

Special Olympics sports teams gather for holiday event: Scene at the Crossroads

By [Bev Dewitt](#)

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According to **Dana Martin**, the coordinator for those extraordinary Special Olympics athletes, those fine gentlemen members of the Strongsville City Club outdid themselves with the 14th annual Christmas Breakfast for all of the gals and guys participating on the round-the-year Special Olympics sports teams.

Not only did this one provide a fantastic opportunity for them to get together just for the sheer fun of it without any sports gear or uniforms, it also afforded them a time to reminisce about how terrific this past year had been, plus, to enjoy the great food, the music, the gifts, a chat with the jolly old elf himself and lots of pats on the back from Slider.

And, on Dec. 20, Dana was Johnny-on-the spot with e-mailing me the results from the Special Olympics latest swimming competition as soon as she arrived home.

Please note that several of these athletes took home more than one award at this meet. Climbing out of the pool with gold awards were **Lisa Skinner** and **Nate Zatezalo**. Silver swimmers were **Gabe Finney**, **Dylan Mates**, **Liz Mulhan**, **Dylan Stearns** and Skinner. Earning bronze were **Arielle Brown**, **Corrie Miller**, **Liz Mulhan**, **Kayla Stearns**, **Jessie Wilson** and **Frank Zachlin**.

Fourth-place finishers were **Theresa Buzzelli**, **Jessie Wilson**, **Zatezalo** and Brown. Receiving fifth-place ribbons were **Meghan Drops**, **Annie Murray** and Buzzelli. Drops, Mates and Zachlin also earned additional sixth-place awards.

Way to go, gals and guys!

Congratulations on yet another incredible year of competition. I'm sure you can't wait for 2010's to begin.

Applause should also be extended to **Debbie Yarwood**, **Tammi** and **Joe Costa**, and **Laura Brown** for their swim coaching expertise. And, of course, these athletes would not have these year-round chances to compete without the continued sponsorship and support of the Strongsville City Club.

A standing ovation with oodles of hand clapping and cheering must indeed be publicly given to Dana Martin, the woman who remains the Special Olympians' biggest "cheer"-leader and their best friend, always giving them incentive and inspiration throughout each and every year.

Bless you, Dana!

http://www.cleveland.com/sunstarcourier/index.ssf/2009/12/special_olympics_sports_teams.html