

TRiumph

Volume 1 Issue 1

In Sport,
Life,
Everyday



Passing the Torch

The illustrious Special Olympics program in St. Mary's County can easily be attributed to the hard work and determination of Mary Lu Bucci. She would be the first to tell you however, that it was only possible through the love and support of her family, friends, and the community.

Under her leadership and the management team the program was able to expand and include fifteen different Olympic type sports, including the development of a unified program. Athletes have traveled across the United States showing off their ability: New Jersey, Iowa, Nebraska, and Utah to name a few. Some even had their passports stamped with trips to Ireland, Greece, and the Netherlands taking gold and bronze with them as they left.

Mary Lu has been a lot more than the Area Director of Special Olympics. Whether it was driving athletes to practice, washing uniforms, stocking the concession stand, or providing guidance and support; she's been our "Special Olympic mom".

After twenty seven years of commitment and service to the athletes of St. Mary's County Mary Lu has decided it's time to step back (again). Mary Lu remains our biggest advocate and continues the mission of Special Olympics—providing opportunities and equity through sport. Mary Lu continues to volunteer, remains part of the management team, and counsels new Area Director, Alan Raley through the transition.



And the award goes to:

If she is not working for St. Mary's County Public Schools, McDonalds, or crafting wreathes and scarves; you might find her on the Basketball court, the Soccer field, the Track, or her favorite the Bowling alley. We're pleased to announce **Shelby Boyer** as this month's Special Olympic Athlete of the Month. Shelby is a Global Messenger for Special Olympics Maryland; she served as the master of ceremonies at the St. Mary's Splash and the State Basketball Tournament and was the State of Maryland athlete of the month for June 2015. Congratulations Shelby, don't let anything get in your way.



Mary Lu Bucci and Alan Raley at Athletes Award Banquet July 2015

Thank you to all who have supported and contributed to SOSMCO the past 25 years. Thank you for the wonderful gifts, memories, and sharing your children with us. All of you are awesome.

Mary Lu Bucci

Up coming Events

February 7 Lottery Ticket sales begin

February 22 Winter Games, WhiteTail

February 28 PDU 3 v 3, and 5 v 5 Basketball, Gleneig

March 1—19 Spring Sport registration open
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1QDJT0d352zSCUc1gjPhsQuWC2brh5cjrT1nt_R7ncg/edit#

March 4 Special Olympics vs. Mother Catherine Academy. Doors open at 630. Tip-off 7pm.

March 6 Aquatics training begins. 6-8 pm Great Mills Pool

April 6 Score day LHS

April 22 Spring Games LHS

Making A SPLASH

The St. Mary's Splash made its triumphant return to Point Lookout after a 12 year absence. Under the direction of Sergeant Brian P. Hartz of the St. Mary's Count Sheriff's Office and assistance of volunteers from near and far, over 40k was raised for Special Olympics Maryland. With donations from Coca Cola, Frito Lay, Aramark, Wa Wa, Baileys Party Rentals, Evergreen, and a host of other local business we thank them and everyone for the support.

There were 200 participants registered either on-line, or the day of the event. Splasher's had a great day to jump in to the waters of the Potomac, with an air temperature of 68 degrees and a water temperature of 52. Not bad for the twelfth of December. Let's hope we continue to be that lucky with the weather and continue to celebrate and raise money for Special Olympics for many years to come!

Didn't make it to the Splash? Get your Splash sweatshirt today! For 25.00, you can have your very own shirt. Sizes Small through 2X available. Contact Sergeant Hartz or Annette Hartz at ahartz42@gmail.com.



These Men Called Knights

We are very appreciative and fortunate to have the continued help and support received from all of the Local Knights of Columbus Councils. Whether it is financial support, presentation of colors at the Spring Games or providing manpower at local qualifiers there is no limit to the service that this fraternal Catholic organization will provide. On behalf of the management team, volunteers, athletes and families we want to say thank you. Through your awareness and support, the Special Olympic Movement continues to grow.



Opening Ceremonies Spring Games

Lottery Raffle Tickets are available email chapplear@md.metrocast.net



Coaches Corner

Celebrating his tenth anniversary as a coach/volunteer is Mark Fondren. Coach Mark comes to us from Sylvania, Ohio with his wife and three children. Coach Mark has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from The University of Toledo and a Masters degree in Water Resources Environmental Engineering from Villanova. He is currently a Program Manager with NAVAIR at Pax River.

Coach Mark is a Head Coach in both Basketball and Soccer as well as an assistant coach in Kayaking, Swimming, and Cycling and lastly a unified partner in Sailing.

You might also see Mark volunteering with the Boy Scouts of America Pack 1203, Troop 561, and Venture Crew 2092.

Mark's enjoyment in Special Olympics comes from the inspiring athletes and the dedicated parents.

We are lucky and fortunate for the time, patience, and compassion that Coach Mark and all the Special Olympics Coaches share with our athletes.



Volunteers are the backbone of the Special Olympics movement. Special Olympics would not exist today — and could not have been created without the time, energy, commitment, and enthusiasm of our volunteers.

Committees Forming Now

Under the following categories:

- ⇒ Code of Conduct
- ⇒ Fundraising
- ⇒ Concessions
- ⇒ Merchandise
- ⇒ Social
- ⇒ Public Relations
- ⇒ Marketing
- ⇒ Service

Vacant Volunteer Positions

1. Transportation Coordinator
2. Registration Coordinator
3. Soccer Coordinator
4. Kayak Coach
5. Assistant Sailing Coach
6. Bocce Coach
7. Golf Skills coach

For more information and the opportunity to join a committee or volunteer please contact Alan Raley at

sostmaryscounty@gmail.com