

JAMES McVEIGH

BORN IN ROCKAWAY BEACH, NEW YORK, SON OF PEGGY AND OWEN, SISTERS, MARGARET AND KATHLEEN, AND SEVEN BROTHERS: OWEN, TOM, VINNY, KEVIN, MICHAEL, FRANK, AND TERRY. JAMES'S GRANDPARENTS HAIL FROM DUBLIN, CORK, GALWAY AND MONAHAN.

UNCLE FRANK MCVEIGH AND HIS LATE MOM, WHO PASSED IN 1988 WERE VERY INFLUENTIAL IN KEEPING THE IRISH TRADITION ALIVE IN THE ROCKAWAY'S. I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO MY MOM, ESPECIALLY FOR ALL OF HER HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO OUR FAMILY. WE MISS HER AND LOVE HER VERY MUCH. MY DAD HAS ALWAYS BEEN A GREAT FRIEND TO ME, SHOWING ME THROUGH EXAMPLE, THE POWER OF PRAYER, HUMILITY, COURAGE AND FAITH. HE AND HIS WIFE LILY ARE A CONSTANT SOURCE OF JOY..

JAMES RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A WEDDING IN CO CAVAN, IRELAND WITH A GREAT GROUP OF FRIENDS, HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME. A FEW YEARS BACK I SPENT TIME IN IRELAND WITH THE ST. CAMILLS SPECIAL OLYMPICS. I HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING INVOLVED WITH A VERY SPECIAL GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS,ATHLETES AND PARENTS FOR OVER 10 YEARS. THEY INCLUDE JOE F(OUR FEARLESS LEADER),CHRISTINE AND SEAN, KATHY C, ROSE G, PETER B, JAY B, DANNY G, RUSS, SUSAN H, MATT D, JOE KEENAN, FATHER DUNNE AND MANY OTHERS. EACH YEAR WE EXPAND OUR EVENTS CALENDAR, SOME OT THESE INCLUDE TRIPS TO THE BRONX ZOO, FORDHAM UNIVERSITY, ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY, ARTER AVENUE, WEST POINT FOOTBALL, YANKEE STADIUM, SHEA STADIUM, SKI WINDHAM AND THE SUMMER PROGRAM AT THE ADAPTIVE SPORTS FOUNDATION. FUNDING FOR ALL OF THESE EVENTS IS PROVIDED THROUGH COMMUNITY SUPPORT, WE THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH.

THE ADAPTIVE SPORTS FOUNDATION AT SKI WINDHAM HAS WELCOMED ME AS AN INSTRUCTOR FOR MANY YEARS, ST. CAMILLUS SPECIAL OLYMPICS FIRST MAJOR TRIP WAS TO SKI WINDHAM. THIS WAS MADE POSSIBLE PRIMARILY THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF JOHN, VIRGINIA, JOE AND LORETTA COURTNEY. THE COURAGE AND PERSEVERANCE OF THE STUDENTS WE WORK WITH IS AWE INSPIRING., BEING HIGHLY INVOLVED IN ST. FRANCIS AND ST. CAMILLUS I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUITY TO GIVE BACK, IN SMALL WAYS THE LOVE I HAVE FOR MY COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS. SUPPORTING AND PARTICIPATING IN LOCAL EVENTS THAT INCLUDE: THE GREYBEARDS, THE PAT SAVAGE TRIATHALON, THE JOHN EDWARDS, NELLY DUNCAN SUMMER SERIES, THE STEVEN BELLS SWIM, ST. FRANCIS SUMMER CLASSIC WITH DANNY EDWARDS, JOE KENEL AND BUGSY O NAME A FEW. I HAVE ALSO BEEN KNOWS TO ATTEND SOME RACING AND RUNNING EVENTS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

I HAVE BEEN A WEEKLY READER AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL IN NEW YORK FOR OVER 15 YEARS, IN BETWEEN RUNS AND MY MANY OTHER ACTIVITIES I HAVE FOUND TIME FOR GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT AT TIME MOVING AND STORAGE FOR OVER 25 YEARS. I WISH TO THANK THE PARADE COMMITTEE ESPECIALLY MY FRIENDS MIKE BENN AND JOHN BRENNAN FOR THIS FANTASTIC HONOR.