

Center's director aided Olympics success

I have sent this letter to Commissioner James Introne of the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities in Albany, and other officials:

"The Staten Island Special Olympics Committee, with the cooperation of the Staten Island Developmental Center, has just completed the most successful sports event for the mentally retarded population our Island has ever had. I am referring to our Special Olympics Sectional Games held at the Staten Island Developmental Center during the weekend of May 2, 3 and 4 of this year.

"To give you a brief outline of the magnitude of such an event, I state some of the statistics. Over 550 Special Olympians participated, over 1,000 volunteers from the community were involved. For many it was their first experience with mental retardation. We had 25 community organizations involved during this weekend, many of them having their people stay overnight with our athletes.

"Commissioner Introne, none of these wonderful things could have developed without the full cooperation and expertise of Elin Howe, director of Staten Island Developmental Center.

"Through the efforts of Miss Howe, the community attitude toward the Developmental Center is definitely and drastically changing. Her personal involvement with our committee, which represents a total community effort, parents, special educators, community organizations and the general public of Staten Island, has so impressed us that we know we will be able to do so much more for our mentally retarded population in the coming years. With the cooperation of Miss Howe and her staff we know this task will be made much easier."

RICHARD SALINARDI,
Coordinator, Staten Island Special
Olympics,