



Awards Night NIAF 4/3/2019

At the initiation of our Special Olympics Bocce Program 15 years ago, Sue Palmer, Director of Special Olympics Collier County at that time, stated, "We asked the Naples Italian American Club, if we could simply use their bocce courts for our athletes, and, in addition, we found a group of dedicated, caring coaches who taught them the art of bocce."

On April 3rd we held our favorite event of the year, Special Olympics Awards Night. We also honored four Special Olympics contributors: Renato Stella, Ed Bernardi, Joe D'Annunzio (posthumously), and Tom Carlo (posthumously), the creator of the Special Olympics program.

Awards were handed out to all the athletes. Bob Pascente is the director and largest supporter of our Special Olympics program for the past two years. Special thanks go out to the additional bocce coaches: Damien and Mary Rossi, Marie Pascente, Debra White, Lester and Dorothy Kinney, Luigi Funicello, Larry Griminger, Robert Frigoletto, Mary Ann Altobelli, Al and Carol Lenza, Rich and Millie Persichetty, Rocco D'Amelio.

Special Olympics of Collier County is one of the main charities that NIAF supports on a yearly basis.

