

Nursing home residents to go for the gold at 21st Annual WV Geri Olympics

Institute, WV – Nursing home resident athletes from across West Virginia will converge at the South Charleston Community and Recreation Center for the 21st Annual Geri Olympics on Friday, April 25. Events are open to the public and will run from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The West Virginia Geri Olympics brings senior athletes from all over the state to compete in fun, safe sporting events that make everyone a winner. Events include basketball, horseshoe pitching, bowling, bean bag toss, obstacle course racing, and wheelchair races.

“This year we are placing a lot of emphasis on active living,” said Dr. Ted Muilenburg, Director of the WV Geri Olympics. “This event is a true demonstration of life and the benefits of staying active.”

Geri Olympics is the longest continuously sponsored competitive event for nursing home resident athletes in the United States. It has evolved into an international event using the West Virginia model. Coordinators are currently raising funds to take a team from the United States to Prague in October to participate in the International Geri Olympics.

With 180 athletes and 22 nursing homes scheduled to participate, this year’s WV Geri Olympics will be the largest one ever held. Partners include West Virginia State University Extension, West Virginia Dreamers, Step by Step, West Virginia Health Care Association, West Virginia Rehabilitation Services, WalkItUp!, Charles University, WV Bureau of Senior Services, WVSU Health and Human Performance, WV Activity Professional Association, WVSU Foundation Inc., and Nella’s Inc.

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