Howard Magazine Best of Howard County

Special Olympics Howard County received an Honorable Mention as Best Volunteer Organization in Howard Magazine’s Best of Howard County 2019. Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center was selected as this year’s Volunteer Organization. Sharing the Honorable Mention recognition with SOHO were Neighbor Ride and the Howard County Conservancy. We appreciate the recognition and all the volunteers who make our organization what it is! Athletes are why we do it, Volunteers are how we do it!

Spring Sports Registration Opens Jan 13th

Registration for spring sports (athletics, bocce, cheerleading, equestrian, softball, swimming and Young Athletes Program) will open on January 13th. When registering, if you do not receive a confirmation email within one hour, notify the office at 410-740-0500 as it means something went wrong and you are not registered. Click here to register on or after January 13th.

Remember that athletes must have a current medical to participate and the medical must be updated every three years. See sidebar article about discounted medicals.

SOHO Receives CarMax Laurel Toyota Grant
Special Olympics Howard County (SOHO) was recently awarded a one-time $39,000 grant from CarMax Laurel Toyota. The grant is part of their regional giving program and is focused on healthy living and leadership development. In addition to their financial support, the Associates of CarMax Laurel Toyota volunteer at SOHO’s annual Inspiration Walk as well as at various one day competitions.

“CarMax is committed to improving the communities in which our associates live and work, and one way we can do that is by partnering with local organizations that promote children’s healthy living. Special Olympics of Howard County is a fantastic partner that CarMax Laurel Toyota has partnered with throughout the year. The CarMax Laurel Toyota associates are passionate about providing their time and this grant to assist Special Olympics of Howard County in achieving their goals,” said Tom Webb, general manager at CarMax Laurel Toyota.

Bob Baker noted that a grant of this size will allow SOHO to continue to focus on improving the health and well-being of Howard County children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through its sports and social programs. Athletes participating in Special Olympics have improved physical fitness, increased self-confidence and social competency, and greater readiness for employment.

**Corridor Foundation Golf Tournament Continues Strong Support of SOHO**

The 9th Annual SWBC Mortgage Corridor Classic Golf Tournament in September continued its strong support of our program. We recently received a donation of $25,000 from the event. We are incredibly grateful for all the hard work that so many employees of SWBC Mortgage put into making this event one of the premier golf events in the state. Through their continued support of our athletes, they have donated $209,000 to Special Olympics Howard County over the past 9 years!!

**Discounted Medicals at Minute Clinic**

Thanks to a new partnership between Special Olympics International and Minute Clinic, Special Olympics athletes are now entitled to a sports physicals at a reduced rate of $49. Any US Special Olympics Athlete, or prospective athlete who needs to complete a physical can present this voucher at any of the 1,100 Minute Clinics in CVS or Target stores between now and July 31, 2020.

A list of participating locations can be found [here](#). No insurance or appointment is needed but be sure to bring the SO MD Athlete Medical Form with you.

**Sponsors**

Thank you to all those who supported Special Olympics Howard County this past year, whether through the Inspiration Walk or throughout the year. We would like to give special recognition to our Gold Medal and above sponsors.

**PRESENTING SPONSORS ($20K+)**

CarMax Laurel Toyota
SWBC Mortgage & The Corridor Foundation
This fall, SOHO created a Bowling League Play model to reach those athletes who were seeking more competition vs training/skills time. The athletes really enjoyed the competitiveness of league play and allowed them to compete against different teams each week. Results from the first season are as follows:

1st Place Team - Paul Phillips, Peter Byun, Will Alexion, Nate Zahn
2nd Place Team - Andy Young, Nick Stewart, Wayne Slifker, Chris Schoenbrodt
3rd Place Team - 2 Teams Tied
   - Juan Carroll, Nicky Mineart, Glenn Donovan, Michael Waschak
   - Amit Kathura, Kirsten Smith, Charles Gaines, Sam Emmerling

High Average Male (144) - Wayne Slifker
High Average Female (107) - Mary Condron

High Scratch Game Male (188) - Nick Stewart
High Scratch Game Female (151) - Kirsten Smith

High Scratch Series Male (465) - Nick Stewart
High Scratch Series Female (352) - Julia Schnorf

High Handicap Game Male (262) - Nicky Mineart
High Handicap Game Female (276) - Tiffany Brooks

High Handicap Series Male (697) - Nate Zahn
High Handicap Series Female (764) - Tiffany Brooks

Congratulations to the following SOHO bowlers who attended SOMD Bowling State Competition in Gaithersburg on December 8th:

Gold Medals: Kenny Long, Will Alexion, Henry Newton
Silver Medals: Ramsey Jenkins, Matthew Na
Bronze Medals: Rachel Kalatzis, Kristen Frande
4th Place Ribbons: Catherine Gruss, Sam Emmerling, Zach Decker

Congratulations to all our bowlers. Session two will begin on January 5. Registration for this session is closed.

Pals in Production - Drama Program

A Glenelg Country School (GCS) student, Hannah Quigley, has developed a community service project for students with special needs that will introduce them to the performing arts. She will direct a musical (Winnie the Pooh) which will be performed and produced by local students with special needs (ages 11-18) and students from GCS. The program will be limited to eight students and will be held at Glenelg Country School.
The project will be broken up into three modules -- the winter module (meeting in January and February) will be teaching the students about theater vocabulary and about the audition process. The spring module (meeting in March and April) will be working with the students to create their own costumes and sets and the summer module (meeting in May and June) will be rehearsals for a performance.

If you are interested in seeing a sample lesson plan or have other questions, contact Hannah at hannahq@glenelg.org.

