



Special
Olympics
Maryland



50
YEARS
1970-2020

June 2022 Newsletter - Issue #3

Fall Sports Registration Opens July 5th

Registration for Fall Sports (Bowling, Cycling, Distance Running, Flag Football, Powerlifting, Soccer, Tennis, Volleyball and Young Athletes Program) will open on July 5th. Check out website at that time to register..

Summer Sports Registration Ends Soon: There is still time to register for Golf. For athletes who are beginners or new to SOHO Golf, select Level 1. For returning athletes to Levels 2-5, select that option. Registration closes on June 30th and practices begin on July 21st. Click [here](#) to register. There is a waitlist after 30 athletes for skills.

Inspiration Walk and SWBC Carnival

We could not have asked for better weather for our 21st annual Inspiration Walk and the first in-person, all together Walk in two years! The addition of the Carnival and the distance running competition made it so festive. The change of venue to Centennial High School was very popular among the participants who enjoyed several different paths of walking. Many thanks to SWBC for co-sponsoring this event and also to our many volunteers, especially the Centennial High School National Honor Society who helped throughout the event. Special thanks to Leo Conti, Danny Reedy, Ryan Gavnovski, David Hudson and Rick Trott, Senior VP and Regional Manager. Thanks to Walter Larrimore for his popular **photo booth** and Mimi Goodman who captured the day with great **photos**. Thanks to everyone who helped make this day successful by donating and fundraising. To date, we have met our goal of raising \$100,000! The **Inspiration Walk page** will remain open until June 30th for any one wishing to make a donation.



Office Hours

Office hours are 8:30 - 1:30 Monday and Thursday, 1:30 - 6:30 on Tuesday.

Congratulations to Outstanding Student Volunteer Scholarship Winners



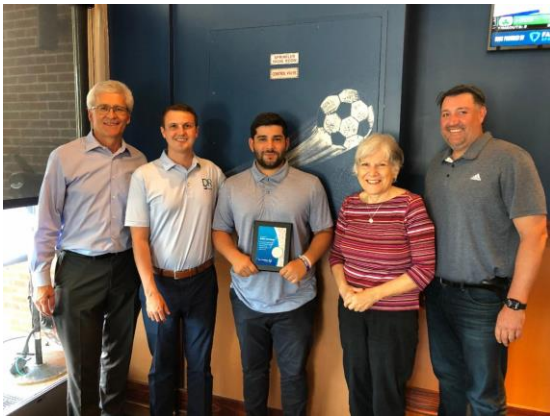
Allan Homes Scholarship:
Joshua Valentine (Mt. Hebron High School): Josh was a volunteer for six years, dedicating over 450 hours in

the basketball, track and field, and bowling programs. He acknowledged that Special Olympics was a welcoming community unlike any other community with whom he has been involved.



Schnorf Family Scholarship:
Abigail Ord (Oakland Mills High School): Abigail dedicated over 250 hours over seven years in the basketball, soccer, and bowling programs. She was fully committed to the

athletes, learning how to work with individuals who have different abilities and skill levels.



FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SWBC: All of us here at SWBC Mortgage would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended the Inspiration Walk and Carnival! SWBC Mortgage has supported Special Olympics Howard County in the past through the Corridor Classic Golf Tournament. We are thrilled to continue our partnership with the Inspiration Walk and Carnival by making it even bigger and better next year! Once again thank you so much for attending and if we can help you or anyone you know with their mortgage needs now or in the future, please be sure to reach out!

Volunteers Honored at Inspiration Walk

Every year at the Inspiration Walk, we highlight our volunteers and choose a **Volunteer of the Year**, Coach of the Year and Family of the Year. This year, we chose two deserving individuals as Volunteer of the Year.

Volunteers of the Year.

This year, we honored two outstanding volunteers.

Barbara Evans: A volunteer since 2004, Barbara has been a member of the Inspiration Walk planning committee in charge of Registration. Since 2013, she has been the Tennis Co-Coordinator and volunteered with the Alpine Ski program from 2015-2017. Always willing to help out especially where we have a need, Barbara took on the role of 5x5 Basketball Player Development Coordinator this year. Barbara's view on volunteering is that it is the "opportunity to positively impact someone else's life while also enriching my life with new experiences."



Jackie Burk Memorial Scholarship:
Christian Winkler (Sherwood High School): Christian began volunteering in 2016 when he joined his Grandfather, and Assistant 3x3 Basketball coach at a practice. For the next six years, he volunteered over 125 hours to the athletes, showing kindness, compassion and genuine friendship.



Kathy Lindner Memorial Scholarship :
Mackenzie Cooper (River Hill High School): A



volunteer for four years, Mackenzie volunteered over 119 hours in the basketball skills, kayaking, swimming and snowshoeing programs. She was a Unified Partner for one of our snowshoeing relay teams.

Volunteers Needed for Fall Sports

Our fall season of sports will begin in late August and there are a lot of volunteer opportunities! New this year, we are planning a tennis skills group for athletes that just learning how to play. We're looking for coaches that can help teach our athletes how to play tennis. Anyone interested in helping with tennis skills, or any of our other fall sports, can send an email to janetlarrimore@somdhc.org for more information. Parents and siblings of athletes as well as students looking for service hours are welcome to volunteer!

