

Dear Athletes, Family Members, Volunteers and Friends of Special Olympics Howard County,

Plans for our 9th Annual Inspiration Walk to be held April 17, 2010 are underway, and we need your help. Our program relies on a successful Inspiration Walk's in order to maintain the quality sports training and competition opportunities we offer for the 568 athletes who participate. You can assist by soliciting business sponsors, gift certificates, ordering photo posters of your athlete and most importantly by asking friends and relatives for pledges. Here are details on each area.

Business Sponsors

During the next two weeks we are securing business sponsors for the big event. Please consider asking your employer, a friend or neighbor who runs their own business, and even your dentist or doctor to consider making a donation to help the 568 athletes who benefit from our program.

You can use the attached Sponsor Letter to approach your contact person or email us the business contact and address information at bobbaker@somdhc.org or marilynmiceli@somdhc.org.

Any donation will be gratefully accepted. Sponsorship levels are:

Gold Medal - \$1000

Silver Medal - \$500

Bronze Medal - \$250

All three levels will be featured in the Inspiration Walk brochure, newspaper ads and the SOHC Annual Calendar. Gold and Silver Medal sponsors will also be featured on the Inspiration Walk T-Shirt. All the funds will be used directly for the Howard County program.

Gift Certificates

Additionally, we are in need of gift certificates for the random prize drawing. These can be for just about anything including restaurants, Spa's, golf courses, etc... so ask your manicurist, hair stylist, favorite restaurant, etc. When asking, please be clear that this is for the Inspiration Walk to benefit the athletes of Special Olympics Howard County. Please let us know who you plan to contact in order that the same business is not solicited more than once. Also, we can send you a general gift certificate solicitation letter that you can provide to the business.

In order to recognize the sponsors in the pledge brochure and on the tee shirts, we need to have commitments by February 22nd.

Showcase Your Athlete with Photo Posters

While the Inspiration Walk was started primarily as a fundraiser, it has also proven to be an excellent way for the community to walk and talk with many of our athletes. As we've done for the past three years, we will place athlete photos around the lake for walkers to enjoy. Any family interested in having a photo poster of their athlete to mark the walk pathway at this year's Inspiration Walk may purchase a sign for \$40, three for \$100. Send your digital photo to Diane Juda at wdeka@comcast.net. See the attached file, Showcase Athletes, for more details.

Individual Pledges

There are three ways to donate. 1) You can solicit for pledges online at www.firstgiving.com\somdhc by starting a personalized pledge page, 2) by donating online at www.firstgiving.com\somdhcdonate, or 3) by bringing cash and check donations to the walk or sending to our office. See the attached file, "How to Give", for more details.

Please help us meet our goal in order to continue to provide a quality sports training and competitive program for the Special Olympic athletes of Howard County.

With Warmest Regards,

Bob Baker
Director
Special Olympics Howard County