

## Everyone is a champion at St. Joseph's Villa's summer games

### Youths celebrate close of session by playing for fun and enrichment

There were more memorable moments than there were events and people to watch them at the 19th annual Summer Olympics at St. Joseph's Villa in Greece on August 11 and 12.

The games, which marked the end of the summer school session at the villa, allowed clients to experience cooperation and achievement during the two-day celebration.

"The kids had a great time. They really look forward to the games," said Mary Ellen Coleman, who has been the director of community relations at St. Joseph's Villa since May. "(The games) really build team spirit. Everybody competes in something."

According to Coleman, youths and staff were broken up into three color-coded teams to compete in a series of track and field events. "Prizes were awarded not just to

who wins, but to the entire team," Coleman said. "Everything is a team effort."

Coleman added that prizes were also given out to participants who exerted the most enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

Everywhere you looked, the triumph of spirit could be seen in the villa's summer olympics, which were organized by the facility's recreation department.

Coincidentally, the villa games happened to be going on at the same time as the Special Olympics in South Bend, Indiana. Both groups of olympians provided onlookers with lessons about trying and lack of pretention.

Every one of the villa's athletes was a winner, and the hope and joy they brought to those watching made them champions in a much larger sense.



Two supervisors discuss the day's events at St. Joseph's Villa in Greece.

Theresa E. Gardner



Speedball was just one of a series of events during the two day's of field events. The game is a combination of American football and soccer. Here, a youth looks to throw the ball down field to a teammate.



One of three color-coded teams competing in the 19th annual Summer Olympics sings its team cheer to another group.



One of the participants of the summer games readies himself for the start of the 100-yard dash.