Volunteer orientations are scheduled for 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. via on Zoom on the July 18th and August 10th.



Mimi Goodman: Since 2008, Mimi has dedicated countless hours taking photos at many of qualifiers. If you have enjoyed the thousands of photos posted on our smugmug page, the majority of them were taken by Mimi. In addition, Mimi has plunged into the freezing waters at Sandy Point doing the Polar Bear Plunge for nine years but in three of those years, she plunged twice, once in the Corporate Plunge and once in the general plunge. She was also an integral member of the team redesigning our website. Mimi is also a member of the SOHO Executive Team. In last year's April newsletter, Mimi noted that she volunteers because Special Olympics "is one of the most genuine organizations I've ever worked with" and she has "made lifelong friends by volunteering with Special Olympics"

Coach of the Year: Duke Silvea

One of our longest serving coaches, Duke has been coaching 5x5 Basketball and Softball for 22 years! In both sports, he has spent those years teaching athletes important skills, sportsmanship and the love the game. And he recently added being a Unified Partner in Golf with son Brian. Duke and his family have always supported our fundraisers and Duke recently offered his services to take in car donations to benefit SOHO! See side article on "Car Donations" for all the details and we thank Duke for spearheading this effort!!



Family of the Year: The Ord Family : Volunteering since 2014, the Ord Family has been actively involved in Basketball, Bowling, soccer and Golf. When it comes to supporting Michael and all the athletes, it is truly a family affair as Mike, Marla and Abby have all given

countless hours coaching and volunteering in the sports in which Michael participates.

Tennis Clinic at Junior Tennis Champions Center (JTCC)

JTCC will be offering separate clinics for Levels 1-3 and 4-5, with a 30 min overlap in between.

Sunday, 3:00pm-4:30pm

Sunday, 4:00pm-5:30pm

Level 1- Skills

Level 4- Green Ball

Level 2- Red Ball Short Court

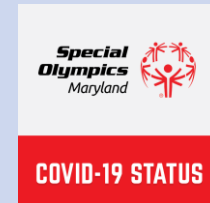
Level 5- Yellow Ball

Level 3- Orange Ball

The first 5-week clinic series will begin on June 19 and continue on June 26th, July 10th, July 17th, and July 24th.

There will be no practice on July 3rd.

Attendance at all sessions is mandatory based on limited space. (However, if you will be competing at Summer Games in Towson on June 19th, you can sign up for the other sessions. You can register [here](#).



SOMD Return to Activities Protocol

COVID-19 STATUS

As we continue to engage athletes, partners, coaches, and volunteers in as many sports programs as we can, please remember to visit our [Return to Activities Webpage](#). This page will have necessary information and resources including the most up-to-date protocol.

Coaches Training

Coaches can now complete the Principles of Coaching course online on their own schedule via the version of the course available through CoachTube. The course is free. Coaches who complete the course and pass the course test are provided with a certificate that they can send to coaches@somd.org for course credit and to earn their Advanced Coaching Level status. Specific instructions will be available shortly on the Coach

Are You Ready to Go Over the Edge?

Did you miss out on going Over the Edge in last year's inaugural event? Did you wish you had signed up when you saw how much energy was generated at the event among the participants? Then wait no more. Our second Over the Edge event, presented by SOHO and the Howard Hughes Corporation, will take place this year on September 16th and 17th. The event challenges individuals to rappel down 12 stories of the tallest building in Howard County, the 6100 Merriweather Building in the Merriweather District in support of the athletes of Special Olympics Howard County. All rappellers must fundraise \$1,000 to secure their spot at this thrilling event which gives you several months to get people to support your efforts. To register, click [here](#). Corporate sponsorship opportunities that will help defray the cost of the event are **available**. If you are interested in being a corporate sponsor or if you know of companies or organizations that are interested in being a corporate sponsor, contact Jessie Hayes (jhayes@somd.org).



Spring Sports Competitions

(Note that Summer Games and National Games Highlights will be in the July newsletter)



Distance Running: At our May 25th home meet, SOHO athletes represented half of the athletes competing. They definitely put their best feet forward and the scores reflected lots of energy, practice, and spirit. Griff Gundersen was the first in the 800m with a time of 2:23. Julian Than dominated the 400m with a 1:06, and Josh Geesaman blew past 8 other athletes to win the

1500m. Then athletes Bruce Worley, Blake OClery, Griff Gundersen, and Josh Geesaman drove their relay team to a victory in the 4 x 400m with a time of 5:07. 12 athletes completed in the 4 x 400m relays, then 8 of them immediately followed by running in the 4 x 200m relays! The relays also included a team of four athletes slated to run in the Nationals in Orlando: Charles Gaines, Jesse Sanders (Calvert County), Evan Jacobs, and Mark Worley.

