

Enriching Our Communities  
by Connecting Local Employers  
& Individuals With  
Opportunities to Succeed



# Networks News

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## OUR 27TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



It's never too early to day-dream about playing a round of golf! Opportunity Networks' is gearing up for our 27th Annual Souhegan Valley Charity Golf Classic and Dinner Auction being held on Thursday, June 8th (rain or shine) at the Amherst Country Club in Amherst, NH. Registration sign-up and Sponsorship opportunities will be available on our website, [www.opportunitynetworks.org](http://www.opportunitynetworks.org), starting mid March.

This tournament is known for being one of the area's premier charity golf events, with lunch and beverages delivered on the course as well as the day ending with an exquisite dinner and Live Auction with Auctioneer Steve Desmarais. The four player scramble is a great day of golf, food and fun ... all for a GREAT cause! The tournament features Hole-in-One prizes and many other chances to win on the course. Individual registration is \$150. If you have a team of four, sign up by May 12th and save \$50.00. Each registration per golfer includes all greens fees, cart and 3 meals as well as fantastic complimentary golf giveaways. Don't have a foursome? No problem! We will put together a foursome for you. All sponsors and auction donors are honored at the event, in our golf day auction booklet and on our website for 11 months.

Again, for information, log onto [www.opportunitynetworks.org](http://www.opportunitynetworks.org)





What? Only 5 miles!



Some of the PalletWorks' crew enjoying the tractor pull event.



### THE 5K WALK/RUN FOR ROBERT — BY JOSH & JUSTIN

Opportunity Networks had the privilege of participating in the Run for Robert 5K walk/run race at Mine Falls Park on Saturday, May 14th, 2016. The Run honored the late Robert Kovalsky and benefits the National Stroke Association. Even though Robert suffered from the debilitating effects of having a stroke, he considered himself a stroke survivor rather than a victim.

Many of the participants either ran or walked the 3 miles and had lots of fun doing it. Some of the individuals that participated include Josh N., Nick N., Erica G., George B., Miranda, Max M., Amy H., John T. and many others. The weather was nice and sunny for this special event and everyone made it through without collapsing. The race was to help assist people with stroke and health disorder. The event raised a lot of money for the National Stroke Association and was sponsored by Bertucci's and Sports Authority. At the end of the race, the participants were treated to snacks and drinks to ensure they stayed hydrated. The event had a great turnout and the excitement lasted most of the day.

### A LITTLE BIT OF AMERICANA — BY MATT R. & JOSH

A talented group from Opportunity Networks who works with pallet boards had the chance to participate at a tractor pulling event on May 26th, 2016. The group works hard daily to create one of a kind masterpieces from repurposed wood pallets. They were able to sell over 6 items for over \$150 in sales. The participants involved include Josh N., Richard B., Darren R., Louis E., Ray, George B., Frank M. and more. The group is called Pallet Works and they are located at 11 Caldwell Drive in Amherst, NH. During the winter months, Leda Lanes has generously donated indoor space for the group to use.

Some of the artwork they create consists of signs, flags, animals, Disney characters, quotes/sayings and much more. The individuals have a lot of fun while working on their projects and they love every minute of the activity.

For information & requests, please contact Frank McGrath @ 603-883-4402 or go to the website... [www.opportunitynetworks.org](http://www.opportunitynetworks.org)

## THERAPEUTIC HORSEBACK RIDING — BY JOSH

Opportunity Networks has a very special privilege in going to UpReach Therapeutic Equestrian Center, which is located at 153 Paige Hill Road in Goffstown, NH and sits on 96 beautiful acres. All the individuals who participate have lots of fun riding on the horses in the sunshine. UpReach was founded in 1992 by Edie Loeb-Tomasko with two riders and a borrowed horse. They have



grown to serve 75-80 students in varied programming, with 15 equine partners, 6 full-time and 2 part-time staff, and over 120 active volunteers!

**Mission:** UpReach is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to inspiring hope, fostering independence and improving the physical, emotional, and psychological well-being of individuals with and without disabilities by partnering with the power of the horse.

**Vision:** Through providing high quality equine assisted learning programs, UpReach strives towards excellence in its field. With the help of our equine friends, we are dedicated to enhancing quality of life for those we serve, by providing challenge, promoting independence, and celebrating success.

