

# HOWARD COUNTY

SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
MARYLAND



[Connect with SOHO](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Visit our Website!](#)

[About Us](#) | [Volunteers / Volunteer Scholarships](#) | [Become an Athlete](#)  
| [Calendar](#) | [Inspiration Walk](#) | [Photos](#)

May Newsletter

Issue #2019-05

## Inspiration Walk Wrap Up



Despite the inability to put up the tents because of 35 mph winds, the 18th Annual Inspiration Walk was a great event with lots of activities and prizes. Honorary Chairperson State Senator Guy Guzzone, who has attended 17 of our 18 Inspiration Walk and athletes Sean Taneyhill and Rachel Kalatkis welcomed the walkers. Former County Executive Allan Kittleman, and long-time friend of Special Olympics and our athletes, came early to help set up and join in welcoming the participants.



Zumba instructor Maricel Claro pumped up the crowd and was followed by Nina Evangelista from AAA Physical Therapy who instructed the crowd in Tai Chi. The participants really enjoyed the Star Wars storm troopers (provided by Old Line Garrison), the Hogettes, the Oriole Bird and Raven's Poe as well as having their photos taken in Walter Larrimore's photo booth. (Photos taken at the walk and in the photo booth can be found [here](#).)

Many thanks to all our sponsors, especially our Hospitality Sponsors Wegmans, Canada Dry Potomac, Rethink Water, and Jersey Mikes, and **Girl Scout Troop 120** whose games were a big hit. In addition to multiple games they developed and the big slide, the troop raised \$7,422!

## IN THIS ISSUE

[Walk Wrap Up](#)

[Sport Registration](#)

[Spring Competitions](#)

[Top Volunteers Honored](#)

[Scholarship Winners](#)

[Respite Care Presentation](#)

[LISS Program](#)

## Volunteer Orientations

The next Volunteer Orientation will be held at the SOHO office on Wednesday, June 12th from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Anyone wanting to volunteer should attend, especially those interested in volunteering for summer sports. Families who are new to our program, including families in the Youth Athletes Program, are strongly encouraged to attend a volunteer orientation. Advance registration is required by contacting Janet at [janetlarrimore@somdhc.org](mailto:janetlarrimore@somdhc.org) or calling the office (410-740-0500).



Girl Scout Troop 120

To date, the walk has raised just over \$131,000, critical for us to continue to provide 20 sports programs and competitions, Motor Activities Training Program, Young Athletes Program and social programs. Twenty families raised more than \$1,500 each, nine of those raised over \$2,000.00, three raised over \$3,000 and three families raised over \$4,000! In total, the 20 families raised \$59,515!

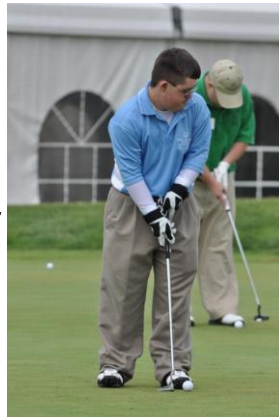
Donations are still being accepted, so it's not too late to give!!

## Summer Registration Update; Fall Registration News; Tennis Program in Jeopardy

Registration for kayaking is now closed. Registration for golf closes on June 30th.

***Remember that you cannot register for Level 2-5 unless you have completed one year of Golf Skills and achieved a score of 100 in the state competition.***

To register, go to the website, [www.somdhc.org](http://www.somdhc.org) and click "Become an Athlete/Register for a Sport". If you do not receive a confirmation email, contact the office. Be sure to save your confirmation email. A reminder that all athletes must have a current medical on file in order to participate in any SOHO activity. These must be updated every 3 years.



Future volunteer orientations are as follows:  
Wednesday, June 12th  
Thursday, July 11th  
Thursday, August 8th  
Thursday, September 5th  
Tuesday, October 15th  
Wednesday, November 20th  
Monday, December 16th

### WJLA Story on Jena Jones

ABC7 & WJLA 24/7 reporter, Scott Abraham, did a feature story on SOHO swimmer Jena Jones. Click [here](#) to watch.

### Newest Addition to SOHO Family

Born June 2nd, Connor William Boggs, son of Matthew and Katherine Boggs. Katherine is one of our Young Athletes Program Coordinators. Congratulations!



### Recreation and Parks Dance

Howard County Recreation & Parks two dances planned for this summer.

RP4301.401

July 20th: Summer Sparkler

RP4301.402

August 17th: Toga Party  
The dances are from

**Registration for Fall Sports (Cycling, Distance Running, Flag Football, Powerlifting, Soccer, Tennis and Volleyball) will open July 1st.**

Powerlifting and tennis\* are limited on the number of athletes we can accommodate. Once the number is reached, all subsequent registrants will be placed on a waiting list. Note there is no Fitness program in the fall and Quest training is only open to those who register for Powerlifting and plan to compete at state games.

