

Servicemen and Boys & Girls Clubs Bocce Tourney

Hundreds of amateur and professional bocce players are expected to compete in the 3rd Annual Bocce Invitational Tournament at Colonial Park, Mettlers Road, in Somerset, NJ, on Saturday, June 20 from 8 am to 6 pm. This event is in its third year.

Operation Shoebox New Jersey, founded in February 2005, is an all-volunteer, grass-roots organization dedicated to sending personal care packages overseas to U.S. troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. The organization, with headquarters in Hillsborough, NJ, is supported by thousands of volunteers - Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, public and parochial schools, civic, fraternal and veterans' organizations, senior citizen clubs and others - who help collect and sort supplies, solicit donations and prepare packages for shipment overseas, as well as organize high-profile packing and fund raising events throughout the year. Operation Shoebox New Jersey is a registered 501-C-3 non-profit corporation in the state of New Jersey.

The Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey, which operate 24



BOCCE TOURNAMENT to benefit servicemen.

clubs in more than 75 communities, serves over 120,000 children throughout the state. They seek to inspire and enable young people from all backgrounds, especially those who need them most, to achieve their full potential as productive adults and responsible citizens.

Rosa Michos, Miss Italia New Jersey 2008 will be on hand to throw out the ceremonial 1st

ball for the Boys & girls Clubs in New Jersey. Giada Valenti, singer and songwriter is recognized for her special voice and great stage presence will perform. Vicki Wallace, the youngest member to record and perform with the world famous The Three Degrees, will perform "Fallen But Not Forgotten" as a part of a Law Enforcement Tribute to Belleville P.O.

Kenneth Santucci, and a Soldier Tribute "When Will I See You."

Moreno Fruzzetti will perform his Pop to Classical songs. The Italian Chicks will offer their unique style of comedy and song. Will Jimeno, retired Port Authority Police Officer of NY/NJ and inspirational speaker will assist in the festivities and throw out the ceremonial first ball on behalf of Operation

Shoebox. Comedian and "Saturday Night" alum Joe Piscopo and vocalist Bobby Valli will be on hand to support the Red, White & Blue event.

Beneficiaries of the event are Operation Shoebox New Jersey, an organization that collects items and ships care packages to combat troops overseas and the Boys and Girls Clubs of New Jersey. Participating sponsors include the Italian Tribune, Order Sons of Italy NJ Foundation & CSJ, the Italian American Police Society of New Jersey and VP Builders.

Funds raised from entry fees and sponsorships will be donated to each of the non-profit organizations, according to Frank Valanzola, founder and director of the Bocce Invitational.

Operation Shoebox New Jersey will host a packing event in conjunction with the tournament, providing an opportunity for all guests to pack a box of personal care items that will be sent overseas to U.S. troops.

Visit www.newjerseybocceinvitational.com to register a team or to find out about sponsorship opportunities.





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