

Ron Smith Care Centre @ Elphin Lodge



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Golden Games ORANGE IS THE NEW GOLD

The Golden Games Special Olympics ignited a wonderful sense of spirit and friendly competition among the residents and staff. After four days of fun and glory, Cedar Park emerged as the champion team, but there were plenty of others winners. For more details, see pages 2-4.



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Golden Games
edition



Golden Games Special Olympics

A week of friendly competition and camaraderie unfolded at RSCC as residents and staff participated in the third annual Golden Games.

Dressed in vibrant team colours, the six residential wings battled it out in a series of fun-filled events, including Noodle Wars, Flying Around the World, Skyscraper Building, and Bocce Ball, between August 19 and 23.

All six wings were required to use their creativity and design a banner that illustrated their unique identity as a wing and also embodied and incorporated elements of the Eden Alternative philosophy and practices which RSCC embraces. "These banners were judged and awarded points that contributed to the final score of each wing. River Lodge One achieved a perfect score of 80/80 for their meaningful banner," says Debbie Christen, RSCC facilitator: Recreational and training services.

Preparations for the games began in mid-July, as RSCC staff kicked off the team-building process by participating in a dance challenge that was designed as a fun way to build unity and team spirit. Staff were taught a dance to the song, One Way Ticket by Tanja Thomas and attended scheduled practice sessions. Twelve dance groups representing all six wings then danced at the games, where they were judged and awarded points for their performance.

The Dance Champions of 2024 were the dynamic second group from River Lodge 3 residential wing, who managed to score a whopping 68/70 points!

The four-day event culminated in a glorious awards ceremony, at which the residential wing of Cedar Park was pronounced the winner of the Golden Games grand



The RSCC recreation team. These ladies made the games happen.

championship for the second year in a row, and residents and staff were crowned and presented with medals and chocolates!

In addition, the following special awards were presented to residents: Champion Golden Gamer, Best over 90 Competitor, Best Sportsperson, Most Spirited/Positive Attitude, Best Effort Made, and Champion Skyscraper Builders.

Staff awards were presented for: Champion Golden Gamer, Most Spirited Sportsperson, Best Team Supporter, Most 'Fun-in-her-bones', Best Dance Captain, and Best Team Leader.

Throughout the four days of events, the high levels of team spirit, singing, dancing, cheering, clapping, determination, and friendly competitiveness were thrilling to witness.

"It was so heartwarming to witness all the laughter, fun, joy, and excitement of the games, and watching people's faces light up whenever they got something right, and all the hugs, cheers, high fives, and victory dances when they scored points for their team.

"The games have been much more than just about winning and losing; it has been about having a positive attitude, trying your best, encouraging your teammates, and recognising and appreciating other people's achievements and successes, even if they are not on the same team!" says Debbie.

"Once again, the Golden Games was an exceptional event that brought joy to the entire care centre community. Well done, one and all – you have honoured the true spirit of the Golden Games Special Olympics, and you are all winners!"



Rand Aid's CEO Gert Coetsee with Debbie Christen, one of the event organisers.



Birthdays

RESIDENTS

Sept 03	Carole Pieterse	(RL1)	79
Sept 05	Carol Murphy	(CP)	79
Sept 05	Josephine Kew	(RL1)	93
Sept 08	Joy Smith	(RL2)	92
Sept 09	Irene Watson	(RL1)	103
Sept 11	Elizabeth Trinder	(LS)	94
Sept 16	Catherine Basterfield	(LS)	99
Sept 18	Ivor Cohen	(LS)	84
Sept 18	Nanna Roberts	(RL3)	87
Sept 21	Joan Gelman	(CP)	89
Sept 22	Elizabetta Morgia	(RL3)	86
Sept 24	Fred Shaw	(RL1)	90
Sept 24	Elizabeth Reed	(RL2)	76
Sept 26	Mona Knodell	(RL2)	99
Sept 27	Maria Jose' Macedo	(RL2)	88
Sept 28	Esme Joubert	(RL1)	87

STAFF

Sept 02	Masegata Mamabolo
Sept 06	Ntombikhona Maphasa
Sept 09	Amanda Ndlovu
Sept 11	Lungile Mhlongo
Sept 11	Makgabo Baloyi
Sept 13	Nhlalala Mavunda
Sept 14	Iris Radebe
Sept 14	Siyakubonga Nazo
Sept 17	Khazamula Hobyani
Sept 17	Nomizana Pili
Sept 17	Thivhonali Rananga
Sept 22	Refilwe Ratema
Sept 23	Nothile Vilakazi
Sept 25	Nonstiki Ngwenya
Sept 25	Sedya Malatji
Sept 26	Carol-Ann Mckenzie
Sept 26	Mmamose Maphoso
Sept 27	Nicky Ponco
Sept 29	Lufuno Ratshilume
Sept 30	Mmathapelo Magwete

* Staff members must please remember to collect their birthday chocolates from reception.

Fondly remembered

John Cox RL3	Georgina Cleobury RL2
Rita Sandler WL	

Welcome to...

Beth Boshoff	RL2
Margaret Garden	CP
Neil Garden	CP
Helmut Gschnaidtner	RL1



Irene Simon:
Best over-90 competitor.



Dance Champions 2024: River Lodge 3 Group 2.



LEFT: Ria Milburn:
Best Sportsper-son.



Khodani Khute and Neville Branthwaite: Champion Golden Gamers (staff and resident, respectively).



Isobel Kohll:
Most Spirited / Positive Attitude.



Grace Ratisani:
Best team supporter.



Isobel Kohll:
Most Spirited / Positive Attitude.

And the winners are...

Golden Games Grand Championship Award: Cedar Park
 Champion Golden Gamer Resident: Neville Branthwaite – RL 2
 Champion Golden Gamer Staff: Khodani Khute – RL 3
 Dance Champions 2024: River Lodge 3/Group 2

SPECIAL RESIDENT AWARDS

Best Over-90 Competitor: Irene Simon – CP
 Best Sportsperson: Ria Milburn – WL
 Most Spirited/Positive Attitude: Isobel Kohll – RL2
 Best Effort Made: Maria Volschenk – LS
 Champion Skyscraper Builders: Valda Strauss and Elene Bohnenkamp-Blaensdorff: RL3

SPECIAL STAFF AWARDS

Most Spirited Sportsperson: Adolphina Magwete – LS
 Best Team Supporter: Grace Ratisani – WL
 Most 'Fun-in-her-bones': Germinah Baloyi – RL1
 Best Dance Captain: Phumudzo Nephithidi - CP
 Best Team Leader: Carol-Ann McKenzie – RL1



Marie Volschenck:
Best Effort Made.



Carol-Ann McKenzie:
Best Team Leader.



ABOVE LEFT: Best Skyscraper Builders Elene Bohnenkamp-Blaensdorff and Valda Strauss.



Phumudzo Nephithidi:
Best Dance Captain.



ABOVE LEFT: Germinah Baloyi:
Most 'Fun-in-her-bones'.
ABOVE RIGHT: Adolphina Magwete:
Most spirited sportsperson.