memorabilia; everyone loved remembering great moments of the game."

Inducted into the Hall in 1992, Rollie won the 1981 Cy Young Award and MVP Award as a reliever for the Brewers. He was named an All Star seven times, and had 341 saves during his 17-year pitching career. He was on the Oakland A’s during the team’s three-peat at the World Series, 1972-74, and was named the 1974 series’ MVP after earning two saves and one win against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

**TOURNAMENT TIME**

For over three decades, The Otesaga Resort Hotel has hosted the Seniors Open & Pro-Am at its Leatherstocking Golf Course; the event stands out as Pathfinder’s largest benefit event, having earned over $2.6 million through the years. Co-chaired by Daryl Forsythe and LGC
Host Professional Dan Spooner, the benefit has enjoyed the longtime support of Presenting Sponsor NBT Bank, and Corporate Sponsor Coca-Cola Refreshments. For six years, the Pro-Am has been coupled with The Chobani Foundation Tennis Classic at the Cooperstown Country Club; this event is chaired by Pat and Bob Hanft of Cooperstown. All together, these tournaments annually raise over $60,000 for residential and student scholarships at Pathfinder Village.

Tournament week continues on September 7th, with the three-day Seniors Open, which attracts top golf senior pros and offers a total purse of up to $75,000. It boasts an enviable past player list that includes former top PGA-ranked pros Jim Albus, Tom Nieporte, and Pete Oakley. Over 80 pros are expected to compete.

Tournament week closes out this year on September 10th, as volunteers led by Jeanette Weldon and Charlie Kieler organize the second annual Juniors Tennis Classic, also sponsored by The Chobani Foundation. This singles event is for players ages 18 and under, and provides another avenue to support Pathfinder scholarships. Last year’s inaugural event had over 40 participants.

HISTORIC HOSPITALITY

Even before guests meet Rollie or take part in the fun at this year’s tournaments, they will be captivated by the gracious hospitality of The Otesaga Resort Hotel, now celebrating its 107th season. Striving to make each guest’s stay a memorable sojourn, the Hotel offers a gratifying menu of comfortable guest accommodations, relaxing treatments at the Hawkeye Spa, locally sourced and expertly prepared gourmet cuisine, enticing waterfront recreation activities, and unparalleled ways to relax and enjoy Lake Otsego’s breathtaking views.

2015 WRAP-UP

Pathfinder’s benefit events have developed traditions that honor competition and sportsmanship. Last year’s Pro-Am — featuring Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg — was won by the Preferred Mutual Team of Brian Lopata, George Busch, Fred Schneider and Ernie Weeks, led by Senior Pro Alex Romanoff, Rockledge, Fl. Second-place finishers included Jim Bugonian, Jim Potts, Peter Severud and Andrew Vilacky, led by Pro Scott Spence, an area native and the 2007 Seniors Open Champion.

Golf Pro Craig Thomas of White Plains rallied on the back nine to win the 2015 Seniors Open. Thomas carded 68 during each round, ending at nine-under-par, to win the Open by one stroke over Tim Conley of Braselton, Ga.

“The score of 68-68-68 looks consistent, but in truth none of the rounds were that consistent,” Thomas said. “For the week I was five-over on the front nine, and 14-under on the back. Today I birdied six of the last seven holes. After I hit a good drive on the 18th hole, I’m trying to calculate in my head if I’m up or am I behind. I had no idea.”

Other top Seniors Open finishers included Alan Schulte, Fisher, Ind., (206); Jerry Courville, Stratford, Ct. (207); and Dick Mast, Lynchburg, Va., Javier Sanchez, Fayetteville, Ga., and Mark Tucker, New Hartford, tied for fifth (208).
The 2015 Chobani Foundation Tennis Classic was won by Charles Kieler, Cooperstown, and Jon Hansen, Oneonta, in Flight A, and Carolyn Lewis, Cooperstown, and Robert Holstead, Oneonta, in Flight B. Runners-up for Flight A included Stan Rabbiner, Oneonta, and Gwen Snyder, Cooperstown; runners-up for Flight B were Patrick Kinley, Cooperstown, and Semira Khashaei, Oneonta.

