

I would like to recognize a wonderful organization ATHLETES HELPING ATHLETES. The mission of ATHLETES HELPING ATHLETES is to connect local special needs athletes with mainstream-athletes in a spirit of friendship for their mutual benefit and inspiration. The program and the people who are volunteering their time to this exceptional program more than meet their mission statement.

I am the mother of four terrific sons. My youngest son Sean has Down syndrome. We are new to Bucks County. We have only been living here since June 2008. In November, we were invited to FRIDAY FOOTBALL FUN night. This was a night that was run by ATHLETES HELPING ATHLETES. CR SOUTH and CR NORTH football players along with many sensational volunteers from the community showed my son Sean and many other special needs athletes how to throw the football, catch the football and how to kick the football. The energy in the gym was phenomenal. My son was on the top of the world. He was truly having the time of his life. Sean, along with each and every other child there, had smiles on their faces that will shine forever It really means a lot, not only to our children but also to us, their parents when people give our children the same respect and dignity and when opportunities are provided for our children to just be one of the gang!

Just recently, Sean was given the opportunity to be the Honorary Captain at CR South's Varsity basketball game. It was a night that made dreams come true for Sean. When he walked out onto the court with the captains of the team and their coach (Coach Easterly), I have never seen my son so proud of himself. Then when they announced his name over the loud speaker, the confidence that this brought out in him showed when he pointed to his chest almost stunned and said, "That's me!" I don't think there was a dry eye in the gym.

This program needs to be recognized for their excellence. They treat all people with outstanding dignity. They fulfilled a void in my son's life that I alone would have never been able to fulfill. I was so incredibly proud of Sean that night. The people involved in this program, no matter how big or little their role, touch the lives and hearts of both our children and their parents in a way I don't think could ever be explained in words. However, I would like to thank them for the best two nights of my son's life. I will never forget them, nor will I ever forget the people and the wonderful program that made it happen, ATHLETES HELPING ATHLETES.

Sincerely,

Dorothy