

# HOWARD COUNTY

SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
MARYLAND



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December Newsletter

Issue #2019-12

## Howard Magazine Best of Howard County

Special Olympics Howard County received an **Honorable Mention as Best Volunteer Organization in Howard Magazine's Best of Howard County 2019**. Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center was selected as this year's Volunteer Organization. Sharing the Honorable Mention recognition with SOHO were Neighbor Ride and the Howard County Conservancy. We appreciate the recognition and all the volunteers who make our organization what it is! Athletes are why we do it, Volunteers are how we do it!

## Spring Sports Registration Opens Jan 13th

Registration for spring sports (athletics, bocce, cheerleading, equestrian, softball, swimming and Young Athletes Program) will open on January 13th. When registering, if you do not receive a confirmation email within one hour, notify the office at 410-740-0500 as it means something went wrong and you are not registered. [Click here to register](#) on or after January 13th.



Remember that athletes must have a current medical to participate and the medical must be updated every three years. See sidebar article about discounted medicals.

## SOHO Receives CarMax Laurel Toyota Grant

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### Volunteer Orientations

The next volunteer orientation will be held on Wednesday, January 8th from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Anyone wanting to volunteer should attend, especially those interested in volunteering for winter and spring sports. Families who are new to our program are strongly encouraged to attend a volunteer orientation. Advance registration is required by contacting Janet at

Special Olympics Howard County (SOHO) was recently awarded a one-time \$39,000 grant from CarMax Laurel Toyota. The grant is part of their regional giving program and is focused on healthy living and leadership development. In addition to their financial support, the Associates of CarMax Laurel Toyota volunteer at SOHO's annual Inspiration Walk as well as at various one day competitions.



"CarMax is committed to improving the communities in which our associates live and work, and one way we can do that is by partnering with local organizations that promote children's healthy living. Special Olympics of Howard County is a fantastic partner that CarMax Laurel Toyota has partnered with throughout the year. The CarMax Laurel Toyota associates are passionate about providing their time and this grant to assist Special Olympics of Howard County in achieving their goals," said Tom Webb, general manager at CarMax Laurel Toyota.

Bob Baker noted that a grant of this size will allow SOHO to continue to focus on improving the health and well-being of Howard County children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through its sports and social programs. Athletes participating in Special Olympics have improved physical fitness, increased self-confidence and social competency, and greater readiness for employment.

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## Corridor Foundation Golf Tournament Continues Strong Support of SOHO

The 9th Annual SWBC Mortgage Corridor Classic Golf Tournament in September continued its strong support of our program. We recently received a donation of \$25,000 from the event. We are incredibly grateful for all the hard work that so many employees of SWBC Mortgage put into making this event one of the premier golf events in the state. Through their continued support of our athletes, they have donated \$209,000 to Special Olympics Howard County over the past 9 years!!



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## New Bowling League Play Results; SOHO Bowlers at State Games Results

[janetlarrimore@somdhc.org](mailto:janetlarrimore@somdhc.org)

or calling the office (410-740-0500).

Future 2020 volunteer orientations are scheduled for:

Monday, February 3rd  
Wednesday, March 4th  
Tuesday, April 2nd  
Monday, May 11th  
Wednesday, June 17th

## Discounted Medicals at Minute Clinic

Thanks to a new partnership between Special Olympics International and Minute Clinic, Special Olympics athletes are now entitled to a sports physicals at a reduced rate of \$49. Any US Special Olympics Athlete, or prospective athlete who needs to complete a physical can present this [voucher](#) at any of the 1,100 Minute Clinics in CVS or Target stores between now and July 31, 2020.

A list of participating locations can be found [here](#). No insurance or appointment is needed but be sure to bring the SO MD Athlete Medical Form with you.

## Sponsors

Thank you to all those who supported Special Olympics Howard County this past year, whether through the Inspiration Walk or throughout the year. We would like to give special recognition to our Gold Medal and above sponsors.

## PRESENTING SPONSORS (\$20K+)

CarMax Laurel Toyota  
SWBC Mortgage & The Corridor Foundation

This fall, SOHO created a Bowling League Play model to reach those athletes who were seeking more competition vs training/skills time. The athletes really enjoyed the competitiveness of league play and allowed them to compete against different teams each week. Results from the first season are as follows:

**1st Place Team** - Paul Phillips, Peter Byun, Will Alexion, Nate Zahn

**2nd Place Team** - Andy Young, Nick Stewart, Wayne Slifker, Chris Schoenbrodt

**3rd Place Team** - 2 Teams Tied

- Juan Carroll, Nicky Mineart, Glenn Donovan, Michael Waschak

- Amit Kathura, Kirsten Smith, Charles Gaines, Sam Emmerling

**High Average Male** (144) - Wayne Slifker

**High Average Female** (107) - Mary Condron

**High Scratch Game Male** (188) - Nick Stewart

**High Scratch Game Female** (151) - Kirsten Smith

**High Scratch Series Male** (465) - Nick Stewart

**High Scratch Series Female** (352) - Julia Schnorf

**High Handicap Game Male** (262) - Nicky Mineart

**High Handicap Game Female** (276) - Tiffany Brooks

**High Handicap Series Male** (697) - Nate Zahn

**High Handicap Series Female** (764) - Tiffany Brooks

Congratulations to the following SOHO bowlers who attended SOMD Bowling State Competition in Gaithersburg on December 8th:

**Gold Medals:** Kenny Long, Will Alexion, Henry Newton

**Silver Medals:** Ramsey Jenkins, Matthew Na

**Bronze Medals:** Rachel Kalatzis, Kristen Frande

**4th Place Ribbons:** Catherine Gruss, Sam Emmerling, Zach Decker

Congratulations to all our bowlers. Session two will begin on January 5. Registration for this session is closed.