At the Juniors tourney, flights were organized by age and named after favorite Chobani flavors. Winners included: Blackberry Flight: 1st Gunter Weldon, Cooperstown; 2nd Ryan Hellenthal, Cooperstown; Strawberry Flight: 1st David Fenner, Clinton; 2nd Benjamin van der Riet, Cooperstown; Blueberry Flight: 1st Tyler Bertram, Cooperstown; 2nd Will Weldon, Cooperstown.
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Pathfinder student Dan R. is a young man who is going places. He seeks new skills and opportunities each day. From learning about fire safety from Edmeston's Fire Chief, to earning achievement awards at school, Dan makes each moment count!
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On Saturdays and evenings this fall, Grant's Field at Pathfinder Village will be filled with young soccer players, taking part in what has become one of the most popular youth sports today. The home of Tri-Town Youth Soccer and Pathfinder’s Special Olympics team, the field opened in 2012 and has become a local landmark for area families and athletes.

“Grant’s Field was the genesis of what has been and will continue to be a deliberate campaign to make the Pathfinder community more inclusive,” said Pathfinder Village Chief Executive Officer Paul C. Landers. “We recognized that the long term viability of our beloved Pathfinder depends on expanding our community by finding ways to make it a natural part of the local community. Grant’s Field was the first of many initiatives that is bringing people of all abilities together!”

Grant’s Field sits along Turner Lane, and was funded by Bob and Rosie Stubbs, Ridgewood, New Jersey, NYCM Insurance, and the Tri-Town Youth Commission, Edmeston. The field was named in honor of the Stubbs’ son, Grant, an avid skier, golfer, and a member of several Pathfinder athletic squads. The Stubbs Family has actively encouraged individuals with disabilities to participate in sports, through their involvement with the Adaptive Sports Program and work with veterans who have disabilities.

Grant’s Field also anchors Pathfinder’s health zone, which includes the recently opened William F. Streck Health Center, operated by Bassett Healthcare Network, and Pathfinder Pro-

Pathfinder athlete Andrew Hyman works past defender Garrett Esper from the Colgate University Men’s Team during a soccer clinic that Esper organized this spring; the Colgate and Pathfinder Village teams, gathered around the Grant’s Field sign, near the Village’s new health center on Turner Lane.
duce, a weekly fresh produce market operated by the Village’s Adult Day Vocational Program to support better nutrition for local families.

As youth players learn game fundamentals and compete at Grant’s Field, parents, grandparents, and other family members clearly love watching the teams, which are all sponsored by area businesses from Edmeston-Burlington, Cherry Valley and Cooperstown.

"Kids and families love the laid-sod fields, but they also come away from the experience with a newfound appreciation of all the great things that Pathfinder adds to our community, and how people living with developmental disabilities contribute to the quality of life in towns and cities throughout America," said Bill Cole, past chair of the Pathfinder Village Foundation, a native of Edmeston and longtime advocate for community youth sports.

Grant’s Field is also regularly used by Pathfinder School students and older students who attend Otsego Academy, Pathfinder’s post-secondary program. Grant’s Field also encourages friendships among players of different abilities: Earlier this year, the field was the site of an exchange between the Pathfinder team and the Colgate University Men’s Team from Hamilton. The clinic, organized by Garrett Esper ’18, a bio-chemistry major from Windsor, Connecticut, included warm-up drills, skill building games, and a scrimmage.

"Having a family member who has Down syndrome, it is something that has been very important and evident throughout my life," said Mr. Esper. "Through the clinic, I was able to combine my love for soccer with my respect and passion towards those with disabilities, specifically Down syndrome. I thought that my teammates and our entire program could help teach about the game while also giving the residents a chance to meet new people and enjoy playing a game that has been integral to many of my teammates' lives."
"Similarly, it was a chance for my teammates to help the community. They could learn more about Down syndrome and have an appreciation for how incredibly talented, hard working, and caring each of the individuals are," continued Mr. Esper. From the very beginning, my coaches were 100% committed to helping me organize the clinic. The team was supportive and understood how important this was not only to me, but also to the residents and staff."

"The experience went above and beyond my expectations. The turnout from Pathfinder was incredible ... and although some of my teammates were unsure at the start, they were all engaged and excited by the end of our time at Pathfinder," concluded Mr. Esper. "The main takeaway for me was how much of an impact we can have as student-athletes in the community.... Through our shared love for soccer we were able to bring two very different groups of people together to have an incredible event and a life-long memory. My teammates all knew that community service was an important aspect of our status at Colgate, but I believe they found a new understanding of how incredible and inspirational people can be, regardless of whether or not they have a disability."

