May Newsletter  
Issue #2018-05

Summer Sports Registration Open

Registration for our two summer sports, golf and kayaking, remains open.

Kayaking athletes are required to be able to swim at least 25 meters. New athletes will be required to take a swim test on June 16th at the Roger Carter Center pool at 9:00 a.m. Kayaking practices will begin on Sunday, June 17th at 8:00 a.m. at Centennial Lake.

Golf will begin on July 19th at Timbers at Troy Golf Course. (For information about the different levels of Golf training, see Sports/Golf page on our website.

Click here to register for summer sports.

Registration for fall sports - cycling, flag football, long distance running, powerlifting, soccer, tennis, and volleyball - will open on July 1st. Registration for winter sports will open September 1st.

Inspiration Walk

Despite chilly temperatures, there was lots of warmth among the participants at this year's Inspiration Walk. Honorary Chairperson County Executive Allan Kittleman came early to spend time with the athletes and praised their efforts throughout the year.
Honorary Chairperson State Senator Guy Guzzone, who has been at every Inspiration Walk but one, and County Council Mary Kay Sigaty encouraged the athletes to continue to work hard at achieving their personal best and the athletes were thrilled to spend time with Raven’s tight end Nick Boyle who greeted many athletes personally and took lots of pictures.

Once again, Meg Cooperman pumped up the crowd with a pre-walk dance year and this year, she was joined by Robert Wallop, who won the Gold Medal in individual dance at the 2017 World Special Olympics Dance Competition, and wowed the crowd with his moves! The participants really enjoyed the Star Wars storm troopers (provided by Old Line Garrison), the Hogettes, the Oriole Bird and the Raven’s Poe. Thanks to Wegmans, Canada Dry Potomac, Rethink Water, and Jersey Mike’s who provided great food and drinks to all the walkers.
and Glenelg Country School, Win Kelly, and Walter Larrimore for providing lots of activities and the Photo Booth.

Thanks to all our sponsors and families that donated. The top ten fundraisers, who raised over $36,400 are:
- Jason Kauffman
- Kayla Kosman
- Stephanie Baker
- Glenn Donovan
- Daniel Larrimore
- Peter Schoenbrodt
- Sam Emmerling
- Kirsten Smith
- Evan Davis
- Munir Vohra

Click here if you haven’t yet made a donation for our inspiring athletes!!

Photos from the photo booth and other great pictures can be found on our smugmug page by clicking here.

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**Top Volunteers Honored at Inspiration Walk**

We always highlight a few individuals at the Inspiration Walk and this year, **Stellamare Kosman** was selected as the **Volunteer of the Year**. A volunteer since 2009, she has been the coordinator for our volleyball skills program, and currently serves as the bocce coordinator. She has been an integral part of the Inspiration Walk planning committee in addition to raising thousands of dollars each year.

**Barbara Baker** was cited as our **Coach of the Year**. Barbara began our cheerleading program ten years ago. She has coordinated the building of this program to include dance and hip hop. Barbara is always looking for other cheer opportunities for our athletes to develop their skills.
The Decker Family was recognized as the Family of the Year. Cheryl served as Outreach Coordinator for three years, softball coordinator for one year and has led the cycling program for 17 years. Zach has been a cycling coach for 16 years, a basketball coach for 6 years, and the softball invitational field marshall for 15 years. Their son, Danny, also helps with the annual softball tournament, bringing many of his Wilde Lake HS student athletes along to volunteer.

Congratulations to everyone and thanks for your commitment to our program.

Volunteer Spotlight: Maximillien Poppe

Swim Coordinator Allan Waschak and swimmer Katherine Kinnaman present Max with a medal and some SOHO gifts.

