

As we near the end of the year, it's time to get those 2018 donations in! To help with this we have included a handy reply envelope in this issue. Deciding whether or not to give? Well, here are some reasons why you should:

- It will help more than 1,800 athletes all across Hamilton County
- It's tax deductible.
- Your kids will think you're cool.
- Your spouse will love you more.
- Your boss will respect you and maybe even give you a raise enabling you to afford that trip to Tahiti that you've always wanted to take and then:
- Your spouse will love you even more!

So make sure you send it in today. Go ahead! Do it now while you're thinking of it, right?

SOHC Athletes Bring Home the Gold from Seattle

Hamilton County Rocks 2018 USA Games

By Ken Coggeshall

Walt Kube's favorite things about competing in the 2018 USA Games in Seattle was "meeting people from all over" and "seeing the Mariner's stadium."

And, oh yeah, he also won a gold medal.

Kube was one of four Special Olympics Hamilton County (SOHC) athletes who competed in this year's games. Joining him was Kim Schobert (bocce ball), Rachel Travis (aquatics) and David Tripathy (aquatics). Between them they brought home seven medals including three gold. It certainly was an impressive haul at the country's largest and most prestigious Special Olympics event.



From l to r : Rachel Travis, , David Tripathy, Walt Kube, Kim Schobert

It was this past July that more than 4,000 athletes and coaches representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia converged on the Emerald City for four days of Special Olympics competition. The opening ceremony took place on July 1 at Husky Stadium and included a 2,000-person choir and musical performances from Ann Wilson and Charlie Puth. Most of the events were then held at athletic facilities on the campus of the University of Washington.

Although Hamilton County was fortunate to have four athletes compete this year, it is not a given that SOHC sends athletes to every USA Games competition. "Athletes must first qualify in locally and state held events," according to SOHC Program Director Janet Smith. "Then they become represent SOHC on the Special Olympics Ohio team. This year's SOHC athletes were really strong and the results show that."

Such results don't come by accident. Travis says this was something she has had been working toward for years. "You have to train really hard and be committed to it," she says. "You don't get medals for free."

Gaining some sense of independence was also an important part of the experience for some athletes. Schobert says, "Being on my own was great. It was a little scary at first without my family being there. But my teammates were there so that helped."

The USA Games occur every four years and were started in Ames, Iowa in 2006. Since then the games have been held in Lincoln, Nebraska and Newark, New Jersey. The 2022 Games are expected to be held in Orlando, Florida.

For a complete listing of SOHC results see USA Games page 5.

Our Bad...



In the Spring/Summer 2018 edition of Torchbearer, which is traditionally dedicated to thanking all our donors from the previous year, we inadvertently omitted four very important names.

All of them are Silver Medal supporters (\$500-\$999).

They are:

Mr. Mark Weller

Mr. Thomas Westerfield

Mr. S. Christian Wilks

Mr. Matthew Wischer

Thanks to all of them for their generous support!

Hello from SOHC's Newest Advisory Committee Member: Angela Cason



Hello all,

I'm happy to have joined the SOHC Advisory Committee recently after 3 years in Cincinnati. I have a long history with Special Olympics going back to when I was a seven-year-old growing up in Chicago and my brother started competing as an athlete. In Chicago each athlete is provided a volunteer but since I was so young I wasn't allowed to be one. But that didn't stop me. I insisted on helping too so the coaches let me become a junior coach for gymnastics, swimming, and dance.

I think that by starting that young in Special Olympics it really became an important part of who I am. I have wanted to continue supporting Special Olympics wherever I have lived. After moving from Chicago, I volunteered in Florida while in University, in New York when I first graduated, then in Houston where I volunteered, joining their board after 2 years. Finally we moved to Cincinnati and I connected with SOHC.

If you were at the Evening for Champions in 2017 you may have even seen me in the flashmob happily dancing away with athletes and volunteers. I continued to help organize this event in 2018 (although I was a bit busy having our first baby) and will do so again in 2019. I've also enjoyed learning about the athletic programs that are here that weren't available in other areas where I've worked with Special Olympics, as well as helping judge wonderful artwork.