The role of Grant's Field as the backdrop for inclusion will evolve and grow every season, as new players attend practices, clinics, and games, and families enjoy the setting as part of youth sports, and as a key part of their children's personal stories.

"Soccer is such a great sport, both for individuals who work to stay fit and improve, and for those who play informally or practice as a team," said Special Olympics Coach Charleen Orendorff, Pathfinder’s Assistant Director of Enrichment Programs. "No matter the ability level...there's team building that just happens when two or three kids grab a ball and play. Athletes share, learn, and focus on working together, which builds confidence, creates friendships and understanding. It makes all the difference, both on and off the field."

SPRING SOCCER: Young players from Cooperstown and Edmeston, playing for the NYCM and Ingalls Blueberry Hill sponsored teams, focus on ball control and team work during a recent Saturday morning game. Right: Cooperstown coach Carolyn Lewis and guest player Thorin Wagner-Peck enjoy a day of soccer fun last fall. In any one season, over 400 players involved in the Tri-Town Youth Soccer League may visit Grant’s Field at Pathfinder Village.

"... that each life may find meaning."
The biggest mountains aren't ones made of stone and snow.

The Stubbs Family is proud to work with The Adaptive Sports Foundation, a non-profit agency that provides life enhancing experiences through outdoor activities, education, and support for those living with illnesses or disabilities.

For 30 years, ASF has promoted physical activity through winter sports, yoga and personal fitness. ASF also supports a ski team for athletes with physical & cognitive challenges, and a residential program for paralympians.

The ASF is a regional site for programs that help troops injured in combat rebuild their lives as they heal. These programs teach about wellness, mental health, weight control and fitness.

For more information, visit www.adaptivesportsfoundation.org

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For many, the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001 has never ebbed. Families and friends of those who perished through the attacks continue to feel their loss: An emptiness abides as we try to explain the inexplicable … even after 15 years.

In September 2001, as we watched dark scenes unfold, we instinctively sought a guiding light to lead us home, back to normal. Baseball was one such beacon; the game reprised its role in raising the nation’s spirits as it had in the 1930s and 40s.

In tribute to the heroes of Sept. 11, this year the National Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum offers a special exhibit case through December, *Baseball After 9-11*, which highlights the game’s role in the healing process. The Hall will also feature an iconic artifact, the Mavaro Baseball, in its touring exhibit, the *Baseball Hall of Fame Tour*, which will be in St. Louis, Las Vegas, and Bloomington, Minn. this fall.

**Up From the Ashes**

The Mavaro ball was recovered at Ground Zero by FDNY Battalion Chief Vin Mavaro, now retired. According to a November 2001 story from the *New York Post*, Mavaro was struggling each day as he and other rescuers would sift through the World Trade Center debris. A lifelong baseball fan, he found an intact baseball at the site in late September, and he felt “for maybe the first time since Sept. 11, a feeling of lightness.”

The scuffed-up ball, a promotional item from the bond firm TradeWeb, featured signature-style names of the company’s largest corporate trading partners. Mavaro later learned that all of TradeWeb’s 80 employees made it out of the North Tower alive. “Being a baseball fan, coach and player, this item has become a symbol of hope for me,” said Mavaro in 2001. Soon afterwards, he presented the ball to the Hall of Fame, saying, “The ball’s nicked up, but it’s intact and it came through. I feel the same about New York City, the Fire Department and the United States. We’re banged up, we took a hit, but we came through.”

Other items in *Baseball After 9-11* include caps representing New York’s police and fire departments, worn on Sept. 21 by Mets Manager Bobby Valentine and Pitcher John Franco in the first game played in New York after the attacks. According to the book, *Haunted Baseball* (Bradley & Gordon, 2007), the Mets vs. Braves game at Shea Stadium was also the first major event in the city after the attacks—tensions and emotions ran high.

A jersey worn in that game by 2016 Hall of Fame Inductee Mike Piazza, on special loan from private collectors, also was featured in the exhibit earlier this summer. On that night, Piazza hit a two-run homer at the bottom of the eighth, which lifted the Mets to a 3-2 win. It stood out as a galvanizing moment, as fans everywhere celebrated the come-from-behind, over-the-fence-run as a symbol of American resiliency.

