



Special Olympics
Virginia
Loudoun Area 14

P.O. Box 2563
Leesburg, VA 20177



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Special Olympics
Virginia
Loudoun Area 14

2013
Spring

GAME On!

Special Olympics Virginia—Loudoun County

Calendar

- April 20-21 Flower & Garden Festival
- April 20 Softball Regular Season Begins
- June 1 VA Wine Country Half Marathon
- June 7-9 State Summer Games

Visit www.loudounspecialolympics.org for a complete calendar of events



25 Years! Wow



SOLC wants to congratulate Coach Dan Dillon on more than 25 years of service with the Special Olympics. That is quite an accomplishment and shows a true commitment to the organization.

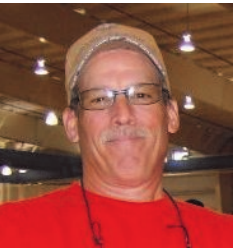
Dan's interest in volunteering began after witnessing his parents' years of dedication to volunteering for various causes. He felt that volunteering for Special Olympics was a good fit with his love of sports. "My nature was to be attracted to people involved in helping other people and through this network. I became active in a number of activities that were focused on helping either people with intellectual disabilities or emotional needs," explained Dan.

Dan currently coaches basketball, but throughout the years he has also coached bowling, track and field and even ice skating which "was pretty hazardous since I wasn't too good a skater myself. I am sure that was pretty comical to watch."

Volunteering is very gratifying. "There is no doubt that the most rewarding aspect is the friendship of the athletes and being able to witness the things that they accomplish. I have been privileged to see many amazing accomplishments that have astonished not only me, but also the athletes and their friends and families as well," explained Dan. He likened the Special Olympics organization to a typical family with ups and downs: "it isn't always happiness, success." Dan appreciates and encourages his athletes' skills and limitations. "I try to teach effort and commitment first, and not just focus on specific skills because a certain

Coach of the Year

Congratulations to Bill Brichoux, area 14 basketball and softball coach, for being selected by Special Olympics Virginia as Coach of the Year for 2012.



Bill is highly deserving of this honor. He not only coaches two sports, but for the past 4 years he has also been the Equipment/uniform manager council member on the Special Olympics Loudoun County council.

Bill is an exceptional coach and an invaluable asset in our program. He brings a high degree of technical skill and knowledge to our athletes through his own experience playing his sports in adult leagues, and as a result, he holds our athletes to a high standard. Since Bill has been head coaching, both our softball and basketball teams have developed and become more proficient.

Bill dedicates himself to the program in all aspects. He volunteers in both the Spring and Winter season as a coach, is a council member the whole year, and he is a father to an athlete. In addition, he even got his company, Guaranty Self Storage, to donate warehouse space to the program, saving us a substantial amount of money each year.

Bill attends almost all of our fundraising events and is quick to speak on behalf of the program and what it has meant to him and his family. Bill has been an important advocate and council member and we are extremely proud to see him recognized with the coach of the year award.

Thank you Bill for all your dedication and commitment.

Your Help is Appreciated

A Big Thank You to Two Great Area Restaurants



Every Tuesday in February, **Not Your Average Joe's** in Leesburg donated 15% of all sales to parties that brought in a special coupon to SOLC. This was a win-win for us. We enjoyed delicious meals while helping SOLC at the same time.

And another big thank you to **Jersey Mike's Sub Shops** across Loudoun County as well. They donated 15% of profits from all locations for the entire day of April 10th.

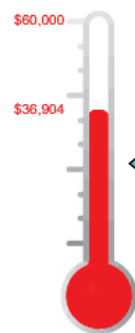


WE NEED YOU!

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, or make a financial donation of any amount, let us know by contacting Caitlin Marcotte, Area Coordinator, at (703) 777-0438.

DID YOU KNOW?

All donations enable our athletes to compete free of charge and fund our sports so fundraising is critical to the ongoing success of our programs. Please donate and show your support at our fundraising events. Every dollar counts!