## NICK MOVES TO NASHUA

Moving into an apartment with a roommate for the first time can be a very scary thing. For Nick, the process of exploring the option to move into a apartment in Nashua began in November. Nick met with his potential new roommates and they quickly became friends. There were several reasons Nick has wanted to make this big change in his life. First, as a young man Nick wants what most young people do, a place of their own. Nick also works at Goodwill in Amherst and commuting from Nashua to his job is much closer then where he currently lives in Temple. In Nick's words, "It's easier for me to drive to work every day and to attend Opportunity Networks. It also means a lot to me to become more independent and have the ability to do more new stuff on my own in Nashua; like being with my coworkers". He admits he still has a lot to learn on his own but is looking forward to figuring it all out.



Riding into the sunset!



Lulu (the horse) loves the attention from Tammy!



Nick's hard work paid off!  
He is currently being trained to take on additional responsibilities at Goodwill in Amherst, NH.





Photo by Jane Hunnewell



**\$10,000 Winner**  
**Trent Blalock**

## WINTER POEM

"A Winter Eden" by Robert Frost – March 7, 1923

A winter Eden in an alder swamp  
Where conies now come out to sun and romp,  
As near a paradise as it can be  
And not melt snow or start a dormant tree.  
It lifts existence on a plane of snow  
One level higher than the earth below,  
One level nearer heaven overhead  
And last year's berries shining scarlet red.  
It lifts a gaunt luxuriating beast  
Where he can stretch and hold his highest feast  
On some wild apple tree's young tender bark,  
What well may prove the years' high girdle mark.  
Pairing in all known paradises ends:  
Here loveless birds now flock as winter friends,  
Content with bud inspecting. They presume  
To say which buds are leaf and which are bloom.  
A feather hammer gives a double knock.  
This Eden day is done at two o'clock.  
An hour of winter day might seem too short  
To make it worth life's while to wake and sport.

## \$10,000 RAFFLE EXTRAVAGANZA

Opportunity Networks held their 23rd Annual \$10,000 Raffle Extravaganza on Friday, December 2nd from 6 to 8 p.m. at The River Casino in Milford, NH.

This popular fundraising event features a \$10,000 Grand Prize with additional cash prizes of \$1,000, \$750, \$500, \$250 and \$150 that are awarded throughout the evening! This year's event was catered by the Pasta Loft of Milford and guests listened and danced to live music performed by the JIVE Kats. Over 350 were in attendance. It was a great night for a great a cause! Thank you for your support.

This year Winner's are as follows:

Dave Munro \$150  
Keith Jones \$500  
Sean Tewksbury \$1,000

Jamie Woodward \$250  
Tom Quinn Esq. \$750  
Trent Blalock \$10,000

## WWE SMACKDOWN IN NH — BY JOSH, RICHARD & DARREN

A special group from Opportunity Networks were able to score tickets to WWE Smack down Live event at the Verizon Wireless Arena in Manchester, NH on Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The individuals that participated were Josh N., Richard B., Max M., Louis E., Darren R., Erica G., Sean H., Keesha M., and Amber G. The group had a blast as the wrestlers put on a show in the ring. The show started @ 7PM and ended by 11:30PM, which was an awesome experience for everyone. All the participants were very tired and exhausted that some of them either took the next day off or came in late as a result of all the excitement that night.

- WWE World Heavyweight Champion Roman Reigns and WWE Intercontinental Champion The Miz with Maryse kicked off Smack Down with an in-ring segment.
- It ended with The Miz trying to attack and Reigns launched him out of the ring.
- Sami Zayn, Cesaro and WWE United States Champion Kalisto defeated Sheamus, Rusev and Alberto Del Rio by count out.
- Rusev and Del Rio ended up walking out on Sheamus as The League of Nations broke up.
- Natalya and WWE Women's Champion Charlotte would be on The Ambrose Asylum later tonight.
- Baron Corbin squashed Damien Sandow and won by pinfall.
- Dean Ambrose came out for The Ambrose Asylum with Natalya, Charlotte and Ric Flair. This was said to be a very entertaining segment to build to Payback.
- Enzo Amore and Big Cass vs. The Social Outcasts were next. WWE Tag Team Champions The New Day came out first for a big pop. They joined commentary and made Byron Saxton sit on the floor. Big pops for Enzo and Big Cass' pre-match promos as well. During the match, The Vaudevillains came out to watch from the stage. Enzo and Cass picked up the win.
- Apollo Crews defeated Stardust by pinfall.
- Roman Reigns faced The Miz in the main event that ended with Luke Gallows and Karl Anderson attacking Reigns. The Usos and AJ Styles also made appearances.



