

# World champion javelinist visits kids in Maitland

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OBSERVER STAFF

World-renowned artist, Olympic athlete and world-champion javelin thrower Roald Bradstock visited New Hope for Kids in Maitland on Feb. 15. He signed autographs and talked to the kids about his struggles to overcome spina bifida and hydrocephalus as a child and to pursue his Olympic dreams.

Stacia Politowicz and Christy Marcantel, owners of Any Lab Test Now, a newly opened bloodwork clinic in Winter Park, had invited Bradstock, also known as the "Olympic Picasso," to visit and donate his internationally renowned fine print to the New Hope for Kids organization. The original painting, "Struggle for Perfection," was based

on the Olympic Rings and won the U.S. Olympic Committee Sport Art Competition in 2000. The painting went on to be part of an international exhibition held at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland, during the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

In 2005, Bradstock was asked by Olympic icon Al Oerter to be a part of the elite group of Olympic artists called Art of the Olympians, an Olympic revival movement bringing back modern Olympics founder Pierre De Coubertin's original vision of celebrating both sport and art.

In 2006, Bradstock was honored to be part of the first "Art of the Olympians" exhibition in Fort Myers.

Bradstock stopped in Maitland on his way to participate in the 2008 USOC

Sport competition in Clermont on Feb. 16. In addition to talking to the kids, Bradstock not only posed for pictures but also thrilled those in attendance by letting them touch and hold his javelin.

At age 45, Bradstock is the oldest athlete competing and on path for the Olympics. He spoke about how he stays in shape.

New Hope for Kids organization is a safe and supportive environment where children grieving the death of a loved one can share their experiences. This program offers a unique opportunity for children to begin and continue their grief journey as they move through the healing process. According to New Hope counselors, Bradstock's art will be put into the live auction at New Hope for Kids' annual fund-



PHOTO BY CAROLE ARTHURS — THE OBSERVER

Olympic javelin thrower Roald Bradstock, at center, donated a print of his painting "Struggle for Perfection" to the New Hope for Kids organization on Feb. 15. Pictured with Bradstock are owners of newly opened clinic in Winter Park, Any Lab Test Now, Stacia Politowicz and Christy Marcantel, who invited the Olympian to donate his work.

raiser.

More information on [RoaldBradstock.com](http://RoaldBradstock.com).

Bradstock can be found at