

Editorial page

Our opinion

Special help for special people

Late in February, when the fund-raising campaign for the New York State Special Olympic Games — athletic competition for the mentally handicapped — to be held in June on Wagner College's campus was inaugurated, a \$10,000 check was presented by the Burger King Corp. in behalf of its restaurant chain. That was a big step toward the hoped-for goal of \$80,000.

Now the fast-food chain has pledged to donate five cents for every sandwich or hamburger sold this month on the Island, with a minimum of \$11,000 promised.

Those Special Olympics, being co-sponsored this year by Wagner College and the Advance, are expected to have more than 1,200 retarded

young people from all parts of the state taking part. Most of the competitors from upstate will come via a special Amtrak train arriving in Manhattan June 11, and the participants will be quartered in dormitories at Wagner College for the weekend.

We hail the participation of many Islanders as volunteers, and especially the really great way in which Burger King has taken a prime role in financing the event, plus the training clubs and the instruction which will be provided youngsters in PS 3, Pleasant Plains, PS 19, West Brighton, and the Occupational Training Center in New Brighton three afternoons a week.

In addition, there will be special

swimming classes for the retarded, including those at Willowbrook Developmental Center, at the South Beach Psychiatric Center and an after-school program at the Staten Island Children's Museum in Stapleton.

Individuals who want to help this worthy endeavor may join its Sponsor, an Athlete program, donating \$35 to the New York Special Olympics, Inc. Balltown and Consaul Rds., Schenectady, N.Y. 12304. And we think there should also be a great deal of participation by Island business firms, following the example set by Burger King. Any firm wanting to help can contact Louis DeLuca, director of development at Wagner College and host director for this year's games.