



Special
Olympics
Maryland



50
YEARS
1970-2020

April 2024 Newsletter - Issue #4

Summer Sports Registration Opens

Registration for our Golf program this summer (Skills and Levels 2-5) is now open. [CLICK HERE](#) to register.



National Volunteer Month

April is **National Volunteer Month** and an important time for us to recognize all the incredible volunteers who make up our organization. Throughout the month, we have been recognizing some of our many volunteers on Instagram and Facebook. We hope you have enjoyed reading about these

wonderful volunteers who have committed their time and talent to SOHO in a variety of sports and administrative areas. As an **all-volunteer organization**, we could not provide the sports, events, and other services without these many individuals. So as April comes to an end, we extend our sincerest and heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers. You rock!

Russ Young, who was selected as one of this year's Volunteer of the Year recipients, noted, "Volunteering for SOHO is one of the most worthwhile things I've ever done."

23rd Annual Inspiration Walk Wrap Up

The rain held off on Saturday just long enough for us to enjoy the festivities and honor a number of our long-time volunteers (see below). Special thanks to

- **Raul Delerme**, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and former Director of Recreation & Parks, and **Susan Potts**, Therapeutic Recreation and Accommodation Services Manager from HC Recreation and Parks, who welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of the athletes continuing to be the best they can be.
- **Steve Towne**, our fabulous DJ
- **Molly Peter** for leading everyone in the National Anthem



Office Hours

Monday/Thursday 8:30 - 1:30
Tuesday 1:30 - 6:30

2024 Volunteer Orientations

The next volunteer orientations are scheduled for **Tuesday, May 21st and Monday, June 10th** at the SOHO office.

Contact the office (410-740-0500) or info@somdhc.org for more information. Parents and siblings of athletes as well as students who may be interested in being Unified Partners or looking for service hours are encouraged to attend.

Welcome to Our New Volunteer Coordinator

We welcome **Patty Gans** as our new Volunteer Coordinator replacing Megan Larson. Patty is an Air Force veteran who was raised in Texas. She has two sons born here in Maryland. She has been a volunteer with our 3x3 Player Development basketball program and is excited about this opportunity to be further involved in our organization. Welcome Patty!

A big thank you to our outgoing Volunteer coordinator, **Megan Larson**, who has served in that position for the last 18 months.

- Spirit Fitness for warming everyone up prior to the start of the walk
- Our photographers, Walter Larrimore and Mimi Goodman. [CLICK HERE](#) to see all the great photos taken that day
- All the fabulous mascots from a "galaxy far, far away"
- Morgan State Empowerment Through Sport club who ran all the games and also walked along with some of our athletes
- **Brandon McLarin who served as the co-emcee**
- **Ellen Budd and Hans Plugge** from Oakland Mills Meeting House
- Our IW Planning Team led by **Mike Ord: Mimi Goodman, Janet Larrimore, Tracy O'Conner, Barbara Evans, Marilyn Miceli, Megan Larson and Bob Baker**

It's not too late to donate, [CLICK HERE](#) to help fund this amazing sports program for 968 Howard County Special Olympians!!



Lifetime Achievement Award: Bill Parlock

Bill has been involved in our program since 1994. He started volunteering in our alpine ski program and then added swimming, working with the athletes who needed the most instruction and individual attention. And while he has since stepped out of volunteering in those two sports, he continues to volunteer in cycling, a sport which he started 24 years ago. In 2014, he was selected as our Coach of the Year.

Still seeking a Level 2-5 Golf Coordinator

Due to one of the previously named new Golf Coordinator taking the Volunteer Coordinator position, we are still in need of a Level 2-5 Golf Coordinator. With the impending season, it's critical that we get someone in this position in order to get trained by our previous golf coordinator.

Bowie Baysox Clinic

On Saturday, April 20th, some of our softball athletes attended a softball clinic with the Bowie Baysox at Prince George's Stadium in Bowie. There were stations set up for pitching, fielding and hitting. The Baysox players autographed their shirts. At one point, one of our athletes asked if the Baysox players wanted HIS autograph!! So, Baysox player let the athletes sign HIS shirt! Thank you to the Baysox organization and athletes for such a fun day.



Law Enforcement Torch Run

Come on out to Western Regional Park on May 31st at 9:00 to see five of our SOHO athletes be sworn in as deputies to Law Enforcement



Volunteer of the Year: Russ Young

For 20 years, **Russ** has been the Coordinator for our volleyball program and has kept it going despite now being the only county in Maryland that has a volleyball program. He has run competitions

here in Howard County inviting volleyball teams from Pennsylvania and Virginia and has sought out competition opportunities in other states for his teams. Since 2008, Russ has also served on the management team as the Sports Coordinator where he trains all new sports coordinators in how to run their sports program, which is probably why we have the best sports coordinators. Thank you Russ for your dedication to our organization and especially to the volleyball program.

Volunteer of the Year: Barbara Stewart.

A member of the management team for 25 years serving as the Family Coordinator, **Barbara** also serves as a member of the Conduct Committee. Over the years, Barbara has planned countless dances, family restaurant nights and Special Olympics Howard County Oriole Outings at Camden Yards.



agencies prior to the start of the Howard County Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Sports Camp

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is sponsoring a day long sports camp at Chapelgate Presbyterian Church on July 27th from 8am until 2pm. The campers will get to be an athlete all day! Athletes will be paired up with a one-on-one teammate who will be their best friend throughout the day and go through all sports stations with them. Register at www.cmdfcs.org/allability.

