

HOWARD COUNTY

SPECIAL OLYMPICS
MARYLAND



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January Newsletter

Issue #2018-01

Spring Sports Registration in Full Swing

Registration for spring sports (Athletics [track and field]; Bocce; Cheerleading/Pom/Dance; Equestrian; Fitness, Softball; and Swimming) has been open since January 8th. Register by clicking [here](#). Don't delay as some sports have limits on the number of athletes that can be accommodated.

If you do not receive a confirmation email after registering, please contact the office to ensure that your registration went through.

Registration for summer sports - golf and kayaking - will open in April.



Be Part of the Annual Inspiration Walk!

The 17th annual Inspiration Walk will take place on Saturday, April 21st at Centennial Park in Ellicott

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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@somdnc.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!

City. The Walk is our primary fundraiser and critical to raising funds needed to provide sports training and competitions for over 700 athletes in our 20 sports programs.

It takes a lot of work to put the walk together and many hands are needed. Here are some of the ways you can be part of this important event:



1. Be part of the planning committee. We need individuals to help with long term planning, exhibits, activities, set up/break down, raffles, prizes, etc. If you are interested, email info@somdhc.org.

2. Solicit Sponsors - We are looking for corporate and business sponsors. Sponsor levels are:

Presenting Sponsor - \$20,000 and up

Legacy Sponsor - \$5,000 to \$9,999

Team Sponsor - \$2,500 to \$4,999

Gold Medal Sponsor - \$1,000 to \$2,499

Silver Medal Sponsor - \$500 to \$999

Bronze Medal Sponsor - \$250 to \$499

Athlete Sponsor - \$100 - \$249

Team and Gold Medal sponsors will have their logo on the Walk t-shirt and Silver Medal sponsors will be listed on the walk T-shirt if received by March 28th. If you have any leads for sponsors or are interested in being a sponsor yourself, please send an email to info@somdhc.org.

3. Donate - The Inspiration Walk page is open. (Click [here](#).) You can donate directly to our general donation page by clicking on DONATE button or you can create your own personal fundraising page to raise funds and be eligible for prizes.

This year, we will have **five** incentive level prizes which will be announced in next month's newsletter:

Level 1: \$50 = 2017 Inspiration Walk t-Shirt

Level 2: \$500 = Level 1 + TBA

Level 3: \$1,000 = Level 1 + TBA

Level 4: \$2,000 = Level 1 + TBA

Level 5: \$3,000 = Level 1 + TBA

Do you want to be a Global Messenger?

The best ambassadors for Special Olympics are the athletes themselves! If your athlete wants to help spread the word about our great program, then you may want to attend the next global messenger training session. Athletes will learn how to speak in front of an audience, interact with sponsors and be part of the Special Olympics public outreach.

The next training session is being offered at the SOHO office on Saturday, February 3rd from 9am to 5pm. If interested, contact our Global Messenger Coordinator, Marian Williams-Cato at vze1ena92@verizon.net

Volunteer Orientations

The next Volunteer Orientation will be held at the SOHO office on Wednesday, February 7th from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Anyone wanting to volunteer should attend. Families who are new to our program are strongly encouraged to attend a volunteer orientation. Advance registration is required by contacting Janet at janetlanimore@somdhc.org or calling the office (410-740-0500).

Future volunteer orientations will be held on:
Thursday, March 15
Monday, April 16th
Thursday, May 17th

Top fundraisers as of May 15th, are eligible for additional prizes to be announced.

4. Showcase your Athlete or Team: For \$40.00 (or three for \$100.00) you can showcase your athlete or a team with an 18x24 poster along the walk route. Send the photo(s) in digital format (.jpeg) to Robin Phillips @ mrobin.phillips@gmail.com along with your payment to Special Olympics Howard County which can be sent to the office address below. Photos must be received by April 1st. Posters will be returned to the family after the walk (either at the walk or pick up at the office). Posters from previous years can be used but must be dropped off at the SOHO office by April 10th. (No posters will be accepted for display the day of the walk.)

Commentary and Review of "Swim Team"

On Friday, January 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., the Howard County Autism Society, Special Olympics Howard County, Howard County Public School System, and the Columbia Association jointly held a preview of the documentary "Swim Team".

SWIM TEAM chronicles the extraordinary rise of the Jersey Hammerheads, capturing a moving quest for inclusion, independence and a life that feels winning. Unfortunately, SOHO did not preview the movie, and we regret that there were parts of the movie that we felt did not represent the spirit of training and competition that we foster and are principles of Special Olympics. We queried Special Olympics Maryland about whether the film had been endorsed by Special Olympics North America and Special Olympics International. The response was as follows:

"SONA, SOI and SONJ were aware of this movie. SONJ, SONA and SOI were made aware of this movie well into production. Unfortunately, the producers of the film were not willing to include us in the capturing and final product production, including how Special Olympics was portrayed and language used."



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@somohc.org or call 410-740-0500 to receive a sponsor information package.

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Law

The producers had also been in touch with us a few months ago about promoting the movie, and as an organization, we do not endorse or promote a project such as this unless we are part of the collaboration."

For those who attended and had similar concerns about parts of the movie, please know that behavior by some parents and coaches in the movie do not represent our principles and do not align with our Code of Conduct.

SOHO Athlete Competes in Xperience Tennis Tournament in Virginia



Meaghan and Julian with their medals

Howard County athlete Meaghan Hyer and Julian English from Montgomery County attended The Xperience Tennis Tournament hosted by Virginia Special Olympics at The Boar's Head Inn in Charlottesville, VA. from January 11-13, 2018. Participating in this event were 32 athletes from 15 states, from New York to Florida to California. According to Meaghan's Mom, Trish Hyer, Meaghan and Julian made a lot of new friends and Meaghan also rekindled some old friendships.

