



**Special  
Olympics**  
Maryland



**50**  
YEARS  
1970-2020

## March 2023 Newsletter - Issue #2

### Spring Sports Registration Open

Registration for Spring Sports (*Athletics, Bocce, Cheerleading, Dance, Pickleball, Softball, Spirit Fitness, Swimming, Young Athletes Program*) is still open but deadlines are fast approaching. Click [here](#) for further information.



### Welcome New Management Team Members

**Mike Ord** has joined the management team as our **Special Events Coordinator**. Mike's main duty will be to lead the planning teams for both the annual Inspiration Walk and the Over the Edge event. If you are interested in being involved in planning for either or both of these events, contact Mike at [rmo928@yahoo.com](mailto:rmo928@yahoo.com).

**Felecia McLarin** is also joining our management team as our **Athlete Leadership Program Coordinator**. Felecia will be encouraging athletes to participate in SOMD's athlete leadership training and arranging opportunities for athletes to speak at events and serve as ambassadors for Special Olympics. If you would like to get involved as an athlete leader, contact Felecia at [alexme03@aol.com](mailto:alexme03@aol.com).



### Save the Date: 2023 Inspiration Walk - May 6th - New Location

The date is set for Saturday, May 6th for our 22nd Annual Inspiration Walk. The location this year will be at The Meeting House at Oakland Mills Village Center in Columbia. We will use the Columbia path systems and we've mapped

out 1 mile, 2 mile and 3.4 mile courses. The 2 mile course will take us over the Rt 29 footbridge and the 3.4 mile course will go completely around Lake Kittamaqundi before returning to the Meeting House.

### Office Hours

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

### 2023 Volunteer Orientations

Wednesday, April 12, 2023  
Monday, May 22, 2023

All begin at 7pm at the SOHO office or virtually.

Volunteers are needed for the spring sports of Bocce, Cheerleading, Softball, Swimming, Track & Field, and the Young Athletes Program. **We are also looking for someone to coach our softball skills athletes.**

Contact Megan Larson at [meganlarson@somdhc.org](mailto:meganlarson@somdhc.org) for more information. Parents and siblings of athletes as well as students looking for service hours are welcome to volunteer!

### Thanks to Clarks Hardware!

Thank you to Clarks Hardware for making Special Olympics MD Howard County their Round-Up partner for

Families, this is your chance to give back to Special Olympics for all the free sports programs that are offered. [Click here to register, donate and to create a fundraising page.](#)

Or scan the QR code to the right from your phone's camera to go to the Inspiration Walk website to register or donate.



## Outstanding Student Volunteer Scholarships Applications Due by March 27th

High school seniors and college students who have been committed to the Special Olympics Howard County program as a volunteer and advocate of the athletes can apply to four scholarships provided through the generosity of four families.

**The Jackie Burk Memorial Award** for Outstanding Student Volunteer for Special Olympics Howard County (\$1,500) was created in 2004 by Jack and Linda Burk in memory of their daughter, Jackie, a special friend and volunteer with Special Olympics Howard County.

**The Kathy Lindner Memorial Award** (\$500), in memory of Special Olympics Howard County's first Volunteer Coordinator, was created in 2012.

**The Allan Homes Award** for Outstanding Student Volunteers in the swim program (up to \$1,500) was established in 2005 by Allan and Kathy Waschak. Allan was a member of the SOHO Executive management team, Fundraiser Co-Chairperson, and Aquatics Coordinator.

**The Schnorf Family Scholarship** (\$1,500) was created in 2018. Cole Schnorf is a member of the Executive Management Team, Fundraising Chairperson, and a basketball coach.

The application is located on our web site [here](#). Completed applications can be emailed to [info@somdhc.org](mailto:info@somdhc.org) or mailed to the office but **must be received by March 27<sup>th</sup>**.

## Winter Games Results

**Snowshoeing:** The HOCO Snowshoe team wrapped up their season at the 2023 Winter Games held at Wisp Ski Resort in Mchenry, Maryland. The athletes representing Howard County at this year's games were Jesse Carrico, Nicholas Howard, Kathryn Moschel and Julian Than, along with Coaches John Carrico and Elizabeth Yao.



February. Thanks to all of their customers that participated to help raise \$1,223.86 to support our athletes. We are very grateful to everyone.



## Summer Camp Opportunities and Other Spring and Summer Activities

**Camp Friendshine:** Howard County Recreation and Parks Therapeutic programs is offering a camp for teens with moderate developmental/cognitive disabilities. The program includes various recreation and leisure activities like art, music, nature and physical activities. Click [here](#) for specifics on the program

**Camp Inclusion:** Camp Inclusion is excited to operate both the elementary and secondary programs again this summer with an ADDITIONAL week available for each program! Click [here](#) for further information.

The Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks Spring and **Summer Guide Activity Guide** is out. Online Registration opened on March 1st. Individuals with disabilities are welcome in all Recreation and Parks programs and may request accommodations if needed. Recreation and Parks does offer therapeutic recreation programs for those needing a smaller staff to participant ratio. These offerings can be found in the Therapeutic

During this 2 day event, the team participated in time trials, opening ceremonies and a welcome back reception given by the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce. The athletes did a great job representing Howard County while bringing home gold and silver medals and 4th place ribbons.