This spring, SOHO had its first foreign student volunteer. Maximilien Poppe, from Charleroi, Belgium, was here with the American Field Service (AFS), attending Howard Community College to improve his English. Max’s guest host was Beth Greenberg, long time SOHO volunteer who introduced him to our organization. After attending a volunteer orientation, he decided to volunteer with the swim program because swimming is one of his passions. Swim coordinator Allan Waschak said Max was a fantastic volunteer. Max said he was impressed with how the entire sports program can change the life of the athletes and that they were so enthusiastic. Thanks, Max, for giving us some of your time while here in the U.S. We wish you all the best in the future and know that you are always welcome back.
Some swim team members surround Max with well-wishes and thanks for being part of the program.

USA Games Bound Athletes Continue to Raise Funds for Seattle

The USA Games-bound athletes are continuing their efforts to raise funds for their expenses. Each athlete has a goal to raise $3,000 to cover their expenses, and there have been a number of events to help them reach their goal.

The next restaurant night will be held at Bare Bones, 9150 Baltimore National Pike #22 in Ellicott City, on May 22nd. Dine in or carry out, 10% of amounts spent will be donated and used to send our athletes to Seattle. Diners must bring this flyer for us to receive credit.

Special thanks to Weis Market (9250 Washington Blvd., Laurel) for holding a fundraiser for SOHO and our athletes going to USA Games. Store manager Tom Kemp and Assistant managers Bobby Kemp and Clarence Terry and a number of other Weis employees prepared hot dogs, hamburgers and crab cakes for sale to customers and a number of our athletes greeted customers with information about Special Olympics and our athletes going to the USA Games. Thank you to Weis Market for their donation of $292 from this event.

Lost and Found

If you think you may have left something behind at a competition, be sure to check our lost and found box in the office. If you’re missing something, contact the office at info@somdhc.org or call 410-740-0500.

SOHO Merchandise Discounts Continue

We are continuing the sale of some SOHO merchandise. (limited quantities.) Contact the office if you are interested in any of these items.

Navy Fleece Jacket = $30.00
Backpack = $30.00
Short sleeve T-shirt = $10.00
Long sleeve T-shirt = $12.00
Charm Bracelet = $10.00
Pen = $1.00
Fleece Blankets = $25.00
Thermal Bottle = $15.00
Baseball hat = $15.00
Ceramic Coffee Mug = $5.00
Ice Scraper = $1.00

Are you interested in other jewelry items? Special Olympics Maryland athlete Alisa Ogden creates necklaces that symbolize the beauty in differences. $5 of each purchase is donated to Special Olympics Maryland. Click
Weis Market Manager Tom Kemp surrounded by SOHO athletes including USA Games bound Edie Daniello, Catherine Gruss, and Kenny Long.

Anyone who would like to make a personal donation to any of these athletes can go to the SOMD Team and Athlete Search page and enter the name of the athlete you wish to support. (Charles Gaines, Daniel Larrimore, Julia Phillips, Catherine Gruss, Kenny Long, Jena Jones, Zach McKay, Sean Taneyhill, Edie Daniello and Unified Partners Jim Bourdon and June Kerger).

Six Students Honored with Outstanding Student Volunteer Scholarships

In recognition of their volunteer service, six students have been selected to receive scholarships from Special Olympics Howard County (SOHO). These scholarships are funded by endowments created by the generosity of four families.

State Senator Guy Guzzone and County Council Chair Mary Kay Sigaty join the Schnorf and Waschak families with three of scholarship winners - Matt Maddock (Schnorf Family Scholarship), Caroline Lewis (Jackie Burk Memorial Scholarship), and Shannon Cucchiaro (Allan Homes Scholarship) at the Inspiration Walk.

Howard High School senior Caroline Lewis is the winner of the $1,500 Jackie Burk Memorial Scholarship.
Caroline is a four year volunteer in soccer where she was a Unified Partner. She also volunteered for four years in our swim program.

The Allan Homes Scholarship for students who have been involved with the swimming program was awarded to Shannon Cucchiaro and Kaitlyn O’Byrne. Both have volunteered for four years in the swim program and Shannon also volunteered for four years in our volleyball program. Each will receive $750.

