

HOWARD COUNTY

SPECIAL OLYMPICS
MARYLAND



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April Newsletter

Issue #2014-4

Thank You Sponsors!!

A huge thank you to our 2014 Presenting Sponsors, [Corridor Mortgage Group](#) and the Lisa Higgins-Hussman Foundation.

Also thanks to our Legacy Sponsors, [The Timbers at Troy Golf Course](#), [Quest Fitness Center](#), [Allan Homes](#), [Howard County Recreation & Parks](#), the Mikulis Family, [Brunswick Normandy Lane](#), [Community Foundation of Howard County](#) and [MarTar Swim School](#).

The Presenting and Legacy sponsors above provide nearly 40% of our operating budget via cash or in-kind donations. Please help us thank them by patronizing their businesses!

[Click here](#) for a complete list of our 2014 Inspiration Walk sponsors.

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

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2014 Basketball Results & Photos

Check out the results from our own March Madness, i.e., the final basketball competition by [clicking here](#).

A big thank you to Poliana Conti, parent of player development partners, Leandro and Carolina Conti, for putting together this great photo montage of the player development season!! [Click here](#) to see the video.

Plenty of great photos were taken at the 2014 basketball games held at various Frederick high schools on March

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

Fall Sports Registration Opens May 1st!

Spring sports registration closed recently and planning for fall sports is already underway. Beginning on May 1st, you'll be able to register for Cycling, Distance Running, Flag Football, Golf, Powerlifting, Soccer, Tennis and Volleyball. [Click here](#) to go to our online registration.

Merchandise Clearance Sale at the IW

At the Inspiration Walk, we will be selling merchandise with the former Special Olympics logo and you can't beat these prices, everything is \$10 or less! There are sweatshirts and pants, fleeces, old warm up suits (both new and slightly used), ponchos, coffee mugs, beach bags, and other items. Sizes are limited. [Click here](#) for a listing of the items and prices. Come early to be sure to get these limited items.

What does Special Olympics Mean to You?

Whether you are an athlete, parent, or volunteer, you know why you are involved in Special Olympics and what it has meant to you. Your comments, even just a few sentences, help us when we are doing public relations or writing thank you notes to our sponsors. Please

22-23. [Click for Photos](#) and for more photos, [click here](#).

Refinance and 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

Support Our National Team

SOHO is sending 30 athletes and 6 coaches/ Volunteers to the [Special Olympics National Games](#) in New Jersey from June 14-21. If you'd like to support any of these athletes in their fundraising for the trip, [click here](#).

A Matter of Worth

Data show that people with intellectual disabilities are loyal and dedicated employees. Yet a new study shows only 44% are in the labor force. So why aren't employers looking to this population to fill jobs? [Read More](#)

Jimmy Fallon Takes Plunge

Check out Jimmy Fallon plunging for Special Olympics! [Click for newsclip](#).

Coaches Resources

Special Olympics Howard County encourages all of our coaches to stay

consider sharing some of your thoughts (it doesn't have to be long) with us. Send any comments to info@somdhc.org.

Last Day for IW Posters is April 15th

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.

Pick your favorite photo of your athlete or team - preferably training or competing - email it in digital format (JPEG) to Robin Phillips at info@somdhc.org and send your payment to Special Olympics Howard County 8970 Route 108, Suite A1, Columbia, MD 21045. Photos **must be received by April 15th**. 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.

Summer Games Delegate Reporter Wanted

Special Olympics Maryland has been able to increase the number of stories that have been shared over the past year through in person and email solicitation to Area County programs, athletes, volunteers and family members. They'd like to further increase and improve these stories by having an embedded reporter at Summer Games with the delegation. They would be present, living among the delegation increasing the chances to procure and produce story content.

Training will be provided for those designated reporters in advance of the games as well as mandatory meetings on site at the venue. SOMD can provide a limited number of still and video cameras or audio recorders if necessary. SOMD will also provide a space to congregate to write stories and upload information near the Control Center.

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

Deadline for requesting this opportunity is April 23rd, 2014. If interested, contact Jason Schriml at jschriml@somd.org.

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.

A volunteer orientation will be held on 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.

Thanks for your support!!



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.somdhc.org | info@somdhc.org
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