A special shout out goes to our volunteers who did a great job assisting the athletes throughout the season. Katrina Mitchell-Cooper, Mackenzie Cooper, Balwyn and Jerry Jing, Jean Daniello and Anna Sommerville, thank you for all that you did throughout the season in helping to get our athletes in shape!

**Alpine Skiing:** The alpine ski team fought against the lack of snow, blowing winds, and rain, but we persevered! Our athletes left the Winter Games happy and tired with every medal and ribbon they could muster! The picture shows us waiting, sometimes for over an hour, to do our runs, but always with a smile! Many thanks to all the coaches and volunteers for another successful season for our athletes.



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## Winter Sports Activities

**Distance Running** Coordinator Ann Worley reported that the unusually mild weather was a boon to the twelve athletes who participated in the winter running practices at Oakland Mills High School track under the flood lights. Adam Yoe and other volunteers led them in relays, tag, and other engaging running activities to keep them moving. these winter practices have kept them in shape for the upcoming spring track season.

**5x5 Traditional Basketball:** Team Hyer vs Team Healey/Miller take a break from their scrimmage on March 4th for a photo shoot.

Recreation Section of the guide. Therapeutic Recreation and Accommodation Services can be found on pages 13-16 and page 65.

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## Discounted MinuteClinic Physicals/Medical Updates

Special Olympics has continued their nation-wide partnership with **MinuteClinic!** Click [here](#) for the updated voucher for discounted medicals at all MinuteClinics for Special Olympics participation! Please make sure you bring Special Olympics medical forms with you as they may not have them there.

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## Medical Support Needed

Do you have a medical or nursing degree? Are you an EMT? We are in need of medical support staff to assist at competitions. You would be asked to attend a competition two to three times a year to provide medical assistance, if needed. Special Olympics will provide supplies. If you can help, send an email to [info@somdhc.org](mailto:info@somdhc.org).

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## Car Donations Benefit SOHO

Through the efforts of longtime coach and volunteer, Duke Silvea, Special Olympics can now accept car donations to benefit our program. Since the beginning of this program, we have received **\$14,328.00** in donations!

If you have a car you would like to donate, please contact the office at 410-740-0500 or email [info@somdhc.org](mailto: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!





## Photos Of Our Athletes

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

[Event Photos](#)

## Summer Games Dates Set Through 2025

SOMD has made the decision to shift Summer Games to the weekend immediately following Fathers' Day for at least the next three years:

- June 23-25, 2023
- June 21-23, 2024
- June 20-22, 2025

## SOHO Plungers Brave the Frigid Temps at MSP Polar Bear Plunge

Congratulations to all those who braved the seriously cold temps to take the plunge at Sandy Point State Park. Special shout-out to our Social Media Coordinator



Tracy O'Conner who completed her very first plunge supported by long time plungers Clare Colleli (16 Years) and Mimi Goodman (10 years, 14 plunges). The three of them raised \$5,798.00. Allan Waschak, our most seasoned plunger at 20 years, along with his Allan Homes plunge team, raised a whopping \$14,060!



**Spirit Club:** We are continuing our Spirit Club fitness program this spring. To allow broader participation, the policy is that previous season participants will need to sit out the next season to give others a chance to be part of the program. Spirit Club is being offered by Rec & Parks, so we encourage athletes to participate through them in the seasons which they need to sit

out. Athletes can choose to join other Spirit Club classes (a list which will be provided by Spirit Club) that they can elect to join for a fee. Again. These additional classes are not an official Special Olympics program.

## JTCC Tennis Clinics are Back!

Registration for JTCC's Special Olympics tennis program for the spring session is OPEN! Located in College Park, MD, the tennis center's mission is "Tennis for Everybody" and is proud to partner with Special Olympics MD to offer year-round tennis clinics. The clinics focus on building a strong athletic foundation while learning tennis stroke and strategy fundamentals through an engaging game-based format. Additionally, JTCC has a low coach-to-player ratio to ensure athletes are getting individualized, level-based instruction that

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For the most current information on Covid -19 related requirements, click [here](#).

**COVID-19 STATUS**

## 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).

they need to take their game to the next level, whether they are beginner Level 1, high-performance Level 6, or anywhere in between!

The clinics held on Sundays from 4-5:30pm at JTCC (5200 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740). The Spring Session runs April 16-June 11. You do not need to attend all clinics within a session to participate and benefit from the program! To register for the program, click [here](#) and contact Gabby Hesse at [ghesse@jtcc.org](mailto:ghesse@jtcc.org) with any questions.

## 2022 OVER THE EDGE SPONSORS

Our deepest appreciation to our Over the Edge Sponsors. Because of their support and the support of 101 rappellers, we have raised \$165,900 to date. These funds will enable us to continue to provide a year-round sports and competition program in 25 sports programs.

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[Contact SOHO Today](#)

