

# HOWARD COUNTY

SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
MARYLAND



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October Newsletter

Issue #2017-07

## Winter Sports Registration Open

Registration is now open for winter sports (alpine skiing, snowshoeing, fitness and basketball (5 levels: skills, 3v3 Half Court Player Development, 3v3 Half Court Traditional, 5v5 Full Court Player Development and 5v5 Full Court Traditional). [Click here to register.](#)



**NOTE:** If an athlete has never participated in SOHO basketball before, they should register as NEW and plan to attend **Basketball Assessments on Tuesday, December 5, 6:30PM at Oakland Mills Middle School.**

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.

**TEAM POLICY:**

### IN THIS ISSUE

2018 USA Games

Fall Sports Snippets

Volunteer Spotlight

Athletes Honored

Special Needs Trusts

MD ABLE Accounts

### Fall Dance Scheduled

SOHO will hold its Fall Dance on Friday, November 3rd at Harpers Choice Middle School from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. DJ Steve Towne will once again bring the music for a fun filled night. Light refreshments will be served. Volunteers are needed. Contact Family Coordinator Barbara Stewart ([stewgarden@aol.com](mailto:stewgarden@aol.com)) if you can help.

### Bowling Session 2 Openings Remain

There are still a few openings in the second session of bowling (January - March). If you are interested in bowling a second session, the remaining openings will be filled on a first come-first served basis. Register [here](#).

This is a reminder that if an athlete is participating in a team sport this winter (i.e., basketball teams), you must commit fully to that sport. Coaches and teammates count on every member of the team. They must practice and play together to realize their full potential. Therefore, if you choose a team sport, you must be fully committed for the season, including all practice and competition dates.

If a team sport is chosen and these rules are violated, the athlete will not be eligible to play that team sport next year.

## A Special Needs Employment Solution

Did you know that there is an 82% unemployment epidemic among those with disabilities? Come out on November 1st from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the Bain Center (5470 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia) to hear about some unique solutions to meaningful jobs, including careers with growth built in and nurturing work environments as

**FINALLY !!!**  
A special needs employment solution.

- Come hear the unique solutions to meaningful jobs.
- Careers with growth built in.
- Nurturing work environments
- Life & independent living development.

**November 1st 2017**  
**6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**  
**Limited seating**  
RSVP Early @  
[Bit.ly/Conglom8Event](http://Bit.ly/Conglom8Event)

**Guest Speaker**  
**Allison Seymour**  
Fox 5 News

**Keynote Speaker**  
**Christopher Warren**

**8**  
Closing the Loop™

**Florence Bain Senior Center**  
5470 Ruth Keeton Way  
Columbia MD 21044

well as life and independent living development.

The Guest Speaker will be Allison Seymour of Fox 5 News and the Keynote Speaker will be our longtime coach and parent, Christopher Warren. There is limited seating so RSVP early at [Bit.ly/Conglom8Event](http://Bit.ly/Conglom8Event).

## Family Night at Coal Fire October 24 Support Howard County USA Games Athletes

We will be having a number of Family Nights at local restaurants to raise funds for the athletes attending USA Games in Seattle next summer. The first of these



## Volunteer Orientations

The next Volunteer Orientation will be held at the SOHO office on Thursday, October 19th from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Families who are new to our program are strongly encouraged to attend a volunteer orientation. Advance registration is required by contacting Janet at [janetlarrimore@somdnc.org](mailto:janetlarrimore@somdnc.org) or calling the office (410-740-0500).

Future volunteer orientations will be held on November 20th and December 18th.

## Change to Verizon Email Addresses

Starting in February 2017, Verizon will no longer provide verizon.net email service.

Verizon has teamed up with AOL to provide verizon.net email customers with AOL Mail.

Customers have been notified about the change and given the option to keep their verizon.net service through AOL Mail or switch to another email service provider. If you have switched or will be switching to another email provider, please be sure to contact the office so that you will continue to receive our eNewsletter and any other important information we send out to you through email.

## Sponsors

Are you interested in being a sponsor? Do you want to see your business listed in our monthly e-newsletter or on our web page? Contact [info@somdnc.org](mailto:info@somdnc.org) or call 410-740-0500 to receive a sponsor information package.

**PRESENTING SPONSORS**  
**Car Max Laurel Toyota**

events will be Tuesday, October 24th at Coal Fire, 5725 Richards Valley Road in Ellicott City. SOHO will receive 20% on both eat in and carry out orders all day. Take a day off from the kitchen and come enjoy some pizza and other delicious items while supporting our USA games athletes. Bring this [flyer](#) and turn in with your order.