Join or Support the SOHO Polar Bear Plunge Team

Come join the fun at the 24th Annual Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge on January 25th. This year, SOHO will have its own plunge team that you can either join or support. We encourage you to “take the plunge” or join the team.

However, for those who prefer to watch (from the beach or home), please support our team by donating directly on our team page with encouraging words to those plunging. Encourage family and friends to plunge and/or donate. If you are plunging and have your own fundraising page, you can connect your page to our county plunge team page so that we get credit for the funds you raise. SOHO will receive 70% of the funds we raise on our page.

Mt. Hebron senior and SOHO volunteer Lexi Cucchiaro has reached her $10,000 Super Plunger goal. Another student volunteer, Atholton High School senior Makenna Hammill, will be plunging as a Unified Super Plunger with athlete Jackson Balda. Their team page can be found here. Former County Executive and super friend of our athletes, Allan Kittleman, will plunge again for the 6th time! Read these super plungers’ stories on their donation pages about what makes them want to do this event and what Special Olympics means to them. Very inspiring!

Watch the newsletter, our web site, and social media
Upcoming Events of Interest

SPECIAL NEEDS CAMP FAIR:
Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Cedar Lane School (11630 Scaggsville Road, Fulton)
Choose from dozens of camps with a focus on the arts, nature, science, sports, and much more! Both day and residential camps will be represented. While the event is sponsored by the Howard County Autism Society, it is appropriate for children with a variety of disabilities. For more information about this free event, email info@howard-autism.org or call 410-290-3466. (If HCPSS is closed or after school activities are cancelled due to weather, the snow date will be February 4th.)

ABLE ACCOUNT
Thursday, January 30, 2020, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
NonProfit Collaborative of Howard County (9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia)
Maryland ABLE accounts are a way to help individuals with disabilities save money and pay for qualified disability-related expenses (including living expenses, education, housing, transportation, assistive technology and much more) without jeopardizing state or federal means-tested benefits such as SSI or Medicaid. Come hear about how it works, the benefits and eligibility. Sponsored by the Howard County Autism Society and the HCPSS Family Support and Resource Center. For more information, please call 410-313-7161. This is not disability specific; all families welcome.

Transportation and Arrival/Pick-up Policies Reminder

Because of several recent incidents, we want to remind everyone of the transportation and arrival/pick up of athletes policies.

Transportation: SOHO is not a babysitting or respite care provider. It is not the responsibility of the coach, coordinator, or any other SOHO volunteer to transport an athlete to and/or from practices. These volunteers give willingly of their time; to serve beyond the practice time for your convenience is inconsiderate. If you can not commit to transporting your athlete (either on your own or by making car pooling arrangements), you will need to reconsider your athlete's participation in that sport.

Arrival/Pick-up of Athletes: Parents or chaperones must escort their athlete into the practice location and must leave a contact phone number if they are not
staying for the practice or competition. Everyone must return 15 minutes prior to the end of practice. This will allow the coordinator the ability to contact the parent/chaperone in the event that practices ends early, if there is an issue with the athlete, or if another issue with the practice site may occur. Although contact information is provided in the online registration, the person responsible for the drop off/pick up of athletes sometimes changes from week to week. Having a sign out sheet will provide the coordinator the contact information applicable for each practice or competition.

Tim Tebow Night to Shine Events

Tim Tebow Night to Shine events will be held in several area churches. The event will take place on Friday, February 7th from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience for people with special needs, ages 14 and up, that will take place at more than 600 churches around the world simultaneously. Everything is FREE! Registration is filling up quickly, so register today! Each guest will have one on one support, have dinner and participate in many activities including a limo ride for all guests! Every guest will be crowned as king or queen, and everyone goes home with a swag bag!

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church (Ellicott City): Guests and those interested in volunteer should register here.

Grace Community Church (Fulton): Guests should register here. Those interested in volunteering should register here.

Outstanding Student Volunteer Scholarships

High school seniors and college students who have been committed to the Special Olympics Howard County program as a volunteer and advocate of the athletes can apply for four scholarships provided through the generosity of four families.

The Jackie Burk Memorial Award for Outstanding Student Volunteer for Special Olympics Howard County ($1,500) was created in 2004 by Jack and Linda Burk in memory of their daughter, Jackie, a special friend and
volunteer to Special Olympics Howard County. The **Kathy Lindner Memorial Award** ($500), in memory of Special Olympics Howard County's first Volunteer Coordinator, was created in 2012. Kathy was a dedicated volunteer in a number of sports, including the annual Softball Invitational. Application and deadline information will be posted on our social media accounts and web site in January 2020.

The **Allan Homes Award** for Outstanding Student Volunteers in the swim program (up to $1,500) was established in 2005 by Allan and Kathy Waschak. Allan is a member of the SOHO Executive management team, Fundraiser Co-Chairperson, and Aquatics Coordinator. Added in 2018 is the **Schnorf Family Scholarship** ($1,500). Cole is a member of the Executive Management Team and Fundraising Co-Chairperson. These scholarships are handled through the Community Foundation of Howard County. Questions about applying for these scholarships can be found here where you should sign up for their Scholarship eNewsletter for future information about the scholarship program.

### Car Donation Program

Through the efforts of longtime coach and volunteer, Duke Silvea, Special Olympics can now accept car donations to benefit our program. If you have a car you would like to donate, please contact the office at 410-740-0500 or email info@somdhc.org. We will come and pick up your car, ready it for sale, and provide you with a tax deduction for the amount the car is sold for at auction. Please help us by donating an unwanted vehicle!