Discounted Sports Physicals

Special Olympics North America has renewed the partnership with MinuteClinic, and, will once again be offering discounted sports physicals at a discounted rate. This **voucher** must be presented at the time of the physical AND athletes and families should bring the Special Olympics Maryland registration packet with them to ensure the correct paperwork is completed and can be submitted to their area program.

New

There is also a **voucher** for discounted Women's Health Services through Minute Clinic for Special Olympics athletes.

Reminder: Athletes are not required to use MinuteClinic, but those who do not have a primary care physician may find this discount helpful.

REMEMBER: All athletes must have a current medical at the start of a sports season before they can participate so don't wait until the last minute to get your physicals completed before the season starts.



Coach of the Year: Shirley Duhaney

Shirley has served as a track coach for 22 years, helping to organize our large track competition for all of that time. She was a soccer team volunteer for 10 years and is our current soccer coordinator. She

helps at all of our fundraising events like she did on Saturday working registration at the Inspiration Walk. Shirley received a Coach Good Sports Award at the Celebration of Sports event last fall.

Family of the Year: The Bourdon's

Jim and Theresa Bourdon have been dedicated Special Olympics volunteers since 2003 in several different sports, including golf and most recently serving as coordinators for our 5x5 traditional basketball program. They have also been exceptional financial supporters of the program for many years! Accepting the award on their behalf at the IW was their son and Special Olympian, Bryan Bourdon.



It's National Pickleball Month!!



Not only is it National Volunteer Month but it's also **National Pickleball Month**. We are currently in our third season of Pickleball which was established thanks to the determination of coach **Robert Sans** and the Howard County Pickleball Association. In the first

season, we had 26 athletes and 35 volunteers. In our second season, the number shot up to 48 athletes with a waitlist and 60 volunteers. Now in its third season, there are 74 athletes registered (and others on a waitlist) and over 100 volunteers on the courts. Coach Bob and Co-Coordinators **Maria Docal and Nancy Hartka and Coaches Sonny Tannon, Steve Orr and Bob Leyboldt** have developed a successful program based on everyone's

Medical Support Needed - Find Out More

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. If you think you may be interested, contact our Medical Coordinator, Jackie Miller, at chitchat1955@gmail.com.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 OVER THE EDGE SPONSORS

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Tenable

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.

experience and flexibility. The volunteers continue to have as much fun, if not more, in working with the athletes.

The success of our program has encouraged several other Special Olympics Maryland areas to start their own Pickleball programs. Even other Special Olympics state programs like New Jersey and Colorado have reached out to start similar sports within their states.

A special thank you to Coach Sonny and the good folks at JOOLA who have again donated paddles to the athletes in our Pickleball program. Last season they had donated 48 paddles which allowed each athlete to have their own paddle. This year, JOOLA donated 80 paddles (valued at \$8,000!). Also thank you to Dill Dinkers for hosting our pickleball program.

See photos below of some of our athletes and volunteers at a recent practice.



Since the beginning of this program, we have received **\$19,981.00** in donations! If you have a car you would like to donate, please use this [link](#) and select Howard County as the recipient of the funds.

Photos of Our Athletes

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

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.



Join Us at the Yard - Go Orioles!!

Join us for Special Olympics Howard County day at Camden Yards on Saturday, July 13th at 4:05, when the Orioles will play the Yankees. Tickets are first come, first served so don't wait to purchase your ticket(s); cost is \$36 each. (Section 79 Rows 5 -10) To order your tickets, contact the office at 410-740-0500. Payment must be received by June 15. (Checks made out to

Special Olympics Howard County or pay over the phone via credit

card.) Note that parking is not included and chaperones are not provided.
REMEMBER: Anyone raising \$1,500 or more for the Inspiration Walk by May 25 will receive 2 tickets as a thank you.



Brandon Richter



Sriya Chary

2024 Scholarship Recipients

We are proud to announce the recipients of our Outstanding Student Volunteers for 2024. These scholarships are made possible through the generosity of three families and an estate.



Calvin Diltz



Maria Docal

Maria Docal will be awarded the **Jackie Burk Memorial Scholarship**. Maria will be working on her graduate degree at the University of Maryland School of Nursing this fall. She has volunteered some 440 hours in athletics, 3v3 Basketball, Soccer Player Development, and Pickleball, which she helped get off the ground and now serves as the Co-Coordinator.

Receiving the **Allan Homes Scholarship** is **Brandon Richter** who will attend the University of Pittsburgh and major in occupational therapy. Brandon volunteered 100 hours in 3x3 Traditional Basketball.

Calvin Diltz will be awarded the **Schnorf Family Scholarship** and hopes to pursue a career in marine science. Calvin volunteered 129 hours in 5x5 Player Development basketball, Bowling and Golf.

Finally, **Sriya Chary**, a distance running volunteer, is receiving the **Kathy Lindner Memorial Scholarship**. Sriya volunteered 75 hours running alongside athletes and encouraging them while making friends. She will attend UMBC majoring in Biochemical Engineering.

Special Olympics Howard County

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[Contact SOHO Today](#)