\*At the current time, our tennis program is in jeopardy as we have lost our long time coaches Nancy VanWinter and Diane Mikulis. If you are interested in coaching or volunteering with tennis, please contact our tennis coordinators Barbara Evans ([evansba228@gmail.com](mailto:evansba228@gmail.com)) and Colleen Donovan ([cdonovan2007@yahoo.com](mailto:cdonovan2007@yahoo.com)).

---

## Spring Competition Highlights

### ATHLETICS:

SOHO hosted its largest athletics qualifier ever on May 4th at Wilde Lake High School (WLHS). Over 250 athletes from seven different counties were in attendance, competing in both track and field events. Bob Baker and Global Messenger and track athlete Raven Cato welcomed everyone, and Rick Wilson, WLHS principal greeted the visiting athletes and families. SOHO athlete Russell Ulrich fired up the crowd and led everyone in the Athlete's Oath.



There were over 125 student volunteers thanks to the efforts of Mr. Kareem Penn, WLHS Athletic Director, Mr. Brian Henderson, WLHS Football Coach, and Kristina Dronenburg, WLHS Women's Softball Coach.

A big shout-out to Mrs. Cindy Fisher and all her Booster Club parents who came out to support the meet, ordering and serving lunches to all athletes, coaches, and volunteers, and opening the concession stand for our visiting

7:00-10:00 p.m. and cost \$20.00.

There are still openings for the Summer Sizzler Registration for all these activities can be found [here](#).

## 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](mailto: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!

## SOI Strategic Plan Study - Let Your Voice Be Heard

Special Olympics Internations (SOI) is embarking on their 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. As part of their process, they are looking for feedback from athletes, families, and volunteers. To provide feedback, click here. Your feedback is valuable as our international organization plans for our future!

SOMD will also be doing some targeted distribution to sub-groups of Athletes, Volunteers, and Families, so you may receive a notification multiple times.



families. We couldn't have done it without you!

Athletes, parents, students, and faculty are already looking forward to having an even greater event next year!



WLHS Girls' Softball Team  
Volunteers

### SOFTBALL INVITATIONAL:

The 22nd Annual SOHO Softball Invitational was held at Kiwanis Wallas Park on Sunday, May 17th. Attending were 354 athletes and coaches, five unified teams, 15 traditional teams and 3 skills teams as well as over 40 volunteers and 15 umpires from 10 Maryland counties and Baltimore City. Welcoming the athletes to Howard County was new **HCPD Chief of Police, Lisa Myers**, who threw out the first pitch. Wayne Slifker served as the event emcee and McKenzie Campbell inspired everyone with his rendition of the Athlete's Oath.



SOHO Director Bob Baker, Assistant Director Marilyn Miceli, Chief of Police Lisa Myers, and Athlete Emcee Wayne Slifker

Special thanks to HCYP for providing the facilities every year, and especially Brad Smith, Bob West and Mike Bender, who were out until midnight the day before after heavy rains to prepare the fields. Also thanks to Dr. Phyllis Campbell for serving as our medical person (and she was kept very busy!) and Outback Steakhouse for providing lunches for all the athletes and Mike Parker and Champions for the Challenged who provided all the water and chips.

## Inspiration Walk Sponsors

### PRESENTING SPONSORS

Car Max Laurel Toyota  
Corridor Mortgage  
Group  
Lisa Higgins Hussman  
Foundation

### LEGACY SPONSORS

Allan Homes  
Brunswick Normandy  
Lanes Canada Dry  
Potomac  
Dwight and Diane Mikulis  
Integrated Waste Analysts  
Outback Steakhouse  
Quest Fitness  
Timbers at Troy Golf  
Course Wegmans

### GOLD MEDAL SPONSORS

Anchor Construction Corp.  
GPS Law Group  
just B specialties  
Knights of Columbus  
Council 10525-St.  
Michaels of Poplar Springs

### SILVER MEDAL SPONSORS

Environmental Systems  
Associates, Inc.  
J.E. Schenk and  
Associates, Inc.  
Individual Differences in Learning, Inc.  
LPL Financial  
Manekin

### HOSPITALITY SPONSORS

Canada Dry Potomac  
Jersey Mike's

## EQUESTRIAN:

On June 1st, SOHO held it's first equestrian games at the Therapeutic Recreation Riding Center (TRRC). Director Bob Baker and Global Messenger athlete Christine Towne welcomed everyone to the event. Representing Governor Hogan, Maryland's Department of Health COO, Dennis Schrader, and former Police Chief Jeff Spaulding wished all the athletes a good competition, and Rev.



Paula Canby blessed the horses, athletes and families and had all the athletes, volunteers and families to hold hands in good "horsemanship." The Howard County Mounted Police led the athletes into the rink as part of opening ceremonies and stayed the entire day to hand out medals to the athletes.



Opening ceremonies: (left to right) Rev. Paula Canby, Dennis Shrader, Emcee Christine Towne, Jeff Spaulding.



Howard County Mounted Police

Rethink Water  
Wegmans

## 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

Some of these items are in short supply so get them while you can!

