

HOWARD COUNTY

SPECIAL OLYMPICS
MARYLAND



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November Newsletter

Issue #2014-9

GIVING TUESDAY: A new tradition of generosity during the holiday season

We have Black Friday and Cyber Monday and now we have a day to GIVE BACK - [#GivingTuesday](#).

On Tuesday, December 2, 2014, for 24 hours, charities, families, businesses, community

centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give. In Maryland, the campaign goal of "Maryland Gives More", led by the Maryland Non Profits Association, is to make Maryland the most generous state in America. SOMD is one of the non-profits participating in this fundraising effort as part of its year end giving campaign.

[Click here to donate.](#)



Winter Sports Registration Closing Soon

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Support Our Sponsors!

We are grateful for the support we receive from various businesses and local organizations, so please patronize these businesses whenever

Registration for winter sports (alpine skiing, snowshoeing and basketball-5 levels from skills to 5v5 full court) will be closing December 3rd for Basketball and December 15th for Alpine skiing and Snowshoeing. [Click here to register](#). NOTE: If an athlete has never participated in SOHO basketball before, they should register as NEW. If you do not receive an email confirmation after registering, call the office at 410-740-0500 to ensure that you are registered. Remember that athletes must have a valid medical on file prior to the sport season in order to be able to participate in any sport.



New basketball players must attend assessments at Harper's Choice Middle on Wednesday, December 3rd from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m unless they have received an email from Dave Donovan stating otherwise.

Spirit Wear Sale Ends Today

The Spirit Wear store is open through November 30, 2014. [Click here](#) to make a purchase which includes a SOHO jacket, hoodie (pullover and zippered), sweatpants and a beanie hat.

Please chose pick up for all orders as they will be picked up by a member of the HCSO staff and taken to the office for your convenience. Please keep in mind that all orders are custom, so there are no refunds, returns, or exchanges. Every attempt will be made to have products delivered for the holidays, but cannot be guaranteed. Thank you for showing your support.

Champions for the Challenged Christmas Party Invitation

A fun opportunity has once again been offered to our athletes by the Champions for the Challenged Organization. We are invited to their annual Christmas

possible. [Click here](#) for a list of our sponsors.

We are on Twitter!

You can now follow us on Twitter.
@SOMD_HoCo.

2015 SOHO Calendars for Sale

SOHO 2015 calendars are on sale for \$10.00. These can be purchased at the SOHO office or at Sunday bowling practices.

SOHO Athlete Selected for World Games!!

SOHO equestrian athlete Ben Stevick has been selected to be a member of Team Maryland at the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles, CA. Congratulations, Ben!

In Memorium

Stanley Daniello, husband of Jean Daniello and father of athletes Edie and Rose Daniello. (d. 10/29/14). Memorial donations can be made to Special Olympics Howard County, The Arc of Howard County or The Knights of Columbus, Columbia Council #7559, St. John the Evangelist Parish.

party on Saturday, December 20th. The event will be held in the multipurpose rooms at the Church of the Resurrection at 3175 Paulskirk Road in Ellicott City off Chatham Road and Route 40. The event starts with registration at 10:00 am. There will be a magic show featuring "Nick the Magician" which will begin around 10:30. Following the magic show there will be visits and photos with Santa Claus. Lunch will be served around noon. There will be music, small gifts for each attendee along with photos of their experience. The program will be over by 2:30 pm.

Attendance is limited. Please contact Mike Parker at chefparker@aol.com or at 443-506-8209 to make your reservation.

Fall Sports Season Photos

Congratulations to all the athletes that participated in a Fall sport. Take a pictorial stroll through our fall sports season by clicking on the following links.

- [SOMD Soccer Finals](#)
- [SOMD Fallfest](#)
- [SOMD Golf Finals](#)
- [SOHO Cross Country Meet](#)
- [SOHO Powerlifting Tournament](#)
- [SOHO Volleyball Tournament](#)

2015 Inspiration Walk - April 18th

Plans for the 14th annual SOHO Inspiration Walk are underway. This is our primary fundraiser and critical to our raising the funds needed to provide sports training and competitions for over 650 athletes.

Individuals may create their own page to begin their fundraising by [clicking here](#). Athletes may also link their individual pages to a team in which they participate to see which sport raises the most funds. The volleyball team raised the most funds in the 2014 Inspiration Walk (\$17,610) and won a pizza party. General donations can also be made by [clicking here](#).

Lots of volunteers are needed so if you are interested in helping, either with the planning or on the day, please send your name and contact information to

HOF Induction Pictures and Speech

As reported in our August newsletter, Marilyn Miceli, Assistant Director, was selected for the Community Sports Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony was held on October 21, 2014 at Turf Valley with 49 of Marilyn's friends and family in attendance. Check out some great photos from the evening by [clicking here](#). View Marilyn's very inspiring speech by [clicking here](#). This may take a minute to load. Read Marilyn's speech by [clicking here](#).

Office Holiday Hours

The SOHO Office will be closed from December 24 through January 4. Please email info@somdnc.org if you have any questions during that time.

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

info@somdhc.org.

We are also looking for corporate and business sponsors.

Sponsors levels are:

Team Sponsor - \$2,500.00

Gold Medal Sponsor - \$1,000.00

Silver Medal Sponsor - \$ 500.00

Bronze Medal Sponsor - \$ 250.00

Team, Gold and Silver Medal sponsors will be featured on the walk T-shirt if received by March 1st.

If you have any leads for sponsors, please send that information to info@somdhc.org.

Special Olympics Maryland News

[Click here](#) to read a Thanksgiving message by CEO and President, Jim Schmutz.

[Click here](#) to read the SOMD November "IMPACT" Newsletter.

[Click here](#) to view the November video news. Included in the video newsletter is a terrific interview with Westminster Chief of Police Jeff Spaulding (and former Howard County Deputy Chief of Police), and information about the Corporate Plunge in January.

Coaches Certification Update / Class on December 17th

Starting with the upcoming basketball season, there are new regulations for coaches certification. For coaches to obtain a new sport certification, they must:

- complete and maintain Class A volunteer status (general orientation, Class A screening (i.e., background check), Protective Behaviors Course),
- complete a course on coaching Special Olympics athletes, and
- complete sport specific training.

Existing coaches must renew their sport certification once every three years and must:

- maintain Class A volunteer status (new background check)
- complete an approved course or development experience which advances the coach's knowledge.

through the SOHO newsletter. For more details, call Chris Sittig at 443.539.1596 or email at csittig@corridorntg.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

skills and abilities in either aspects of the sport or coaching in general.

We are offering a Basketball coaches training opportunity on Wednesday, December 17th at Harpers Choice Middle School from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. This will satisfy a sport specific training requirement for new coaches and act as an approved course for recertification for existing basketball coaches. If interested, please contact Janet at JanetandWalter@comcast.net.

Updating Medical and Volunteer Forms

All athletes must have a valid medical form in order to participate in Special Olympics Howard County programs. These forms must be updated every three years. If you are not sure when a medical expires, you can send an email to info@somdhc.org or call the SOHO office. Try to schedule your doctor's appointment in plenty of time so not to jeopardize an athlete's participation.

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

Team Sports Participation Reminder

Please review the policy related to participating in team sports. <http://somdhc.org/policies/> If an athlete violates the policy, he/she will be prohibited from participating in that sport the next season.

Volunteer Orientation Dates

The next Volunteer Orientation will be held on Thursday, December 11th from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at 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.

For more information, contact Volunteer Coordinator Janet Larrimore. (JanetandWalter@comcast.net). Future volunteer orientations are scheduled for January 8th, February 5th, March 19th, and April 8th.

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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