

Motivation Through Movement

WHEN Luca performs, his strength is obvious and impressive. He hopes it's also inspirational to those who are facing a challenge, helping them to realize they can achieve their dreams through hard work and determination.

Luca was diagnosed with arthrogryposis, a rare muscular disorder that limits motion in the joints and affects bone structure. In Luca's case, it weakened his legs. Born in Montreal, Canada and raised in Bethesda, Md., Luca was treated at Shriners Hospital for Children - Montreal until the age of four, and then again in his late teens when he returned to Canada to attend college. He's had a total of 16 surgeries on his legs and spine.

But his condition is something he's never let hold him back from leading an active lifestyle. He started breakdancing when he was 15, realizing that despite the challenges he faced with his legs, he had incredible upper body strength he could use.

Today, he uses his talent as a way of showing other young people what can be accomplished if they persevere. In the last few months, he has traveled to Virginia, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania and Washington as part of a motivational speaking tour.

Here are some thoughts this exceptional young man shared with us when we caught up with him while he was traveling to London, Ontario:

Q: How did you start breakdancing?

A: Before breakdancing, I skateboarded on my knees and hoped to go far in the sport. But, when I had an operation to re-adjust my femur, I was no longer comfortable on my skateboard. I knew I had upper body strength and I loved to perform and to travel. Breakdancing became a passion that opened doors for me.

Q: What has breakdancing brought you?

A: I am part of a team in Montreal, and we have performed and competed around the world. In 2006, we won the Canadian Championship and came in fourth at the World Championship in Los Angeles. In Montreal, the scene is friendly; in the states it is more competitive. However, you can go anywhere in the world, and if you meet another breakdancer, they will open their home to you and take you in.

Q: What made you move on to motivational speaking?

A: When you spend time in the hospital, especially after surgery, you appreciate the company, whether it's the clowns, entertainers, sports stars or a volunteer who spend time with you. It's pretty much what takes the pain away, and that's what inspired me to get started. My first show was at the Shriners Hospital a few years ago; I was shy and mostly danced. My first real motivational talk was at the McKay Centre in Montreal.

Q: Have you ever been particularly inspired by someone you met while speaking?

A: There are a few stories, but the one that comes to mind first is a young boy who has cerebral palsy. He has limited use of his arms and legs and uses a wheelchair. The first time he saw me perform, I saw a glimmer of light in his eyes. After a few minutes, he tried to dance with me. Since then, we hang out. I try to take him to shows and I am teaching him how to dance. You can see that he really wants to do this and that he is going to get there. He is trying so hard!

Q: What is the message you give when you speak?

A: My father always said "your first failure is not trying," I always tell kids that their condition is not a valid reason for not trying. We have to be creative and adapt ourselves and then anything is possible. I find people let go too easily. When you want something, you can't let anything or anyone stop you. You have to be willing to make sacrifices. I believe that life is about living every moment.

Q: What do you think makes Shriners Hospitals for Children unique?

A: First, it is a network of hospitals that offers amazing care and it's all at no charge to families. I think that's incredibly important. It can be very



"LIFE IS ABOUT TAKING THE BAD AND MAKING IT GOOD" - LUCA PATUELLI



frightening to deal with disease, let alone the expense. Second, it's the Shriners themselves. I met a commercial pilot in Virginia a few months ago. He told me that in his spare time, he flies children in need to the Shriners Hospital in his private plane...isn't that amazing?

Cape Cod Shrine Club Ready for a Busy Summer

By GEORGE TYNER

KEN Mills, President, and his officers have planned a busy summer for the Cape Cod Shrine Club. We start on June 27th with the Tenth Annual Golf Tournament at the Club at Yarmouth Port (formerly Kings' Way) under the able direction of Past President **Bill Biemler**. Registration will start at 8:00 AM. with a "shotgun" start at 9:00 AM.

The fee is \$125 per player, which includes golf, cart, continental breakfast, commemorative hat, "goodie bag" and a sumptuous awards lunch. Net proceeds from this event go to support the children at our hospitals.

During the months of June, July, August and September, the Shrine Club will be conducting its annual Paper Drive (Hospital Crusade). This will take place two days each month at four Stop and Shop locations on the Cape under the direction of 1st Vice President **Paul Harrington** and his store captains. This is the largest fundraiser the Club has!

Chairman **Ian Mott** has planned the Potentates' Reception for August 9 at 2:00 PM. This will include an old fashioned Cape Cod Lobster Bake (steak is available). The reception will be held at the Chatham VFW. Anyone who has attended in the past can vouch for the fact that this has been a social success!

If you have any questions on these summer events, please call President **Ken Mills** at (508) 362-5596.



HELP WANTED CRAFTSMEN

Help with minor repairs throughout
Shrine Center in Wilmington

Setup for Ceremonials and Shows

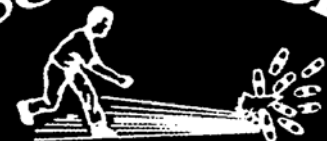
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