Heading into the WWE Smack Down Event in Manchester.



## THE DEFLATE GATE — BY BILLY



When Tom Brady signed a two-year contract extension in the 2019 season, the numbers paled in comparison to what Brady could earn if he held the New England Patriots' feet to the fire. The deal kept Brady in the Patriots' picture (for now) through the age of 42. Signing the deal in February, Brady was given a hefty signing bonus of \$28 million — but a significantly lower base contract. As many know, in the NFL guaranteed money is king; base salaries are earned only if the player is on the roster. In Brady's case, being a vested veteran means that he'd earn that base salary after one game on the roster. But here's the kicker: That base salary this season, as well as for 2017, is a mere \$1 million. That ties Brady for 43rd in the NFL in that category, according to Spotrac, with five other backups: Matt Moore, Chase Daniel, Drew Stanton, Luke McCown and Colt McCoy. Brady's former backup, Matt Cassel, who has gone 11-23 as a starter the past five seasons for four different teams, is set to make more in base salary this season at \$1.25 million. Brady's current backup, Jimmy Garoppolo — the man who started the first quarter of the season — makes \$686,718 in base. The Patriots actually helped Brady out with a lower salary in this case, as the NFL can fine Brady only for the games he might miss from his base salary. By rule, the league can't touch a cent of that \$28 million signing bonus.

So how much would the four-game suspension cost Brady? The NFL divides game checks up into equal 1/17th portions, one for each week of the season. That means 4/17 of \$1 million equals \$235,294 — a big number to we normal folk, but chump change to Brady and his wife. The fact that the Patriots agreed to the deal with Brady's base salary for 2017 season suggests they (a) planned for him potentially losing this case and (b) knew it could leak over into the next calendar year. The NFLPA always has had a complicated relationship with Brady. He's an ambassador for the game (despite this deflate-gate nonsense), a champion and once lent his name to the lawsuit (Brady was the first one listed) against the NFL during the 2011 lockout. Brady always has taken less money than he probably deserves compared to true market value, and that quietly irks a union that has tried to fight like crazy to get the stars of the game to help drive up salaries for its constituents, especially for the faces of the league. But in this case, the NFLPA might have a tiny reason to smile on what was a crushing day for it and Brady. At least the NFL isn't gaining much financially if Brady is suspended.



## BECAUSE YOU HAVE A DISABILITY DOESN'T MEAN YOU GIVE UP — BY DEANNA

I have had a disability my whole life which brings it's own set of daily challenges. But being different is ok though, because your unique and you can do anything you want you, be whatever you want to be and you can you be yourself as long as you always have a never give up and can do attitude.

The never giving up on my dreams attitude is something that helps drive me every day. I have learned to just be myself and not worry about what others think. So having a disability is not the end of the world, just one more challenge that I take head on every day.

## THE COLLAGE — BY THE NEWS CREW





2016/2017

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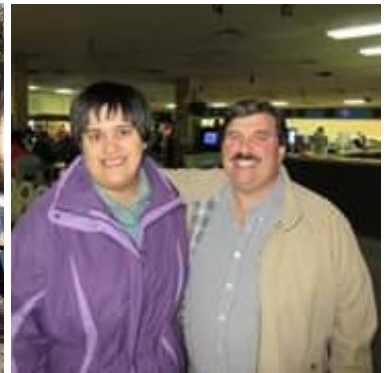
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
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## Our Next Fundraising Event:

**Thursday, June 8th — 27th Annual Souhegan Valley Golf Classic  
Amherst Country Club, Amherst, NH**

Please check out our website at [www.opportunitynetworks.org](http://www.opportunitynetworks.org), for more information on our fundraising events and how you can participate!!

Due to funding arrangements for Nonprofit Programming providing services to individuals with disabilities, Opportunity Networks continues to rely on the generous support of individuals and businesses in our local community.

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