During a January 2016 conference call hosted by the Hall of Fame, Piazza said that the 9-21 homerun stood out. “That was a moment that just transcends the game in a sense. That whole week is something that, as I think back, I get extremely emotional about. And it’s tough—tough to sort even years later…. I’m just very honored that people put me in a category (of those who) helped at least heal a little bit.”

To see *Baseball After 9-11*, or to plan your trip to the national shrine of baseball, visit www.baseballhall.org. The National Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum is open seven days a week year round, with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day.
Ed and Chris Stack salute the dedicated and caring staff of PATHFINDER VILLAGE

All of you are our Heroes!
Through the years, we’ve walked many miles and shared special smiles. Thanks for making so many Pathfinder dreams come true!

Best wishes for a great tournament!
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Pathfinder Village was bustling with activity this summer, which underscores that ours is an inclusive, open-access community that is integral to our area. Through July, our welcoming campus had over 27,000 visitors for the year; we also regularly provide over 210 services to people with disabilities through residential, educational, vocational and community-based programs.

Regular activities included our annual American Red Cross Blood Drive, the Employee Recognition Lunch, the Ice Cream Social, our Thursday Pathfinder Produce market, and weekly ZUMBA classes. There were plenty of special gatherings too, like graduation and retirement parties, and meetings of the Edmeston Rotary Club, Rotary Community Corps, and other civic groups.

**Key Events included:**

**Otsego Academy Graduation, May 27, 2016:** The first-ever Otsego Academy Graduation was a joyful celebration, which highlighted the achievements of three graduates, Joshua Howard, Theresa Clark and Eric Mackiewicz, from our new post-secondary program. During their studies, the students focused on academics, internships and job readiness, and independent living skills.

**Dash to the Splash, Splash Path 5K & Fun Walk, May 21:** To encourage fitness and involvement, the Splash Path team developed an incremental training program, *Dash to the Splash*, that was completed by 40 area residents who attended twice-weekly training sessions for eight weeks. The third annual *Splash Path 5K*, Pathfinder’s paint run & walk, had over 700 participants and 30 key sponsors. It featured an after-run festival with nearly 40 vendors, kid activities, and more. Over $10,000 was raised: $5,000 will go to the Town of Edmeston Pool Fund for a new community pool; the remainder will go to fitness equipment, amenities and maintenance for Pathfinder’s Walking Trail, which is open to the public.
Residents’ Formal, Friends & Family Day, June 10 & 11: Village friends and families gathered to celebrate all things Path-finder, starting with the traditional annual Residents’ Formal on Friday eve. Saturday morning’s rain gave way to a glorious day, which was perfect for tours of the new Health Center, sales at the Commons, a hot air balloon activity, and lively drumming. The event ended with dinner and a dance at the Pavilion.

Pathfinder School Graduation, June 23: Pathfinder School had its largest graduating class in recent years with eight students. Speaker NYS Senator James Seward, the longest serving member of the Board of Directors, said, “Anyone who has come here can attest, Pathfinder is much more than a school or place to live …. This is a unique and special place, and it is made more so by each and every one of you here today.”
Summer Concert Series & Lindsey Family Concert: The Pavilion was the place to be Saturday nights this summer, as we presented our 19th annual Concert Series, featuring a variety of genres and artists. The concerts were well attended by local residents, and were made possible with support from the NYS Council on the Arts, Stewarts’ Shops, and WGY’s Christmas Wish. A special free community concert and cookout, featuring the Lindseys, a gospel/bluegrass group, was presented by local businesses at the Pavilion on August 24.

Troop 9 Field Day, July 13: Scouts from Edmeston’s Troop 9 came for a day of sports and sharing activities, a traditional part of Pathfinder School’s summer session. This is a great way for students to mix with peers, and friendships and great memories result in this fun exchange.

Camp Pathfinder, July 17-August 19: Over 25 young adults attended three adventure-filled sessions of Camp Pathfinder, to make friends, try new challenges, and grow in independence. This was the sixth year of Camp; many of our campers have returned each year and have become an extension of our close-knit community. The campers visited many regional attractions, and balanced fun day trips with art, music, and social activities at our campus.

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SPECIAL THANKS go to Driver Joey Lagano and Patrick Warren of the Kansas Speedway, who went the extra mile for Chris and Tom in their efforts to help Pathfinder Village.
Thank You!
The Tennis Steering Committee extends its gratitude to the members of the Cooperstown Country Club for their support of Pathfinder Village

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