Keep posted for specific dates of future events. (Tino's in January, Outback in March and Bare Bones in May)

If you are interested in sending encouraging words or making a donation to one or more of our USA Games-bound athletes, click [here](#) and click on Find Participant in right column or you can make a general donation to all Howard County athletes by selecting the "Give" button on the home page and at the bottom of the form, select Howard County as the county to which you wish to dedicate your gift. SOHO athletes going to Seattle are Zach McKay, Julia Phillips, Charles Gaines, Jena Jones, Daniel Larrimore, Edie Daniello, Kenny Long, Catherine Gruss, Sean Taneyhill, June Kerger and Jim Bourdon.

**Corridor Mortgage Group**  
**Lisa Higgins Hussman**  
**Foundation**

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Course Wegmans

**TEAM SPONSORS**

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## Fall Competitions Snippets

### Distance Running -

On October 1st, runners from Fairfax County, VA, competed against our "Quick Feet" athletes at our home meet at Reservoir High School.

The next week, six distance runners and two coaches ran the 5K Harbor Tunnel Run. Nick Howard won third place among males 20-29 and came in 10th



place overall. Volunteer Adam Yoe placed second in his age group and athletes Evan Jacobs and Will Frisinger also won age group awards.

### Volleyball - Our volleyball program, the only one in

Maryland, held its third annual Volleyball Invitational at the Maryland Junior Sports Center in Jessup on September 30th. Five teams from SOPA (four from York County and one from Adams County) joined four teams from SOHO for a great day of competition. Many thanks to the [Maryland Junior Sports Center](#) for donating their facility for this competition.

## 2017 Inspiration Walk Sponsors

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### IN KIND SPONSORS





On October

9th, SOHO volleyball athletes were treated to a clinic with the volleyball team of Notre Dame University of Maryland. The Lady Gators put our athletes through a series of drills and ended with playing two games with our athletes. The athletes learned a great deal and made some special friends. Thank you to the Lady Gators Head Coach Henry DeTitta and Assistant Coach Catherine Subrizi.

**Flag Football** - This has been an exciting season for flag football. SOHO has hosted a record five qualifiers this year, two of which have been under the lights at Rockburn Park. At the mandatory qualifier held on October 7th, six counties (12 teams) participated. An amazing day!



## Corridor Golf Classic A Huge Success!



The Corridor Classic was a HUGE success, raising \$72,000 for Special Olympics Howard County, The Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults, and the Corridor Foundation. WOW! We are very grateful for all that Corridor Mortgage has done over the past seven years to support our athletes and those

Steve Towne (audio)  
Mays and Associates  
Walter Larrimore Photography

### GIFT CERTIFICATES AND PRIZE SPONSORS

Canada Dry Potomac  
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### Photos of Our Athletes

You can enjoy photos of our athletes at practice, competitions and other events on our photo page. [Click here.](#)

### SOHO Merchandise for Sale

Looking for a gift or just want to show your SOHO pride? We have some SOHO merchandise for sale in the office.

Navy Fleece Jacket = \$40.00  
Backpack = \$45.00  
Short sleeve T-shirt = \$10.00  
Long sleeve T-shirt = \$12.00  
Charm Bracelet = \$15.00  
Pen = \$2.00  
Fleece Blankets = \$25.00  
Ceramic Coffee Mug = \$8.00  
Travel Mug = \$8.00  
Ice Scraper = \$2.00  
Toiletry Bag = \$2.00  
Tie Dyed T-shirt = \$15.00-  
\$17.00  
Golf umbrella = \$50.00  
Collapsible umbrella = \$40.00

Items can be purchased in the office.

In addition, SOMD "Be Brave" Bravelets and other items (necklaces, watches, pillows, scarves) are available [here](#). For each Be Brave item purchased, SOMD will receive \$10.00.

### COACHES RESOURCES

Special Olympics requires that all of our coaches be certified by

served by Ulman Cancer Fund.

Special thanks to all those who manned the SOHO chipping contest (Janet Larrimore, Marilyn Miceli, Jason Kauffman, Bill and Kenny Long, Dave Fagan, Robin Phillips, Joey Colleli, Adam Linker, Beth Greenberg, and Stephany Palulis). Our National



Anthem singers Joey Colleli and Alec Chase, putting athletes Catherine Gruss, Nathan Sarnecki, and Jason Kauffman. Adam Linker gave a great speech on day one about what Special Olympics has meant to him and Nick Stewart spoke on the second day.

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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Meet the Newest Member of the SOHO Management Team



**Gabby Jones** has joined the SO management team as our **Outreach Coordinator**. In this role, Gabby will work on recruiting new athletes and raising awareness of our Special Olympics program in the community. Gabby's connection with the special needs population goes back to elementary school when she befriended a student with Down's syndrome. She was also active in the Best Buddies program at Atholton High School and is now a teacher at the Katherine Thomas School, a special

education school in Montgomery County. Gabby joined Special Olympics in 2011 as a volunteer and unified partner for basketball and bowling and received the Jackie Burk Memorial Scholarship for Outstanding Student Volunteer in 2012. She recently accepted the position of Outreach Coordinator. We are glad to have Gabby as part of the team!

