

# **2018 DREAM RIDE RAISES \$2 MILLION FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

**By Scott Masson**

The 2018 Dream Ride Experience, which recently ended in Farmington with a 40-mile motorcycle ride through Central Connecticut, raised \$2 million for Special Olympics.

Founded in 2001 by Michael A. Bozzutto, CEO of Bozzutto's, Inc., The Dream Ride Experience happens once a year in August at the Farmington Polo Grounds. It's an event that became a worldwide movement featuring more than 400 supercars and 2,000 motorcycles. The motorcycle ride begins in Florida and ends in Connecticut. The money that is raised goes to Special Olympics and the Hometown Foundation.

The Dream Ride Experience also features a pet adoption, a car show, a motorcycle show and entertainment and delicious food. Special Olympics athletes come from all over the world to participate in this memorable event. The athletes come from Hawaii, Arizona, West Virginia, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Maine, Vermont, Connecticut, Virginia, Puerto Rico and Australia. The Dream Ride celebrates the achievements of all the athletes and their power to overcome stereotypes.

In addition to Mr. Bozzutto, the sponsors and volunteers who staff the event called all of the athletes "superstars" as they walked down the red carpet after getting a ride in the cars. The Dream Ride helps build friendships between athletes and participants for a lifetime. This year Mr. Bozzutto got the New England Patriots cheerleaders as well as NBA stars Ben Wallace and Tayshaun Prince to come out to support the event.

WWE superstars Titus O'Neil, Apollo Crews and Dana Brooke came to support Special Olympians and do a demonstration of powerlifting. They took pictures and signed autographs. WWE is a sponsor of Special Olympics and the athletes are always excited to see their heroes in the WWE.

THANK YOU to Michael Bozzuto and all the sponsors for this year's Dream Ride Experience. All the athletes will be looking forward to next year's Dream Ride, Bringing the World Together One Smile at a Time!!!!