The Kathy Lindner Memorial Scholarship of $500 was awarded to Tara Lanehart. The Centennial High School senior has been a four year volunteer in swimming and a one year volunteer in bowling.

Our newest scholarship, the Schnorf Family Scholarship was awarded to Mt. Hebron senior Matt Maddock. He will receive a $1,000 scholarship. Matt volunteered three years in volleyball, two years in bowling, three years in snowshoeing as a Unified Partner, and one year in 3v3 Player Development Basketball as a Unified Partner. The Runner-up, receiving a $500 scholarship, was Kianna Ameni-Melvin, Kianna, who attends Atholton High School, has volunteered in the 5v5 basketball program as well as the flag football program.

Spring Sports Competitions Continue

Bocce at the Naval Academy - April 29th

In Traditional Doubles, the following finished in first place: Jesse Carrico and Andy Young, and Kelly Allan and Hannah Saltzman. Second place finishers were doubles partners Justin Houghton and Russell Grumbine, Hal Josephson and David Miller, Steve Miller and Matt Wrathall, Alan Conway and Jessica Li. Tiffany Brooks and Catherine Gruss placed third.

In Unified Doubles, partners Randi Penenburgh and Clyde Wrathall, Chris and Peter Schoenbrodt, and Scott Heim and Michael Saltman finished in first place; Kayla Kosman and Karen Geiser finished in second place and Amanda and Karen Thiem finished in third place.

at the same time volunteers update their volunteer applications.
Taking the protective behaviors “course” and quiz is fairly quick (10 minutes or so depending on reading speed) and SOMD is sent a notification from SOI for anyone who completes it online.

Concussion Training

ALL Special Olympics coaches (head coaches and assistant coaches) must complete a concussion training certification process prior to starting coaching and once every three years. Click here for more details.

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 info@somdhc.org and bobbaker@somdhc.org email addresses to your address book so that this letter 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.
Swim Competition - April 29th:
SOHO hosted a competition at Howard Community College with 100 SOHO athletes, 24 Unified Partners, 50 swimmers from Montgomery County, 3 guest USA games athletes, 14 USAA swim officials and 40 volunteers, including many from CarMax Laurel Toyota. Former coaches Becky Lessey and Joanne Gales joined our four current coaches to handle staging.

Thanks to the USAA Swim Officials at our competition.

Jen Zinderman, one of our student volunteers in swimming, made this video of our swimmers during dry land and swim practice using the theme of this year’s Summer Games.

Track and Field Competition - May 5th
The Howard County Annual Track and Field Qualifier was a great success! Over 200 athletes from seven counties participated in a full day of track and field events, including wheelchair slaloms. Thanks to the efforts of Brian Rau, Athletic Director of Wilde Lake, there were 75 student volunteers from high school sports teams across the county. Cub Pack 333 also participated; they led the parade of athletes during opening ceremonies, and acted as escorts, bringing groups of athletes to and from their events. Many thanks to both these groups!

Softball Invitational - May 20th
Unfortunately, for only the second time in 21 years, and because of a week of unending rain, we had to cancel our annual Softball Invitational because of water logged fields. We were expecting 353 athletes on five unified teams and 14 traditional teams and three skills teams as well as 49 coaches, over 75 volunteers and 11 umpires
from 10 Maryland counties and Baltimore City. Senator Ed Kasemayer and Police Chief Gary Gardner were expected to open the games and Outback Steakhouse was going to provide all the participants with lunch and the Champions for the Challenged were provided snacks and water. Thanks to our competition director Dave Fagan, Field Marshall Zach Decker, Volunteer Coordinator Linda Hoyt and Janet Larrimore for all their hard work and to HCYP, our partners in this annual event.

Banner presented to HCYP in 2017 at our 20th Annual Softball Invitational