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## Two SOHO Athletes Honored at the Commission on Disability Issues Program

taking training classes at least once every three years. SOHO will reimburse any coach who wishes to take any of the online training courses offered below.



### Coaches Training



### [Coaches Guidelines](#)

### Sports Rules

## Protective Behaviors Training

Protective Behaviors Training is required for ALL volunteers (coaches, unified partners, Area leaders, general volunteers, etc.) and needs to be renewed every three years. It is typically completed 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](mailto:info@somdhc.org) and [bobbaker@somdhc.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@somdhc.org).

The Howard County Commission annually recognizes outstanding efforts in advancing full participation in community life for ALL citizens and promoting the spirit and intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other disability rights laws. At the county's 23rd Awards Program this month, two SOHO athletes were among those honored by the Commission for **Individual Achievement Awards**.



### **WILL ALEXION (Individual Achievement Award- Youth).**

After completing a year-long Project Search internship with Howard County Government, Will Alexion was hired by the County's Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits as an Administrative Assistant. Mr.

Alexion has served as student member for the Commission for Transitioning Students with Disabilities. He is also engaged in sports and community activities. Mr. Alexion was recognized for his achievements as a role model in employment and community advocacy.

**NICK STEWART (Individual Achievement Award -Adult)** Since 1997, Nicholas Stewart has participated with Special Olympics Maryland as a multi-sport athlete. Mr. Stewart has received numerous accolades for his sportsmanship, leadership and athletic abilities, and is an active community participant and advocate. He also currently serves as the Maryland Law Enforcement Torch Run Athlete Ambassador. Through his efforts, Mr. Stewart strives to raise awareness about disability issues. He is recognized as a role model and leader in athletics and community advocacy, and for his commitment to advancing full participation in community life for all people.

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## **Leadership U Students Sponsoring "Trunk or Treat" Event to Benefit Our Community**

Designed for students entering their junior year in high school, the Leadership U program empowers students to learn by doing. Students work in teams to discuss, reflect upon and develop solutions for problems that affect them and their peers in the community. They also develop mentoring relationships with adult community leaders, learn about Howard County's government, businesses and services, and hone their presentation skills.





This year, a Leadership U group is holding a **Trunk-Or-Treat** event on Friday, October 27th from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Cedar Lane School (11630 Scaggsville Road, Fulton). The trunk-or-treat portion will take place in the parking lot, and games, dancing, and a haunted hallway will be inside the school. Athletes are invited to attend and should RSVP to Jessie Zinderman at [jessiezinderman@gmail.com](mailto:jessiezinderman@gmail.com) to the group can get a general head

count.

Volunteers are needed to help with the event. Scan the QRC code or type in the URL to fill out the Google form. Contact Jessie Zinderman with any questions.

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## Understanding Special Needs Trusts

The Howard County Commission on Disability Issues (CDI) Provider Committee will host a presentation "Understanding Special Needs Trusts: What Families Need to Know," on Wednesday evening, October 18th, at 7:30 pm. The event will take place at The Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia, MD.

Local attorney, Stephen R. Elville, will be the presenter. The presentation will address:

- What is a special needs or supplemental trust and why might one be needed?
- What types of special needs trusts are available and what are the distinctions between them?
- What is the process of establishing a trust, including costs?
- What types of expenses can trust funds be used for?
- What are the basic differences between special needs trusts and ABLE accounts?

There will be time for Q&A at the end of the presentation. To RSVP, contact Erica Lewis at 410-313-6402 (voice/relay) or at [ealewis@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ealewis@howardcountymd.gov) no later than Monday, October 16th so that there can prepare for adequate seating and resource materials.

The event is free and open to the public.

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## Maryland ABLE Accounts New Partnership

**ABLE** (Achieving a Better Life Experience) makes it easier than ever to save money for disability-related needs! More independence, greater financial security and a better quality of life - that's the future Maryland ABLE wants to help build. MD ABLE accounts are a

new way to help individuals with disabilities save money and pay for qualified disability-related expenses without jeopardizing federal means-tested benefits such as SSI or Medicaid.

On September 6th, the Maryland Board of Public Works and the Maryland 529 Board approved an intergovernmental purchasing agreement through the State of Oregon with Sunday Administration, LLC. Set to launch by the end of 2017, this newly established partnership places Maryland among a select group of states offering ABLE plans across the nation.

For additional information on ABLE accounts, click [here](#).



**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](http://www.somdhc.org) | [info@somdhc.org](mailto:info@somdhc.org)

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