Navy Fleece Jacket = \$20.00

Short sleeve T-shirt = \$10.00

Long sleeve T-shirt = \$12.00

Charm Bracelet = \$5.00  
Pen = \$1.00

Fleece Blankets = \$15.00

Thermal Bottle = \$10.00

Baseball hat = \$10.00

Ice Scraper = \$1.00

Car magnet = \$1.00

Heavyweight poncho = \$5.00

Cooler foldable tote = \$10.00

Beach towel = \$20.00

Collapsible chair = \$20.00

Are you interested in other jewelry items?

Special Olympics Maryland athlete Alisa Ogden creates necklaces that symbolize the beauty in differences.

\$5 of each purchase is donated to Special Olympics Maryland. [Click here](#) to shop.

SOMD "Be Brave" Bravelets and other items (necklaces, watches, pillows, scarves) are



SOHO riders with Coaches Debbie French and Ashley Whitlock

---

## Top Volunteers Honored at the Inspiration Walk

April was National Volunteer Month and a good time to highlight some of our outstanding volunteers at the Inspiration Walk.



**Dave Fagan** was selected as this year's **Volunteer of the Year**. Dave is one of those volunteers that never sits on the sidelines. If help is needed, he steps right up without being asked. He has been a coach in bocce, track and snowshoeing. Six years ago, he assumed the position of Softball Invitational Coordinator when Wes Juda moved. He is the kind of individual who makes our organization better by his willingness to offer his time and energy wherever needed.

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](#)



[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



**Mike Carroll** was selected as the **Coach of the Year**. Mike has been the head coach of our volleyball program since 2004. He always inspires good sportsmanship, teamwork, and fun. He is highly respected by teams in Pennsylvania and Delaware against whom our volleyball teams compete since there are no other Special Olympics volleyball programs in Maryland.



Volunteering is definitely a family affair with our **Family of the Year**. The **Zinderman Family** (Craig, Jen, Jessie and Zachary) have been involved with the swim program as coaches, unified partners and officials. They developed a dryland program for each swim session to prepare the swimmers prior to their swim time. They also volunteer in the kayak program.



Family of the Year: The Zindermans.  
From right to left - : Jen, Jessica, and Craig Zinderman

Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers that make our organization great. From the management team, to sports coordinators and coaches, to our student volunteers, and to parents - this organization could not do what we do without you. Thank you for your commitment to provide our athletes with the best possible training and competition opportunities.

---

## Scholarship Award Winners

Our student volunteers are a critical part of our organization and each year we recognize several

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).

students at Outstanding Student Volunteers. The winners were announced at the Inspiration Walk.



The **Jackie Burk Memorial Scholarship** was awarded to two students - **Mia Henry and Jenny Song**. Mia, a senior at Roland Park Country School, has been a volunteer in bowling, golf and snowshoeing. After her first year in snowshoeing, her family moved to Baltimore County but she and her brother did not want to give up volunteering with the snowshoe team where they were also unified partners. She rarely missed a Thursday night or early Sunday morning practice.

Marriotts Ridge Senior **Jenny Song** was a dedicated volunteer in track, cheer, volleyball and basketball. She was cited for her work with the girls 3x3 basketball team in helping them improve their skills while developing personal relationships. Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Receiving the **\$1,500 Allan Homes Scholarship** is **Jessica Zinderman**, a senior at Atholton High School. She has been involved in the swim program for five years volunteering over 230 hours. She has also volunteered in the bowling and kayaking programs. She has also been a plunger at the annual Polar Bear Plunge for four years and this past January was a Super Plunger.

Hammond High School senior, **Alayna Munoz**, was awarded the \$1,500 **Schnorf Family Scholarship**. She has volunteered for multiple years in basketball, softball, tennis, and track and field, as well as with the annual Inspiration Walk. This past year, she interned in our office once a week to prepare for a future career in non-profit management.

The **Kathy Lindner Memorial Award** of \$500 was awarded to Centennial High School senior, **Rishi Chary**. He has volunteered in flag football, bowling and 5x5



Player Development basketball. He was cited for his sportsmanship and teamwork.

Congratulations to all and thank you to all our graduating student volunteers. We wish you all the best!

---

## Respite Care Programs in Howard County: Understanding the Options

Respite care is a supportive service providing short-term, temporary relief to a caregiver caring for a child or adult with a disability or chronic health care need. On Wednesday, June 12th from 7:00 - 9:00 (Doors open at 6:30), you can learn about respite programs in Howard County, including the NEW respite care program administered by the Department of Social Services.

This event will be held at the NonProfit Collaborative of Howard County, 9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia). The workshop is free and open to the public. Seating is limited. To register, RSVP by June 10th to Erica Lewis at [ealewis@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ealewis@howardcountymd.gov) or 410-313-6402. For further information, click [here](#).

---

## Low Intensity Support Services Program

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration's Low Intensity Support Services (LISS) program may provide up to \$2,000 in short-term funding for eligible children and adults with developmental disabilities who are not currently receiving services through DDA or other Medicaid waivers. There will be a presentation about LSS on June 18th, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. The event flyer and registration information can be found [here](#). The presentation is free and open to the public.



**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)

© 2009 Special Olympics Maryland. All rights reserved.