

# HOWARD COUNTY

SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
MARYLAND



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## May Newsletter

Issue #2015-05

### 2015 Inspiration Walk - Great Day!



Birds-Eye View of the Festivities

The 14th annual Inspiration Walk was a great success. SOHO Global Messengers Christine Towne and Thomas Smith helped emcee the program, which included a traditional folkore Mexican dancing by athlete Wendy Jimenez and her Mom, Lety, and Zumba exercise led by Veronica Gimpel. Honorary Chairpersons County Executive Allan Kittleman and State Senator Guy Guzzone (who has been at every Inspiration Walk!) welcomed all the participants, including some special guests from Australia (see later article. )

The participants enjoyed the photo booth, facepainting and crafts by Abrakadoodle, Win Kelly and

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### TINO'S FUNDRAISER FOR SOHO - MAY 18TH

Mark your calendars for Monday, May 18th, Tino's Italian Bistro will donate 10% of all proceeds for the day to Special Olympics Howard County! Come out to Tino's at 8775 Centre Park Drive, Columbia, MD 21045 anytime between 11:30 am to 10:00 pm. No flier is needed. Eat-in, carry-out or delivery count toward the proceeds for SOHO. Let's give the family cook a break and make this a no cook Monday!

### THANKS TO OUR 2015 INSPIRATION WALK SPONSORS!

PRESENTING SPONSORS

Corridor Mortgage

DARCARS car displays, CPR instructions, Wegmans snacks, Canada Dry and Body Armor drinks, WLIP 101.9, the Oriole Bird, Raven's Poe, the Hogettes, Healthy Howie, and Chick Fil-A cows. In addition, DARCARS took great aerial shots from an overhead drone during the event. [Click here](#) for photos from that day and [click here](#) and also [here](#) for some great drone video courtesy of DARCARS!



So far, we have raised \$108,243!! If you haven't donated yet, there is still time. Please help us reach our goal of \$115,000 by donating online by [clicking here](#) or sending checks to the office. The top five fundraisers and their prizes will be announced in the June newsletter.

## Volunteers Honored at Inspiration Walk

This year's 2015 **Volunteer of the Year** has been a strong presence in our organization for over 20 years. He was part of the "founding" group that built the organization we have today. **Allan Waschak** has been part of the Executive management Team since 1999 and has served as both the Fundraising Chair and Aquatics Coordinator, building the aquatics program from 11 athletes in 1995 to over 115 today. Many thanks and congratulations to Allan.



SOHO selected the **Wrathall Family** as our 2015 **Family of the Year**. Clyde and Barb Wrathall and their children have been part of our organization for over 23 years. Clyde was one of the "founding" group of our organization and served as a coach in multiple sports over the years as well as the Softball Coordinator. Their sons contributed time to developing athletes. Barb took on technical tasks, like generating our early newsletters and more recently, assisting in the administration of athlete registrations. Clyde recently "retired" as Softball Coordinator but has joined the bocce team as a Unified Partner. Congratulations to the Wrathalls and we thank you for your continued support.



Lisa Higgins Hussman Foundation

### LEGACY SPONSORS

Dwight & Diane Mikulis, Allan Homes, Pat & Maryanne Klima, Timbers at Troy Golf Course, Brunswick Normandy Lanes, Quest Fitness

### TEAM SPONSORS

Integrated Waste Analysts, Win Kelly Chevrolet Buick GMC

### GOLD MEDAL SPONSORS

Anchor Construction Co., Columbia Office Properties Trust, DARCARS, Dominion Federal, Jarvis Steel & Lumber Co., just B Specialties LLC, Manekin LLC, Polakoff Real Estate Law

### SILVER MEDAL SPONSORS

Berger & Taylor, O.D., LLC, Diamond Graphics, Environmental Systems, Mabey, Inc.

### BRONZE MEDAL SPONSORS

Dembo Jones Healy Pennington & Marshall, P.C., J.E. Schenk & Assoc., Inc., Nightmare Graphics, The Bob Lucido Team, Aquatics Specialties

### HOSPITALITY SPONSORS

Body Armour, Canada Dry Potomac, Wegmans

A list of all our gift certificate and raffle prizes donors can be found on our web page at <http://somedhc.org/?s=inspiration+walk>

## Howard County Global Messenger Wins Trip to Spain

Kenny Long, one of our Beginner Global Messengers, represented SOMD at the Hunt the Harbor Scavenger Hunt. Bonus for the day - Kenny and his mom won the Grand Prize of an all



A volunteer with our program for over 17 years, **Jack Burk** was selected as the **Coach of the Year**. He built our 3x3 basketball program bringing in many of his friends to serve as coaches and volunteers. His coaching style is encouraging and supportive and he is beloved by his athletes. He has grown our basketball program into one of the largest in the state with 19 teams and over 150 athletes. In addition, he and his family annually award an outstanding student volunteer through the Jackie Burk Memorial Scholarship.

Congratulations, Coach Jack!

Also recognized at the Walk were some retiring sports coordinators: Sandy Schoenbrodt and Sheila Dwyer (bowling), Karen Thiem (bocce), and Clyde Wrathall (softball.)

## 5K Run/Walk to Benefit Special Olympics

On Sunday, May 31, 2015, the Atholton Elementary School PTA will be hosting its 5th annual "Panthers Pounding the Pavement" 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk. Proceeds from the event support educational and cultural activities for our students and 10% of this year's profits will benefit Special Olympics of Howard County!