SOLC 2012/2013
June 2012 - June 2013
Individual/Corporate Donations: \$12,249.41
Grants/Sponsorships: \$7,000.00
Layups for Loudoun: \$2,724.96
Plane Pull: \$937.50
Golf: \$10,584.90
Other Advertised Events: \$3,407.00

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

Attention Runners: The Virginia Wine Country Half Marathon is a popular event and race slots have already sold out, 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 Teresa Hatch hteresa426@gmail.com for the registration code.



VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are needed to help at the Virginia Wine Country Half Marathon June 1st. For every volunteer who identifies himself as a volunteer from Special Olympics Loudoun County, we will receive \$50. To volunteer contact Teresa Hatch, Fundraising Chair at hteresa426@gmail.com for instructions for registering.

Continued on page 3 >>>



Editor

Michele Copp

Special Olympics Virginia

Caitlin Marcotte, Loudoun Area Coordinator
Eamonn Garvey, Potomac Regional Director

Council Members

- Jeff Erikson, Chair
- William Brichoux, Uniforms & Equipment
- Monifa Hamilton, Secretary
- Marcus Gill, Webmaster
- Teresa Hatch, Fundraising
- Jim Mahood, Member At Large
- Eric Pearson, Member At Large
- Michele Steinbach, Public Relations & Outreach
- Russell Turner, Athlete Representative
- Audrey Wollett, Treasurer

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.

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Contact Information

Caitlin Marcotte, Coordinator
Special Olympics Virginia—Loudoun
215 Depot Court, SE
Leesburg VA 20175
(703) 777-0438
Caitlin.Marcotte@loudoun.gov

www.loudounspecialolympics.org

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Track and Field News

- Report from Coach Kuhns



Track & Field gets underway April 6, 8:30 am at Dominion HS. So grab your running shoes and head on over for some running, throwing, and jumping! Can't wait to see you there!

Softball News

- Report from Coach Brichoux & Coach Culvyhouse

Rangers: Spring has sprung and that means it's time for Softball again. Rangers softball practice begins Monday April 8th from 6pm-7:30pm at Balls Bluff Elementary School. Regular season starts April 20th with games on Saturdays at Eakin Park in Fairfax. Hope to see you there.

Cardinals: Softball is the ultimate team sport and allows each player to contribute his or her athletic skills to the competition. I encourage new players to attend a practice and see what all the excitement is about.



Tennis News

- Report from Coach Cashman



Coaches Karen Cashman and Tracey Savage are excited to begin a fun season of tennis on April 10th at Broad Run High School on Wednesdays from 630 to 730 pm. Karen and Tracey are brand new at coaching and are excited to have members from the Loudoun County HS tennis team as volunteers. See you on the courts!

Swimming News

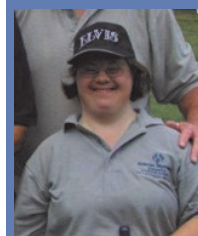
- Report from Coach J. Erikson

Swimming season 2013 has started up and coach Erikson is anticipating an exciting season. We have 7 athletes new to swimming this year, and we have expanded to two practices on Wednesday and Saturday. DOLPHINS ROCK!



Golf Skills News

- Report from Coach Spears



Golf skills has started up again for the spring 2013 season. In golf skills we will learn and practice putting, pitching, chipping, driving and iron play. All ability levels are welcome. Turn-out is strong so we encourage parents/caretakers to stay and participate.

Basketball State Tournament

The State Tournament in March was jam packed with excitement. Yes, there were some wins and some losses, but there were loads of individual achievements and some really fun times had by all who attended. Please visit our website to read all the exciting details that were just too long to include here.



Bowling News

- Report from Coach Vines

Bowling is alive and growing at SOLC resulting in some changes. Moving Sunday practices to 10 AM lowered costs and provided better access to lanes to accommodate our growing numbers. We also have more inexperienced bowlers in need a bit of mentoring. Athletes Warren Carter and Russell Turner, a couple of our seasoned bowlers, have taken on a mentoring role acting as athlete-coaches. For anyone who's ever seen Warren bowl, it's not surprising that the initiative was a huge success. "The younger athletes really look up to him," said coach Sue Sedlizek. "The only issue we have is athletes trying to imitate his flashy style of bowling."