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## Pals in Production - Drama Program

A Glenelg Country School (GCS) student, Hannah Quigley, has developed a community service project for students with special needs that will introduce them to the performing arts. She will direct a musical (Winnie the Pooh) which will be performed and produced by local students with special needs (ages 11-18) and students from GCS. The program will be limited to eight students and will be held at Glenelg Country School.

## LEGACY SPONSORS (\$5K+)

The Lisa Higgins-Hussmann  
Foundation  
Carol Marrion  
Allan Homes  
Dwight and Diane Mikulis  
Integrated Waste Analysts

## GOLD MEDAL SPONSORS (\$1K+)

Perry & Rachele Alexion  
Anchor Construction Corp.  
Bob & Peggy Baker  
Jung & Kyung Byung  
Gary & Karen Carter  
David & Pat Condron  
Jean Daniello  
Colleen & Dave Donovan  
Barbara & Tom Evans  
Glenelg Country School  
Mimi Goodman  
GPS Law Group  
Harwood House  
just B Specialties LLC  
Kaine Investments  
Knights of Columbus  
Michelle Jordan  
Frank and Helen Kalis  
Julie & Mike Keough  
Bill & Stellamarie Kosman  
Jack Kuhn  
Walter & Janet Larrimore  
Hee & Chul Lee  
Richard & Renee Maier  
Susanne Mason & Jon Jacobs  
Marilyn Miceli  
Jeff & Marianne Otto-Smith  
Napoleon & Linda Pinos  
Michael & Elizabeth Rock  
Cole & Joan Schnorf  
St. Michaels KoC 10525  
Nancy & Ray Schoenke  
Charitable Foundation  
Smiles for Life Foundation  
Daniel & Claudia Sterne  
Mary Thiem  
Bruce Worley  
Sam & Donna Wright

## IN-KIND SPONSORS

Bowlero Normandy  
Colosseum Gym  
ezStorage  
Fairway Hills Golf Course  
Glenelg Country School  
HOCO Recreation & Parks  
HOCO Youth Program  
Mays & Associates  
Howard Community College  
Outback Steakhouse  
Quest Fitness

The project will be broken up into three modules -- the winter module (meeting in January and February) will be teaching the students about theater vocabulary and about the audition process. The spring module (meeting in March and April) will be working with the students to create their own costumes and sets and the summer module (meeting in May and June) will be rehearsals for a performance.

If you are interested in seeing a sample lesson plan or have other questions, contact Hannah at [hannahq@glenelg.org](mailto:hannahq@glenelg.org).

## Join or Support the SOHO Polar Bear Plunge Team

Come join the fun at the 24th Annual Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge on January 25th.

This year, SOHO will have its own plunge team that you can either join or support. We encourage you to "take the plunge" or join the team.



Management Team member and SOHO official photographer Mimi Goodman takes the plunge

However, for those who prefer to watch (from the beach or home), please support our team by [donating directly on our team page](#) with encouraging words to those plunging. Encourage family and friends to plunge and/or donate. If

you are plunging and have your own fundraising page, you can connect your page to our county plunge team page so that we get credit for the funds you raise. SOHO will receive 70% of the funds we raise on [our page](#).

Mt. Hebron senior and SOHO volunteer **Lexi Cucchiaro** has reached her \$10,000 Super Plunger goal. Another student volunteer, Atholton High School senior **Makenna Hammill**, will be plunging as a Unified Super Plunger with athlete **Jackson Balda**. Their team page can be found [here](#). Former County Executive and super friend of our athletes, **Allan Kittleman**, will plunge again for the 6th time! Read these super plungers' stories on their donation pages about what makes them want to do this event and what Special Olympics means to them. Very inspiring!

Watch the newsletter, our web site, and social media

Timber at Troy Golf Course  
Turf Valley Country Club  
Waverly Woods Golf Course  
Wegmans

## 2020 Inspiration Walk Sponsor Information

The 19th Annual SOHO Inspiration Walk will be held on Saturday, April 18th at Centennial Park.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at the following levels:

Sponsorship Level	Amount
Presenting Sponsor	\$20,000 and up
Legacy Sponsor	\$5,000 and over
Team Sponsor	\$2,500 - \$4,999
Gold Medal Sponsor	\$1,000 - \$2,499
Silver Medal Sponsor	\$500 - \$999
Bronze Medal Sponsor	\$250 - \$499

For further information regarding what you receive for each level, email [info@somdhc.org](mailto:info@somdhc.org).