Now, with a little 6 month old boy I'm hopeful that he'll enjoy volunteering with Special Olympics Hamilton County as much as I have. I hope that Special Olympics becomes as important to him as it has for me and the rest of my family.

But in order for Special Olympics to continue for future generations, we need your support. Having worked in several other areas, I know how important local donations are to maintaining and growing the number of athletes Special Olympics reaches. So make sure you take this opportunity to lend your support.

We're counting on you!

Angela

Tennis Anyone?

Serving it Up for Special Olympics—Another terrific year

Anyone who participates or attends the annual Serving it Up for Special Olympics event knows it is a fun time. But when it comes to raising money for SOHC, Cathy Thomas takes it very seriously.

"I wanted to give all - and I mean all - people the chance to participate no matter their challenge," says Cathy. "So I started Serving it Up to raise as much money as possible to help Special Olympics run great programs for people with disabilities."

Indeed, Serving it Up has raised more than \$185,000 over the last six years, thanks to Cathy's Herculean efforts and the generosity of all the event's guests. In 2018 more than 200 people participated raising more than \$36,000.



The event, which takes place each year at the Lindner Family Tennis Center in Mason, includes a tennis tournament, a skills training session for SOHC athletes and a dinner with auctions and raffles. All of it in the name of tennis, fun and SOHC.

Next year's Serving it Up for Special Olympics will take place on June 1, 2019. If you would like to attend or sponsor, contact Cathy at cthomas6@cinci.rr.com.

A Great Year for Golf!

The summer of 2018 was another active one for golfers at SOHC. Our Unified Program was a big success and our annual golf fundraiser at TPC River's Bend raised more than \$65,000! Thanks to all the Unified partners, Meadow Links & Golf Academy, TPC River's Bend and Advisory Committee member Vic Eilau for making it all happen. Here are a few pics:



10 Ways to Support for SOHC!

1. Coach a training program
2. Volunteer at a fundraiser
3. Join a committee
4. Help out at a one-day sporting event
5. Join the Freeze Cats for the annual Polar Plunge
6. Be friend and follow us on social media
7. Be a Unified Partner
8. Be an Athlete Mentor
9. Work at a weekly recreation event
10. Be a fan!

Contact Lindsay Bartsch
at 513-271-2606



Unified Champion Schools Get it Going!

By: Ken Coggeshall

Beginning in school year 2017-18, SOHC partnered with Special Olympics Ohio and 23 high schools in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and Toledo to create Unified Champion Schools. This initiative has created a fully-inclusive co-ed high school sports program which successfully facilitates social inclusion by bringing together students with intellectual disabilities, other disabilities, and without disabilities on teams for training and competition.

By providing opportunities for students with *all types of disabilities* and without disabilities to participate in sports meaningfully, Unified Champion Schools helps schools fulfill the spirit and intent of the federal law (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) and improve school climates.

A co-ed program, Unified Champions Schools has three components designed to promote inclusion, foster enriching and accepting school environments for all, develop youth leadership, and increase awareness.



Interscholastic Unified Sports High School Team

Teams are composed of a proportional number of students who are Special Olympics eligible (intellectual disabilities, cognitive delay, or developmental disabilities) and students without intellectual disabilities. These teams are treated just like every other interscholastic sports team at the school. They wear uniforms with school colors, they have 10 week long seasons with regular practices and competitions and they participate in regional championships with the opportunity to advance to state championships.

Inclusive Youth Leadership

Leadership development is a key part of this program as well. Students with and without intellectual disabilities come together as a structured inclusive group to determine ways to improve their school's environment for everyone. This can be a Unified Club or expansion of an existing school group. The purpose is three-fold; 1) to give students with intellectual disabilities a voice in their school along with their peers without disabilities, 2) to help students develop leadership skills and, 3) conduct youth-led activities which promote acceptance, respect, and community throughout the school.

