

Frog-a-Nanny Super Challenge

Friday, April 21, 2006 5-7 PM New Albany, MS Sportsplex



Frog-a-Nanny is a modified baseball game for students with severe and multiple disabilities in the New Albany and Union County Public Schools. Disabilities range from autism to Down syndrome, profound, moderate mental retardation, Physical impairments, and traumatic brain injury.



Lori Beth and Jonathan played in last year's 10th Annual Frog-A-Nanny Super Challenge

The event begins with a parade of athletes followed by a ball game, cookout and a dance. Volunteers range from school-age children To senior citizens, and everyone gets involved!



Brittany, Amber & Justin enjoy the 1996 Frog-A-Nanny

Frog-a-Nanny began in the spring of 1995 because of Justin...a 9-year-old malnourished, dirty, little boy with mental retardation. Despite his disability, he had exceptional athletic ability. At the time, Kelly Coltharp was teaching Adaptive Physical Education to a class of students with severe and multiple disabilities.

Justin was the star at any game she taught them to play. Being on the New Albany City Park Board, Kelly realized there weren't any opportunities for students like Justin to showcase their athletic talents. Through the help of the school administration, the park and recreation department, and the students' families, the first Frog-a-Nanny was organized. This year, Justin will graduate and this will be his last Frog-a-Nanny.

This is the 11th year for Frog-a-Nanny. At first, it was a unique event in New Albany. However, over the years it has become a much-anticipated event for students with disabilities to showcase their sportsmanship and athletic ability. It is also an opportunity for the community to experience the true meaning of sport and increases awareness of students with special needs. But most importantly, Frog-a-Nanny builds self-confidence and hope for all students.



Frog-a-Nanny Facts

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The event begins with a parade of athletes followed by a ballgame, cookout and a dance. Volunteers range from school-age children to senior citizens, and everyone gets involved! As a matter of fact, New Albany High School varsity baseball and fastpitch teams participate as "baseball buddies." Their duties include pushing athletes in wheelchairs, giving direction in running bases and just being a friend. Teachers in the New Albany School District share in the game as coaches, giving the play-by-play, helping with the cookout, and dance.



Frog-a-Nanny is a nonprofit organization where all funds are raised through annual T-shirt sales. 100% of the money goes to the needs of the children. Each player and baseball buddy receives a jersey, hat, and medal. Senior players also get a trophy. There is a huge hamburger cookout and dance after the game for all participants, fans, and volunteers and most of these food items are donated by local businesses.

All remaining funds go into the Allison Baxter Memorial Pavilion fund. The pavilion is being built at the New Albany Middle School to honor the memory of Allison, a former Frog-a-Nanny player. The pavilion will be complete by May 2006.

How You Can Help

Many civic organizations in New Albany take part by donating medals, trophies, food, and time so that the students, families, and volunteers are celebrated. We hope other communities will be inspired to do the same for their disabled students and give these athletes a chance. If you know someone that would like to participate, or if you would like to be a volunteer, please contact Kelly Coltharp at kelly@datalane.net.



About New Albany

New Albany, MS, is a lovely small town on the banks of the Tallahatchie River with a population of approximately 8,000 people. New Albany, Union County's largest municipality and County Seat, is centrally located in the county. New Albany is approximately 75 miles from Memphis, Tennessee; 165 miles from Birmingham, Alabama; 185 miles from Jackson, Mississippi; and 200 miles from Nashville, Tennessee.

New Albany offers opportunities for quality education with an outstanding public school system and close proximity to higher education institutions. Our community offers an attractive quality of life through the arts, sports, and family entertainment.



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