The University of Virginia Men's and Women's Tennis Team held a fantastic one hour tennis clinic with the athletes. The athletes also played doubles matches with the tennis club members. Meaghan and Julian each had five matches in two days, and both won the Bronze medal in their respective divisions. Congratulations to both!

Scholarship Applications Now Being Accepted; Fourth Scholarship Announced

Through the generosity of four families, Special Olympics Howard County will award four scholarships to outstanding student volunteers who have been committed to the Special Olympics Howard County program as a volunteer and advocate of the

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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

athletes. High school seniors and college students are eligible to apply.

The **Jackie Burk Memorial Award** for Outstanding Student Volunteer for Special Olympics Howard County (\$1500) 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 **Allan Homes Award** (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-Chair, and Aquatics Coordinator. 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. Added in 2018 is the **Schnorf Family Scholarship** (\$1,500). Cole is a member of the Executive Management Team, Fundraising Co-Chair, and a basketball coach.

Interested students must complete an application, provide at least one recommendation from a SOHO coach, management team member or sports coordinator, and write a 500-word essay about their experiences as a volunteer. Applications and details can be found at www.somdhc.org under volunteers.

Completed applications can be mailed to Special Olympics Howard County, 8970 Route 108, Suite A-1, Columbia, MD 21045, ATTN: Scholarship Committee or emailed to info@somdhc.org. Applications must be received by April 1, 2018. Questions should be addressed to info@somdhc.org or by calling the SOHC office at 410-740-0500.

Next USA Games Restaurant Night Fundraiser Scheduled for February 5th

The USA Games-bound athletes are busy trying to raise funds for their expenses. Each athlete has a goal to raise \$3,000 to cover their expenses, and we are having a number of restaurant events to help them in reaching their goal.

The third of these restaurant nights will be held at **Tino's Italian Bistro**, 8775 Centre Park Drive, Columbia, on **Monday February 5, 2018**. We will receive a percentage of those attending throughout the entire day, eat-in or take-out.



Charm Bracelet = \$15.00
Pen = \$2.00
Fleece Blankets = \$25.00
Thermal Flask = \$20.00
Ceramic Coffee Mug = \$8.00
Ice Scraper = \$2.00
Toiletry Bag = \$2.00
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 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

The next event is scheduled for Outback Steakhouse on March 20th. Attendees will need to bring a flier that we will post in the next newsletter.

VOLUNTEER AND ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT: Alex Barnes

Alex Barnes has been involved with Special Olympics Howard County since October 1995. Over the years, Alex has participated in volleyball, swimming, tennis, and bowling. In 2014, he was part of Team Maryland attending USA Games in New Jersey. Alex has been an active Global Messenger, speaking at a number of state and local events and playing the National Anthem on his saxophone.

In 2013, Alex decided to move from athlete to volunteer in bowling and volleyball. Alex has been a huge help in our expanded bowling program, greeting athletes each Sunday morning and sending them to their assigned lanes. He is also now volunteering in basketball. He also attends monthly SOHO management meetings. Thanks, Alex, for your commitment to Special Olympics Howard County as both an athlete, volunteer, and Global Messenger.



Alex at Normandy Lanes

SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT: Integrated Waste Analysts, Inc.



Integrated Waste Analysts, Inc. (and E-Structors Inc.) have been SOHO Inspiration Walk sponsors since 2011, donating over \$19,000. Owners Mike and Julie Keough, parents of athlete Mike Keough, have also been among our top fundraisers each year, including



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

supporting Mike when he was part of Team Maryland participating in the 2014 USA Games in New Jersey. Dad Mike has also served as a 5x5 basketball coach and both can be seen at young Mike's competitions, cheering him and his fellow athletes on. We are grateful for the Keough's contributions to our organization, both in time, talent, and treasure.

A Little Bit of History, 1980-1991

Many of the athletes and families now in our program see a vibrant and successful program but know very little about how we got to this point or the history of Special Olympics in our county. We will be highlighting bits of our "history" in upcoming newsletters, especially talking about those individuals that were part of that history. (If anyone had more information to add to this, please let us know.)

Eunice Kennedy Shriver started Special Olympics from her Montgomery County, MD home in the 1960's with the first official games being held in Chicago in 1968, but an organized program did not begin in Howard County until the 1980's.

Dennis Goucher started a Special Olympics program at Mt. Hebron High School in the mid-80's and in 1985, Ellen Roper started a Special Olympics program at Atholton High School. From 1988 to 1991 and with the support of the HCPSS, Special Olympics was officially part of Cedar Lane School with teacher, Ellen Roper serving as the Howard County Area Director. Coaches included John Fisher, Andy Delaesron, Fred Boddie, Pam Volmerhausen, Dennis Seibert, and Ciaran Lesikier. Howard County Recreation and Parks - Gary Arthur and Laura Weatherall - were big supporters of the program providing facilities and use of vans for transportation. Less than 50 athletes were part of the program and sports offered were basketball, track and field and aquatics and a few athletes participated in

other relevant information.

Please add

info@somdhc.org and

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.

skiing with Ricky Wheeler attending World Winter Games in Lake Tahoe.



Lisa Parrish had the honor of meeting with then President Reagan as he honored Eunice Kennedy Shriver and our athletes. In Howard County, the only competition that was held every year was a "Field Day" at Mt. Hebron High School with students acting as volunteers and "huggers". Huggers became a thing of the past in the early 1990's.



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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