Whole School Engagement

Unified Champions Schools provides opportunities for students from the entire school to come together to raise awareness, as well as show support for their Unified teams. The program also promotes "Spread the Word to End the Word" a student-organized campaign which helps everyone understand the need for using respectful language. It is focused on getting youth and adults to stop using the derogatory r-word ("retard" or "retarded"). Finally there is the "Fans in the Stands" initiative whereby students show support for their Unified team by promoting attendance at the competition hosted by their school.

Track and Field is the first sport to adopt the Unified Champions Schools model but there will more in the future. So make sure you stay tuned and support your school's Unified Champion Team!

Foundation Spotlight: The Hatton Foundation

All sports organizations, whether professional soccer teams or local high school football squads, have a common need: transportation. In order for athletes and teams to compete participants need to get to the venue where the competition is being held. SOHC is no different. Our athletes compete in dozens of events every year—events that are held across the county, the state and even the country.

Fortunately, The Hatton Foundation has generously stepped in to provide vital and generous funding to help make sure SOHC athletes can get where they need to go. From renting buses to the actual purchase of a 12-seat van (pictured) SOHC athletes are able to travel safely and comfortably to compete thanks to the generosity of The Hatton Foundation.

SOHC also shares a common need with all organizations of any size, i.e. the need for proper technological tools. Computers, servers, laptops, iPads—all these things are vital to running an efficient, modern charity. Communications must be sent, schedules must be posted, contributions must be solicited and tracked, donors must be thanked. None of this would be possible without the right equipment.

Once again, The Hatton Foundation has provided the resources to make this possible for SOHC. Through a generous grant SOHC was able to upgrade its badly outdated tech tools. As a result life has been made much easier for athletes, volunteers and staff.



USA Games... continued from page 1

Overall results for SOHC at the 2018 USA Games:

Walt Kube (softball):

- 1st place

Kim Schobert (bocce):

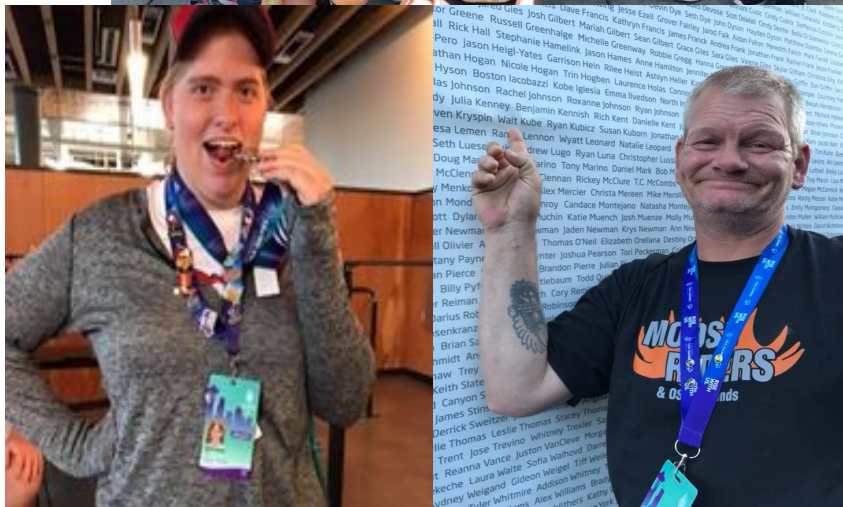
- Doubles—4th place
- Team—4th place
- Singles—5th place

Rachel Travis (aquatics):

- 50 meter back stroke—1st place
- 50 meter breast stroke—2nd place
- Relay—2nd place

David Tripathy (aquatics):

- 50 meter butterfly —1st place
- Relay—2nd place
- 100 meter free style—3rd place





CCO: Get in on it!

If your company isn't competing in the Cincinnati Corporate Olympics, here's what you're missing:

- A chance to support a great local cause
- Meeting and competing with some of our terrific SOHC athletes
- Cray-cray games like Late for Work Shuffle, No Time for Breakfast and Profit Squeezer
- An opportunity to publicly embarrass your competitors
- The thrill of meeting Steve Caminitti!
- An excuse to take an extended lunch break on Fountain Square
- Free pizza!

