



Beautiful People
Enable Joy • Inspire Hope • Fulfill Dreams



New Board Members announced for Beautiful People

March 17, 2010, Warwick, NY Beautiful People, a non-profit organization providing adaptive sports programs for children with disabilities, has made a huge stride in solidifying their future.

Five new additions to their Board of Directors were announced today. Peter Ladka, founder and Board Chairman welcomes Captain Edward DeFalcon, Peter Dowling, Alexandra Romano, William Staples, and Joseph Zaccaro. "Each have been integral supports in advancing our mission, and bring strength, expertise and determined commitment," says Ladka.

Captain Ed DeFalcon has been with the Air National Guard since 1999, and is currently responsible for 200 full-time and part-time personnel. He also runs the base process improvement office for the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart. He is the former president and treasurer of the 105th Airlift Wing Company Grade Officer Council, and has experience with AXA Financial focusing on planned giving for non-profits. He graduated with a B.S. Summa cum Laude; and an MBA distinguished with the Silberman School of Business Graduate Dean's Award from Farleigh Dickinson University. Ed is married with two sons, 15 and 8, and resides in Goshen

Pete Dowling, and wife Jeanne, have been a constant hands-on support with our players and their families for Beautiful People games and events. Pete, with United Parcel Service for fourteen years, is a Senior Business Analyst. Previously as a Captain, for the NYPD (employed 22 years) he was tasked with performing medical and physical reviews and background investigations as Commanding Officer of Applicant Processing Unit. He has served as Treasurer and Pension Consultant for the Superior Officers Association, treasurer and VP of the Orange County Shields, and Secretary/Treasurer of the Washingtonville 5 WTC Firefighters Fund. The fund raised over \$200,000 to erect a memorial monument honoring lost lives. Pete has been a lifelong coach for youth sports.

Joe Zaccaro served as Chairman and spearheaded the 5 WTC Firefighters Fund and memorial monument project. He brings leadership skills, having 34 years of service with IBM, currently as Manager of the Disaster Recovery Project management team, and his passion and enthusiasm are reflective in his IBM role as Spirit Leader. Joe has also coached K to grade 12 baseball, basketball and soccer and played Phillies Minor League baseball in the 70's. He and wife, Laurie, have two sons, Joe is the Chairman of Fundraising for Beautiful People, and received their charter Vision Volunteer Award in fall of 2009, following a hugely successful dinner featuring Dwight Doc Gooden.

Alexandra Romano is the Director of Marketing for PARSE3, Peter Ladka's Warwick based custom software development company; she serves as Marketing Committee Chair for Beautiful People. Her previous marketing experience began in 1993 with Sony Music in Production Management and Release Planning, and ended as VP of Marketing and Acquisitions for children's division, Sony Wonder in 2000. She was also a Television Research Analyst with WBZ in Boston. Alex holds numerous professional memberships in Orange County. Her husband Paul is also an active volunteer of Beautiful People. They have two daughters, 7 and 9.

Billy Staples is an author, educator, and baseball historian. His book, *Before the Glory: Baseball Heroes Talk about Turning Hard Times into Home Runs* is a best seller. He has received two nominations for being Disney's National Teacher of the Year. His encyclopedic knowledge of baseball history and statistics enable him, as a frequent speaker, to reach a vast audience and inspire children. Bill is co-founder of BEST (Building Education Support Teams) of Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania, a non-profit. The organization is promoting education through scholarships and mentoring, by identifying students with financial needs. Bill is also a board member of the Miracle League Chapter of Lehigh Valley, with fundraising resulting in the build-out of a fully accessible, safe surface ball park. Bill is committed to see that same park become a reality as a permanent home for Beautiful People and other adaptive sports organization in Orange County.

The Beautiful People organization was established in 2006. Baseball begins its 7th season in May, as the Orange County Chapter of Miracle League. This fall, Beautiful Kids Soccer will be added as they transition in an 8 year old, Newburgh based Challenger soccer team.

Visit www.beautiful-people.us to see how you can help with the program and with the goals in place or call Jan Brunkhorst at (845)986-5944. Players and volunteers wanted. Advance registration is required.

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