The Inspiration Walk page is now open for those who wish to donate directly on line or start their fundraising for this year's walk. Click [here](#).

If you are interested in being on the planning committee, please contact the office or email [info@somdhc.org](mailto:info@somdhc.org).

## Voluntary Flagging Program

The Howard County Police Department is expanding

sites (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) for more information as we get closer to the event.

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## Upcoming Events of Interest

### **SPECIAL NEEDS CAMP FAIR:**

Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Cedar Lane School (11630 Scaggsville Road, Fulton)  
Choose from dozens of camps with a focus on the arts, nature, science, sports, and much more! Both day and residential camps will be represented. While the event is sponsored by the Howard County Autism Society, it is appropriate for children with a variety of disabilities. For more information about this free event, email [info@howard-autism.org](mailto:info@howard-autism.org) or call 410-290-3466. (If HCPSS is closed or after school activities are cancelled due to weather, the snow date will be February 4th.)

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### **ABLE ACCOUNT**

Thursday, January 30, 2020, 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
NonProfit Collaborative of Howard County (9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia)  
Maryland ABLE accounts are a way to help individuals with disabilities save money and pay for qualified disability-related expenses (including living expenses, education, housing, transportation, assistive technology and much more) without jeopardizing state or federal means-tested benefits such as SSI or Medicaid. Come hear about how it works, the benefits and eligibility. Sponsored by the Howard County Autism Society and the HCPSS Family Support and Resource Center. For more information, please call 410-313-7161. This is not disability specific; all families welcome.

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## Transportation and Arrival/Pick-up Policies Reminder

Because of several recent incidents, we want to remind everyone of the transportation and arrival/pick up of athletes policies.

**Transportation:** SOHO is not a babysitting or respite care provider. It is not the responsibility of the coach, coordinator, or any other SOHO volunteer to transport an athlete to and/or from practices. These volunteers give willingly of their time; to serve beyond the practice time for your convenience is inconsiderate. If you can not commit to transporting your athlete (either on your own or by making car pooling arrangements), you will need to reconsider your athlete's participation in that sport.

**Arrival/Pick-up of Athletes:** Parents or chaperones must escort their athlete into the practice location and must leave a contact phone number if they are not

its voluntary 911 flagging program, which allows households to "flag" their address in the county's 911 database if a person living in the home has a disability. Families can note if someone in the home may have special needs or circumstances that could affect how first responders react in an emergency situation.

For example, if someone living with autism has sensory sensitivity, an officer could be mindful of the possible effects of police lights or sirens when approaching that household.

All information submitted as part of the 911 flagging program remains confidential and will only be used by emergency dispatchers and responders.

## 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!

Short sleeve T-shirt = \$10.00  
Pen = \$1.00  
Fleece Blankets = \$15.00  
Thermal Bottle = \$10.00  
Ice Scraper = \$1.00  
Car magnet = \$1.00  
Heavyweight poncho = \$5.00

staying for the practice or competition. Everyone must return 15 minutes prior to the end of practice. This will allow the coordinator the ability to contact the parent/chaperone in the event that practices ends early, if there is an issue with the athlete, or if another issue with the practice site may occur. Although contact information is provided in the online registration, the person responsible for the drop off/pick up of athletes sometimes changes from week to week. Having a sign out sheet will provide the coordinator the contact information applicable for each practice or competition.

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## Tim Tebow Night to Shine Events



**Tim Tebow Night to Shine** events will be held in several area churches. The event will take place on Friday, February 7th from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience for people with special needs, ages 14 and up, that will take place at more than 600 churches around the world simultaneously. Everything is FREE! Registration is filling up quickly, so register today! Each guest will have one on one support, have dinner and participate in many activities including a limo ride for all guests! Every guest will be crowned as king or queen, and everyone goes home with a swag bag!

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church** (Ellicott City): Guests and those interested in volunteer should register [here](#).

**Grace Community Church** (Fulton): Guests should register [here](#). Those interested in volunteering should register [here](#).

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## Outstanding Student Volunteer Scholarships

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

Cooler foldable tote =  
\$10.00

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 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](#)

volunteer to 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. Kathy was a dedicated volunteer in a number of sports, including the annual Softball Invitational. Application and deadline information will be posted on our social media accounts and web site in January 2020.

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 is a member of the SOHO Executive management team, Fundraiser Co-Chairperson, and Aquatics Coordinator. Added in 2018 is the **Schnorf Family Scholarship** (\$1,500). Cole is a member of the Executive Management Team and Fundraising Co-Chairperson. These scholarships are handled through the Community Foundation of Howard County. Questions about applying for these scholarships can be found [here](#) where you should [sign up](#) for their **Scholarship eNewsletter** for future information about the scholarship program.

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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@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!

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### Sports Rules

## 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).



**SOHO Office, 8970 Route 108 Suite A1, Columbia, MD 21045**

**Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:00 - 1:00, Tuesday 1:30 - 6:30**

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