This year's AES 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk will begin at 9 a.m. at Atholton Elementary School in Columbia's Allview Estates neighborhood. [Click here to register.](#)

## 2015 Outstanding Student Scholarship Winners Announced

The 2015 Special Olympics scholarship winners were announced at the Inspiration Walk. **Eli Sarnecki** received the **Jackie Burk Memorial Scholarship**. An active volunteer since 2012, the Mount St. Joseph senior has been a volunteer and Unified Partner in multiple sports - basketball skills, 5x5 player development basketball, soccer, bowling, athletics, and golf for a total



expenses paid trip to Barcelona, Spain in July! Congratulations!

## SOMD NEWS

April's issue of IMPACT, SOMD's e-newsletter can be read [here](#). May's Athlete of the Month is Abby Reznek from Prince Georges County. Watch her inspiring interview [here](#).

**SOMD PAID VOLUNTEER DIRECTOR POSITION OPEN**

For more information, [click here](#). If interested, please send resume to [resumes@somd.org](mailto:resumes@somd.org) no later than May 21st.

## MAY IS PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

Prader-Willi Syndrome is a rare genetic disorder affecting 1 in 15,000 births. PWS characteristics include an insatiable appetite, skin picking, hypotonia, intellectual disabilities, short stature and behavioral issues. Constant supervision is the best remedy to the food seeking and self-injurious behaviors. To learn more about PWS, [click here](#).

## AQUATICS UNIFIED PARTNER TO SERVE ON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Congratulations to Rachel Lin, Aquatics Unified Partner, who was recently selected to be the 2015-2016 Student Member of the Board of Education. Rachel is a junior at Howard High School and has been a volunteer with the SOHO aquatics program for two years and serves as the Aquatics Team Social Media Specialist.

## TIE-DYED SOHO TEE SHIRTS

of over 570 hours. He will attend the University of Alabama.

**Brandon Lowe**, who attends Marriots Ridge High School, is the winner of the **Allan Homes Scholarship**. He has also been a four year volunteer in multiple sports - bowling, basketball skills, basketball 5x5 player development, aquatics, powerlifting and fitness and athletics. Brandon plans to play football in college at Franklin and Marshall. Long Reach High School senior **Melanie Watts** and Archbishop Spalding senior **Sean Martin**, both volunteers with the aquatics program, were **Allan Homes runner-up scholarship winners**.



The winner of the **Kathy Lindner Memorial Scholarship** is **Robert Hunter**. He has been a three year volunteer in both bowling and aquatics.

Congratulations to these outstanding student volunteers, as well as all of our graduating seniors volunteers!!

## Track Athletes from Australia Visit the Inspiration Walk

For the second time, SOHO hosted a group of foreign athletes as part of the Sports Visitors program through the U.S. State Department. (See April newsletter for our first visitors from China.) A group of runners from Australia joined us at the Inspiration Walk to run/walk with our athletics team as well as join in the fun and festivities.

We have some tie-dyed SOHO tee shirts in two colors available in the office. Price \$15 - \$17.

## REFINANCE & RAISE FUNDS FOR SOHO

[Corridor Mortgage Group](#), who sponsors the fall golf fundraiser for Special Olympics Howard County is offering our organization \$250 for anyone who refinances their mortgage or borrows for a new mortgage through Corridor. Mention that you heard of the offer through the SOHO newsletter. For more details, call Chris Sittig at 443.539.1596 or email at [csittig@corridormtg.com](mailto:csittig@corridormtg.com)

## COACHES RESOURCES

Special Olympics Howard County encourages all of our coaches to stay abreast of the latest training. SOHO will reimburse any coach that wishes to take the online training courses offered below.



**Coaches Training**



**Coaches Guidelines**

**Sports Rules**



SOMD CEO Jim Schmutz with our Australian guests.

According to Kelli Davis, Sports Visitors Program Manager, SportsUnited - Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the Department of State, many of the Australian participants shared that when they return home, they want to volunteer at Special Olympics or some other organization that work with individuals with disabilities.

We will be hosting some 21 participants from 8 countries at our annual Softball Invitational on Sunday, May 17th, at Kiwanis Wallas Park. We are honored to be involved in this program.

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### **Important Newsletter Information**

If you are an athlete, parent or caregiver, we highly recommend that you do not Unsubscribe from this newsletter. You will miss valuable information about seasonal sports registration, policies, highlights, activities and other relevant information

Please add our email address to your address book so that the newsletter does not go into your Junk Mail folder.

If you have any suggestions or questions about the newsletter, please let us know at [info@somdhc.org](mailto:info@somdhc.org).

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### **Next Volunteer Orientation - July 8th**

The next Volunteer Orientations will be held on Wednesday, July 8th, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the SOHO Office.

Anyone interested in volunteering must attend a volunteer orientation, complete a volunteer application (<http://somedhc.org/volunteer/>) and an on-line Protective Behaviors Course. Parents are highly encouraged to attend an orientation. Parents that will serve as chaperones at state games in June must be certified Volunteers.

For more information, contact Volunteer Coordinator Janet Larrimore. ([JanetandWalter@comcast.net](mailto:JanetandWalter@comcast.net)). The next orientation is scheduled for April 8th.

Volunteers must update their volunteer application every three years. There is no need to attend another orientation, but the application must be updated.



SOHO Office, 8970 Route 108 Suite A1, Columbia, MD 21045  
Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:00 - 1:00, Tuesday 1:30 - 6:30  
Phone (410) 740-0500 | Fax (410) 740-2388 | [www.somedhc.org](http://www.somedhc.org) | [info@somedhc.org](mailto:info@somedhc.org)  
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