



**Special Olympics**  
Virginia  
Loudoun Area 14  
P.O. Box 2563  
Leesburg, VA 20177



Search: Special Olympics Loudoun County

### mark your calendar >>>

- Jan 5** SOLC Basketball Tournament
- Jan 26-27** Fan Quest: State winter games
- Mar 2** Polar Plunge—Dumfries, VA
- Mar 15-16** State basketball Championships
- April 13** Swimming Time Trials at Claude Moore

Visit [www.loudounspecialolympics.org](http://www.loudounspecialolympics.org) for a complete calendar of events.

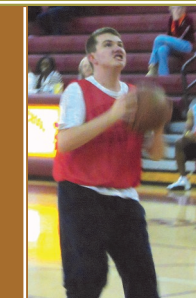


2012  
**WINTER**

## Special Olympics Virginia—Loudoun County



# Game On!



### Bowling for GOLD!

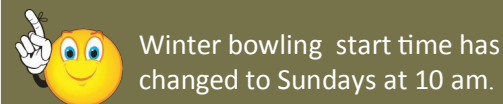


(l-r) Warren Carter, Robert Kaylor, Amy Loudounback and Danny Tabler

The Loudoun Terminators bowled their way to GOLD at the 2012 State Games despite some really tough competition in a division packed with great players.

As you can see in the photo above Warren Robert, Amy and Danny were very proud and thrilled to show off their well-deserved gold medals.

### Reminder for Bowlers



Winter bowling start time has changed to Sundays at 10 am.

## final thoughts...

Everyone deserves a chance at a happy and purposeful life. Yet for many people with intellectual disabilities, Special Olympics is one of the few places where they find an opportunity to participate in their communities, develop belief in themselves, and feel like champions. But for every inspiring Special Olympics athlete, there are many more waiting for their chance to shine. Donate today and help us reach out to one more person who wants to participate.

Visit us at [www.loudounspecialolympics.org](http://www.loudounspecialolympics.org) and click on DONATE

### SOLC Basketball Tournament - January 5th

We need LOTS of volunteers for this big event to be held at four schools around Leesburg on January 5th. Time commitment is just a 4 hour block so it is do-able for all. Contact Caitlin Marcotte, Area Coordinator, at (703) 777-0438 to sign up.



Kelly Erikson and DJ Cashman volunteered at Layups for Loudoun

### Volunteers Always Needed

Special Olympics is on the fast track and we need your help. If you are unable to make a long-term commitment, but can manage to volunteer for an hour or two, let us know and we will add you to our list of short-term volunteers. Contact Caitlin Marcotte, Area Coordinator, at (703) 777-0438.

### Spread the word—We have marathon slots!

**Attention runners!** The Virginia Wine Country Half Marathon is a popular event and race slots are expected to sell out by the beginning of 2013, but SOLC has snagged some of those slots just for our supporters. Just buy a

race slot from us for \$150 and \$50 of your cost benefits SOLC and is tax deductible for you.

If you are interested in one of the coveted slots, contact Caitlin Marcotte, Area Coordinator, at (703) 777-0438 soon as we don't expect them to go unclaimed for long.



## Layups for Loudoun—A Smash Hit

The gym at Broad Run High School in Ashburn rocked November 17th with the second annual Layups for Loudoun basketball fundraiser to benefit Special Olympics. Organized by SOLC council members Eric Pearson of E4 Realty and Bill Brichoux, the event offered basketball thrills for everyone. Games included a three-game, nail-biting championship tournament featuring some of the best Loudoun County alumni basketball players with SOLC athlete matches between each of the championship games and a youth skills demonstration.

The first SOLC game was a thrilling match between the **Fun Bunch** (Thomas Conaway, Brittney Hemminger, Shane McClintock, Eric Radloff and Blake Sloan) and the **Thunder/Crouching Tigers** (Christina Bronson, Thomas D'Alessandro, Michael Wollett, Kelly Erikson and Ryan Tanner). It was a close one with lots of scoring attempts from both teams and lots of exciting court action. Up next for SOLC were the **Bobcats** (Philip Coe, Rebecca Hultin, Bill Ma-

hood, Jenna Vandenburg and Ashley Lydane) versus the **Mavericks** (Dj Cashman, Matt Davis, Zach Steinbach, Matt Murphy, and Jake Benish). Both teams showed up with their A game and gave the cheering crowds their money's worth of basket attempts.

The last SOLC match was the much anticipated **Coaches vs SOLC Lancers/Rebels** (Sean Barazandehkar, Christa Bleull, Warren Carter, Amy Loudounbach, Ian Pham,

Russell Turner, Steven Bagott, Joey Barnett, Scott Brawley, David Knight, and Ryan Savage). Again the match was action packed and suspenseful as it came down to the wire. The players showed their coaches

that they can play a good game and had the fans on the edge of their seats as they skillfully kept the ball moving up and down the court with no relief and in the last seconds Steve Bagot scored and the **Lancers/Rebels** beat their coaches by 1 point!

The SOLC Skills competition included some extraordinary ball skill demonstrations from Chris Bloch, Joe, Matthew and

Continued on page 3 >>>





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### Our Mission

To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

*Game On!* is published three times each year by Special Olympics Virginia—Loudoun.

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## Volleyball Medals at State

- Report from Coach Pham

### Yellow Team Report

For the first time in the 8 years I have been involved with SOVA Volleyball, the Loudoun Yellow Team got placed in Division 1 with our host the Virginia Beach Knighthawks leading the rankings at No. 1 along with the No.2 Seaborne Spikers and No.3 Lynchburg. These are the players that we have only been able to watch from far away during previous tournaments. With our partner Megan W. leading the setting for the Loudoun Yellow Team using the 5-1 formation the games were very competitive. At times, the team took it to the Knighthawks team composed of bigger and more athletic players like Daunte, freezing the opposing team in their spots with hits one minute and digging up seemingly irretrievable balls the next. What started out as disbelief that we got to play the top team, turned into immense pride in the Yellow Team and their play. They proved that it was no mistake putting them in this top division. We came away short of our goal to beat the Knighthawks and the Seaborne Spikers this year, but I believe this is only the beginning and we will have a more definite and new goal next year.