Education & Development section of the **SOMD Coach Coach Resource Page**

Athlete Medicals and the New Communicable Diseases Waiver Required

Remember that all athletes must have a current medical before they can participate in a Special Olympics program. Medicals last for three years. The new Communicable Diseases Waiver is also required and proof of COVID vaccination is required for indoor and team sports. If you are unsure of the status of your athlete's documentation, contact info@somdhc.org. Don't wait until the last minute to schedule your physical.

Car Donation

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@somdhc.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!

Climate Change Preparedness Survey

Howard County government is interested in reaching out to diverse populations and underserved individuals through this survey so that they can make sure they are helping all HOCO residents be prepared for expected storms, flooding, and heat waves. asking residents to provide us information through an anonymous survey on how prepared you feel for climate emergencies such as extreme heat, flooding, and other severe weather events. Survey responses will help determine what actions should be

For the first time ever, we combined a distance running event with our annual Inspiration Walk. It gave those attending the Walk an opportunity to see our athletes in action. Surprising the runners was Megan Williams, Constituent Services Liaison, representing County Executive Calvin Ball, who presented a proclamation to the runners for their dedication to their sport.



Softball: On May 15th, finally returning to Kiwanis Wallas fields after two years, SOHO held its annual Softball Invitational. Traditional and Unified teams from seven counties as well as skills athletes competed in the same park which hosted this year's SOMD Summer Games Softball Competitions. Once again, the athletes and volunteers were treated to lunch donated by Outback Steakhouse (see photo below of store Manager Heather Ronning and the Howard County softball teams) and water provided by Mike Parker and Champions for the Challenged.



We were honored to have County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball welcome all the athletes from around the state as well as Lt. Adrian Thomas, Executive to the Chief of Police, who threw out the first pitch. Many thanks to the Howard County Youth Program, led by Brad Smith, who have generously provided us with this facility for 23 years! Also thanks to the Howard County Police Department Honor Guard who have been at every one of those years to kick off Opening Ceremonies. And we couldn't put on this event without all the volunteers who come throughout the day to help work the fields, pass out lunches and cheer on the teams. Special thanks to Tournament Director, Zach Decker, for all the planning and executing such a great event as well as his son, Danny, who served as the Field Marshall.



prioritized in our upcoming Climate Action Plan, including actions that can help you feel better prepared, safer, and more comfortable. Survey is available in English, Spanish, Hindi, Korean, and Chinese. Take the survey at <https://livegreenhoward.com/climate-survey-2022/>. Please complete the survey by no later than June 30, 2022. The first 500 people to complete the survey get \$10 off a Roving Radish Meal Kit. Code will be provided at the END of survey. Meal kits include all the ingredients needed for two dinners for a family of four.

Photos Of Our Athletes

You can enjoy photos of our athletes at practice, competitions and other events on our photo page.

[Event Photos](#)

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 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.



Swimming

State games-bound swimmers attended their two required qualifiers this spring, at either a meet at Loyola College or Stone Ridge School in Montgomery

County or at our outdoor meet with swimmers from Special Olympics Montgomery County at the Stevens Forest Pool. Many thanks to the Columbia Aquatics Association, the Clippers and parents, and the Maryland swim officials all of whom helped make the event such a success. Thank you also to the Columbia Association for making the Stevens Forest Pool available to us.

Bocce: Our athletes and unified partners did a great job representing us at both our SOHO and SOMO Qualifiers. SOHO held its first multi-county bocce qualifier on Saturday, May 14th and were happy to host Montgomery County. A total of 38 athletes from Howard and Montgomery County came together to compete on courts at Blandair Park. We had seven students volunteers from three different schools as well as adult volunteers who helped set up the courts as well as serving as Court Officials.

The Bocce program also presented David Weeks, Community Service Director at Glenelg Country School, with a plaque thanking the school for supporting the SOHO Bocce Program. The plaque contains the coins which were presented by the county at the opening of the Cedar Lane Park West Bocce courts, the official training site of the SOHO Bocce Team. The team was able to get these new colorful team shirts through GCS donations over the past years.





Horse Show: The Therapeutic Recreation and Riding Center hosted this year's Horse Show on June 11th. Thanks to MD House of Delegate Reid Novotny, for joining in the opening ceremonies and thanks to SOHO equestrian coaches Ashley Whitlock,

Sarah Tapley, Elena Cuenca, and Debbie French. Many thanks to equestrian coordinators Marianne Otto-Smith and Susan Buningh and for putting together this event.

County Executive Recognizes USA Games Bound Athletes with Proclamation



Two weeks before leaving for Special Olympics USA Games, athletes met with County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball who presented each of them with a Certificate of Recognition:

"To recognize the competitive excellence exhibited by these athletes in Howard County, Maryland, this certificate is hereby presented NAMED ATHLETE. The Special Olympics USA Games is an amazing, once in a lifetime opportunity to showcase your remarkable skills and abilities. You exhibit dedication and perseverance not only in sports but in areas of life. I offer my congratulations to you and your team, and the loved ones and coaches that have helped you shine brighter than ever. Good luck at the Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando."

Watch next month's newsletter for results and photos.



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