We had a great showing at the Winter Games, where Area 14 was represented by six two-person teams:

- Team 1 - Dawn Bucy /Kaye Parsi: Bronze
- Team 2 - Cassie Hutson / Jose DeLeon: Bronze
- Team 3 - Ryan Merhaut / Kristen Sadowski: Silver
- Team 4 - Hayden Clairmont / Brittney Hemminger: 4th place
- Team 5 - Jake Luoma / Conner Rouch: Bronze
- Team 6 - Anna Yanc / Michael Wollet: 4th place.

In a show of good sportsmanship, athletes John Vines and Amy Loudenback also volunteered to bowl for other areas that were missing athletes. Amy bowled with a Fairfax team and helped them win 4th place, while John bowled with a Richmond team and helped them win gold.

Several other athletes came out to cheer on their teammates with homemade signs and pom-poms. Special tournament bowling shirts for athletes and coaches were generously provided by the Robert Clairmont, Jr. and FedStar, LLC.

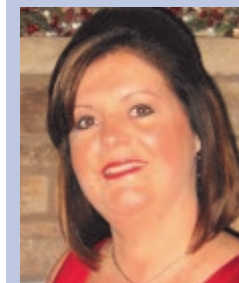
Our six teams had a great weekend of competition against some of the best Special Olympics bowling teams from across Virginia. All of our team fought a valiant fight against very tough opponents and did very well winning 1-Gold, 1-Silver, 3-Bronze and 3-4th places. Thank you to all of our coaches and volunteers. You make Loudoun Special Olympics bowling program so special for me and all our athletes.



HELP SOLC: Visit the Special Olympics at the Leesburg Flower and Garden Festival—April 20 and 21

100% of all sales from our tent benefit Special Olympics Loudoun County and help us provide the wide variety of sporting events and opportunities to our athletes. So take the opportunity to help the SOLC and help yourself with a new plant or two as well.

Letter from the Fundraising Chair



Happy Spring! For those of you who I may not have had the pleasure of meeting, I am Teresa Hatch, Fundraising Chair.

Many don't realize that SOLC is primarily self-funded and our cost is approximately \$175 per athlete per sport. My goal is to ensure that our program is supported financially. We raise funds by seeking donations, applying for private and public grants, sponsoring fundraising events, mailing letter campaigns, holding community dinners, and participating in SOVA (State) fundraising events.

I am looking for your help! Does your company sponsor matching donations or offer grants? Do you have volunteer hours at your company? Do you have a few free hours a month to help out from home?

Please check out our new fundraising thermometer on page 4 to see our goals. If you have any questions or great ideas, feel free contact me at 703-554-2451.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

>>> **Congratulations to Dan Dillon**, continued from page 1

amount of skill is what you are born with. You need to learn to try and not give up."

Dan's decades of service have been filled with too many memorable moments to be able to single out any one in particular as a favorite, but he admits that every year has its highlights – those "two or three things that happen that make me love the fact that I'm with these athletes."

Dan has no intention of hanging up his coach's whistle just because he's passed the 25 year milestone. He finds that the program is constantly evolving, growing and improving which keeps it exciting and fresh. "We're already talking about things for next year, how to improve the quality of coaching to fit with the ever changing population of athletes we serve. That is a fun part of the process and I am very lucky to have some outstanding coaches."



Polar Plunge Freezin' For A Reason

On March 2nd, 9 brave SOLC souls braved the wind and cold waters of the Tims River in Dumfries Virginia. Together our Council President Jeff Erikson, two Coaches Shelley Kuhns and Kevin McDonald, four Athletes Philip Coe, Russell Turner, Tyler Touve and Kelly Erikson, a parent, Regina Cashin, and a relative of one of our athletes, Luke Kilgore raised about \$4,900, of which Special Olympics Loudoun County will see about \$3,700. Our Council Fundraising Chair Teresa Hatch, and one of our athletes Adam Bell both raised a bunch of money, but were unable to plunge, so Tyler and Kelly plunged for them. Despite the low temperatures, spirits were high and even higher afterwards in the warming tents and it is unanimous that the plungers "Can't wait until next year!" Maybe next year we'll have a bigger team and even more chilly thrills.