### Blue Team Report

The Loudoun Blue Team got in up with an old foe, the Powhatan Indians, from whom they took the championship to the Indians at that time, but Powhatan and won the Gold time, the Indians prevailed Blue Team to the consolation plays. Loudoun Blue, led by Emma (who came from CNU just to help with the setting), however staged a comeback in the consolation game by beating the next team in straight sets and claimed the Bronze Medal. Words can't come close to describing the competitiveness of the games-- but that's where the pureness of competition shines through with every dig and serve and hit.



Division 2 where they met tan Indians, from whom two years ago. Loudoun lost beat the team that beat Medal based on points. This again, sending the Loudoun bracket even with spirited

These guys and gals bumped, set, scored and roared their ways to one of the best Sundays I have had. Please hug and congratulate every athlete you see in the days, weeks and months ahead for they have earned every point and every medal/ribbon they won.

## Soccer's Super Season

- Report from Coach Kuhns



SOLC had a great soccer season! We played in 7 tournaments and had NO rain dates which was a first for us. We had 11 athletes on our soccer team, 9 of which were new to our program, and we had 3 on our Individual Skills, two of which were new!

At the state competition, the team won the silver medal and our individual skills athletes earned a bronze and silver. We had a phenomenal season, topped off with a party and trophies!

## Horsing Around at the Ranch "Fun Show"

- Report from Coach Wacker

Ride-On ranch successfully hosted its 3rd annual Special Olympics Equestrian Fun Show! Ten athletes participated throughout the season, and 9 showcased their skills during the show on November 18. The athletes did great and received awards from Girl Scout Troop 4008 of Ashburn, Va.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and to those that participated, pictures are available at [www.facebook.com/ride-onranch](http://www.facebook.com/ride-onranch). See you at the Ranch!



Allie Davis

## Letter from the Chairman



This newsletter reflects a very busy several months. While our athletes have competed on the field and the court, our Council has been busy as well, holding fundraising events, and putting plans in place to both improve and grow our programs. In August we held our second annual charity golf tournament, in September we participated in the Dulles Plane Pull, and in November we held the second annual Layups for Loudoun basketball extravaganza. Each of these events was great fun for those who attended, and the money we raised helps to support our growing programs.

We have set a goal of increasing the number of athletes participating in our sports programs by 50% over the next two years. We know those athletes are out there - in fact, some preliminary analysis indicates that we currently serve only about 10% of the eligible population in Loudoun County. So if you know someone that might enjoy participating in any of the ten sports we offer, put us in touch. It could be life-changing.

"Let me win, but if I cannot win let me be brave in the attempt."

>>> *Layups for Loudoun, continued from page 1*

Andrew Aylward, Danny Tabler, Holden Steinbach, Maggie Goodman, Devin Edwards, Kristen Chapman, and Conor Rouch. These SOLC athletes showed that you don't have to compete in a team to have fun with a basketball.

The alumni tournament was equally thrilling. In the final championship match, the Broad Run/ Stone Bridge alumni team defeated the Loudoun County/Loudoun Valley team but both teams demonstrated their love of the game and their extraordinary competitive skills. They played an outstanding game that was had the crowd watching with bated breath.

Layups for Loudoun was a fabulous evening that had something for everyone including high quality competitive hoops, great sportsmanship, camaraderie, and best of all it raised money for Special Olympics – Loudoun County. Thanks not just to Eric and Bill for all their hard work organizing the event, but also to all the volunteers and athletes who made it so successful with their participation.

## One, Two, Three.....PULL!

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Special Olympics Loudoun County joined the Special Olympics Virginia team at the 20th anniversary of the Dulles Day Family Festival & Plane Pull! It was an exciting day for everyone, but especially for our Special Olympics team who pooled their talents to pull a whopping a 164,000+ pound air bus!



We had about 30 people on our team comprised of athletes, parents, siblings, and friends/ family members of our volunteers. It was a fabulous turn out and an absolutely wonderful day for all who participated.

The annual event was more than just a fun day for the participants. It also raised more than \$160,000 for Special Olympics Virginia! Way to go!

## Website Makeover



Have you checked out our new website? For the last few months, a group of AOL employees has been working hard and donating their weekends and lunch breaks to develop and build our new site and we are thrilled with the results.

Special Olympics Loudoun County was able to receive this donation of time and effort after contacting the AOL People Living and Working with Disabilities (APLAWD) employee resource group in March of 2012 and asking about a partnership opportunity.

Our Chairman, Jeff Erikson, inquired if APLAWD could help revamp and rejuvenate the Special Olympics Loudoun County website and the response to our request was superb. The following individuals at AOL all stepped up to the plate and volunteered to help build a new site for our Loudoun County Special Olympians giving up their personal time to assist us. This fantastic group of AOL employees really does live and breathe the AOL corporate value "We are in the business of helping people. Period.":

So we all say a big "Thank You" to the following AOL employees who were so generous with their time and talents.

- Chris Blouch
- Eric Gushee
- Gil Moody
- Palani Ramasamy
- Erin Robinson
- Wes Rogers
- Gayle Ruddick
- Phil Salfity
- Paul Sturm
- Erica Wright
- Lee Ann Macerelli

Check out the new site at:  
[www.loudounspecialolympics.org](http://www.loudounspecialolympics.org)



Lee Ann Macerelli from AOL