March Newsletter

Outback Steakhouse Fundraiser - March 18th

Come out and enjoy an evening with friends at our annual Outback fundraiser for Special Olympics at the Ellicott City Outback Restaurant on March 18, 2014. Dine in or carry out for lunch or dinner. Click here to download a flier to turn in with your meal payment and Special Olympics receives 10% of the total proceeds.

Support the 13th Annual Inspiration Walk

Please reserve April 26th, 8:00 - 11:00 am on your calendar to attend the 13th Annual Inspiration Walk. This is our major fundraiser of the year and we rely on family and volunteer financial support to keep our program running. You can donate by:

1) Starting a personalized pledge page to solicit pledges online by clicking here and then click on the JOIN NOW button on the web page, or

2) Making a general donation online by clicking here, or

3) Bring cash and check donations to the walk or sending to our office (8970 Route 108 Suite A1, Columbia, MD 21045)

Spring Sports Registration Closing Soon!
Register now to participate in a spring sport. [Click here to go to the online registration system.](#) Sign up now for Beginner Aquatics at MarTar Swim Center, Athletics (i.e., Track & Field), Bocce, Cheerleading, Softball and Tennis (practice only).

Note that Aquatics and Equestrian registration already closed. Other sports registration deadlines are March 22.

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**Volunteer Scholarships Announced**

Applications for Outstanding Student volunteers of the year are now being accepted. [Click here for application.](#)

Interested students must complete the application, provide at least one recommendation from a Special Olympics Howard County coach, management team member or sports coordinator, and write a 500 word essay about their experiences as a volunteer. Completed applications should be emailed to [info@somdhc.org](mailto:info@somdhc.org) or mailed to Special Olympics Howard County, 8970 Route 108, Suite A-1, Columbia, MD 21045, ATTN: Scholarship Committee and must be postmarked no later than April 4, 2014. Questions should be addressed to [info@somdhc.org](mailto:info@somdhc.org) or by calling the SOHC office at 410-740-0500.

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**Spring Merchandise Sale**

Nightmare Graphics continues to offer an online store for Special Olympics Howard County merchandise. [Go online by clicking here](#) to make your selections. The "store" will be open until March 30th. You can save S&H costs by picking up the order at the SOHO office or if you prefer to have them sent directly to your home, be sure to include S&H fee. Orders will be ready by April 10, 2014.

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**Showcase your Athlete at Inspiration Walk**

For only $40.00 each (or 3 for $100.00) you can purchase an 18"x24" poster of your athlete which will be used to mark the event venue at this year's inspiration walk.

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**Business Monthly Article**

Check out the article in the Business Monthly highlighting our local program. [Learn more.](#)

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**Practice Status and Inclement Weather**

To learn if practice or competitions are cancelled due to inclement weather, check SOHO home page, our facebook page, call the office for a recording, or look for an email from your sports coordinator. In general, when schools are closed, practices are cancelled.

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**Special Olympics Boosts Employment**

New research shows that the unemployment rate for people with intellectual
Pick your favorite photo of your athlete or team - preferably training or competing - email it in digital format (JPEG) to Robin Phillips at robin1152@verizon.net and send your payment to Special Olympics Howard County 8970 Route 108, Suite A1, Columbia, MD 21045. Photos must be received by April 14th. Posters from past years can be used at the event (but must be dropped off at the SOHC office by 4/24). Posters can be picked up at the end of the walk or from the SOHO office.

Athlete Leadership Opportunities

Special Olympics offers Athlete Leadership Program (ALPs) for athletes that wish to become involved in opportunities such as being an emcee at Opening Ceremonies, interviews with the media, opportunities at fundraising events, and speaking to community groups.

If interested, contact the SOMD communications director, Jason Schriml at jschrml@somd.org. Click here to find instructions so you will be able to receive instant ALP updates and instructions on how to get involved if you are interested.

Volunteer Opportunities & Orientation Dates

If interested in volunteering for spring sports (softball, track and field, cheerleading, bocce) or if you are interested in helping with the Inspiration Walk on April 26th or the annual Softball Invitational on May 18th, please email info@somdhc.org.

Volunteer orientations will be held on April 7th and May 20th at 7:00 in the SOHO office. Anyone interested in volunteering must attend a volunteer orientation, complete a volunteer application and an on-line Protective Behaviors Course. Parents are highly encouraged to attend an orientation. Pre-registration is required by sending an email to our volunteer coordinator, Janet Larrimore, at JanetandWalter@comcast.net or info@somdhc.org or calling the office at 410-740-0500.