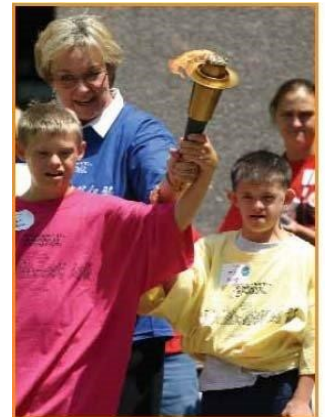
To sign up, contact this guy:



Cincinnati Corporate Olympics a 22 Year Tradition

By: Jim O'Connell

This year marked the 22nd year for the event euphemistically known as "Hoots with the Suits" or more officially as the Cincinnati Corporate Olympics. This popular fund-raising event was the brainchild of a group of dedicated Federated/Lazarus employees under the leadership of VP of Corporate Communications, Carol Sanger. Ms. Sanger, who was a member of the SOHC Advisory Committee at the time remembers, "My staff worked hard on this — deciding what the games would be, how much space on Fountain Square each would take, how to lay out the Square to accommodate teams and spectators, what the games' rules would be, what supplies and equipment we would need and what the program would be. I even wrote the script for the program."



Carol Sanger with SOHC athletes in 1997

From that seminal beginning back in 1997, the Cincinnati Corporate Olympics has raised almost \$1,000,000 and continues to be one of the most successful SOHC fundraising events. In trying to figure out why this is so, Program Director Janet Smith explains, "I think it provides the opportunity for spirited corporate competition. Participants want to represent their respective companies in the best way possible. Also, each team has a SOHC athlete who competes alongside them as member of their respective team. This promotes inclusion for the companies and recognition for the athlete."

In addition to all the area businesses that participate, the staff from the Xavier Athletic Dept. deserves our grateful thanks for running all the logistics of the Corporate Olympics for us every year. We couldn't do it without them. We want to thank Kroger, Macy's/ Federated, P&G and UPS for participating in the Corporate Olympics every year since the beginning. In addition, we want to recognize Fifth-Third Bank for their long time role as Presenting Sponsor. Finally, our on-site game hosts continue to lend their talents by delivering the games experience without a hitch. From Jim Knippenberg and John Lomax, through Steve Caminitti, Bob Herzog and Betsy Ross, we are forever grateful for your support.

We have room for a few additional teams to participate. If you or your company are interested, please contact:

Ken Coggeshall at 513-271-2606 or
ken.coggeshall@specialolympics-hc.org.



Upcoming SOHC Fundraisers



Freezin' For A Reason



Evening for Champions

Coaches: Changing Lives
Saturday, March 30, 2019
Schiff Conference and Banquet Center
Xavier University

Polar Plunge of Greater Cincinnati

On February 2, 2019, you can Jump into the Fun at Joe's Crab Shack at Newport on the Levee for the 19th Annual Special Olympics Polar Plunge event...you won't regret it or forget it!

Important: In order for SOHC to receive all the money we raise **you must sign up on the Freeze Cats team.**

Otherwise the money you raise will go to the State office SOHC will not receive any of it.!

To sign up, go to:

www.greatercincinnatiplunge.com

1)Click "Join a team" 2) click Search for a Team 3) **choose Special Olympics Hamilton County Freeze Cats**

Don't like the thought of jumping in cold water in February? You can be a "Chicken" and still raise money for Special Olympics.

Spread the word to be "Freezin' for a Reason!"



Cincinnati Corporate Olympics

Wednesday, July 10, 2019
Fountain Square, Cincinnati
Noon to 1:30



The Piggest Raffle Ever!

For just \$5 you can help Special Olympics Hamilton County and be entered to win a \$10,000 cash (\$5,000 to winning ticket holder and \$5,000 to the charity who sold the ticket)

All \$5 will be donated to Special Olympics Hamilton County!

You can purchase a ticket by visiting <http://www.piggestraffle.com/> and selecting

Special Olympics Hamilton County.

If you are participating in any of the Flying Pigs events, you can also raise money online for SOHC! Just go to: getmeregistered.com/FPMDonations And get started!

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