November 2019 E-Newsletter

Mahalo To Our Mission Partners

First Hawaiian Bank.  HAWAII NEWS NOW  LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

Par Hawaii  Walmart

In This Issue
SOHI 2019 Awards
Unified Spotlight: Big Island Unified Basketball
Sponsor Feature: Star-Advertiser

Mahalo To Our Year-Round Partners

Mahalo To Our Year-Round Supporters

california PIZZA KITCHEN
SAFEWAY Foundation
ZIPPY’S

Special Olympics Hawaii 2019 Awards

It's that time of year where we share our thanks for all of our athletes, coaches, families, sponsors and volunteers. Every year Special Olympics Hawaii recognizes individuals or groups who have made significant contributions to our program. Many factors are taken into consideration in the selection process including their impact and commitment.

The 2019 Special Olympics Hawaii Awards were announced during this year's Holiday Classic Opening Ceremonies and recognize the following winners:

School of the Year: Lokelani Intermediate School, Maui Area
Coach of the Year: Arthur Mori, Central/Honolulu Area
Volunteer of the Year: Scott Reinhart, Maui Area
Area Organization of the Year: Arise Five, Leeward Area
Family of the Year: Carnate Family, Leeward Area
Be sure to shop with Amazon Smile and select Special Olympics Hawaii. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to programs for our local athletes!

HawaiianMiles Charities - Giving Tuesday
We are excited to share that the HawaiianMiles charity program will be matching up to 100,000 miles per charity based on miles donated specifically on Giving Tuesday, in addition to their annual 500,000 match. Please consider donating on Giving Tuesday to help give our athletes wings!

Christmas Ornament Campaign
Deck the halls with our first-ever Special Olympics Hawaii Christmas ornaments! Get in the holiday spirit by making a donation of $65 or more to secure your

Unified Spotlight: Hawaii Island Unified Basketball

By: Jo Ann Nishimoto and Marisha Carroll

From October through November, high schools on Hawaii Island competed in the second Big Island Unified Basketball League. Laupahoehoe, Kea'au, Hilo, and Pahoa High School played every Saturday with each school or region hosting one set of games. Each team was made up of students with and without intellectual disabilities who trained and competed together.

The main goal of the program is to promote inclusion and acceptance for all by providing more opportunities for Unified sports on neighbor islands, which makes it accessible for more schools. Special Olympics Hawaii is proud to offer programs like this on the Big Island, on the Leeward coast of Oahu, and coming soon to Maui.

Unified sports provides a special sports experience, where friendships and inclusion are at the forefront. Hilo High School's team coordinator Marisha Carroll shared that the experience was amazing for her and Hilo High School students. Carroll was thrilled to meet students not only from Hilo, but from other schools too.

Cassie, a student from Kea'au High School and a first-time participant in Unified sports, shared that the main difference between Unified basketball and regular basketball is that at Unified, they are all friends. Hilo High School athlete Onyx mentioned that his favorite part of Unified Basketball is that he makes friends and develops relationships, while still playing...
very own limited-edition Christmas ornament. Act fast, they're going quick!

**Over the Edge**

Check out some of the thrilling photos from last month's Over the Edge fundraiser! If you are interested in participating in this event and going Over the Edge next year (October 23, 2020) please contact Tracey.

**Renee's Blog: National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month**

This month, Special Olympics athlete Renee shared information about National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month in her blog. Read more on the value that people with intellectual disabilities can bring to the workplace here.

**Save the Date! Polar Plunge Registration Soon!**

Our fun and exhilarating annual fundraiser, Polar Plunge, is returning next year on April 18, 2020! Registration is opening very soon and you're not going to want to miss out on this exciting event.

League coordinator Ben Pana has encouraged teams to be respectful but also competitive. He appreciates that once the game gets started, you can't tell who is an athlete and who is a partner. The players all work together, demonstrating the true meaning of inclusion. Unified sports brings people together and has the power to change the world. Unified partner Archie from Laupahoehoe High School shared that it was an eye-opening experience to be in a league where they all helped each other. It really makes you build connections and learn more about others. These Unified leagues can change perspectives and mindsets on differences.

Thank you to the many volunteers that came together to make this league possible, including referees, volunteers, teachers, coaches, and family members. We deeply appreciate your commitment for inclusion! Cassie from Kea'au High School summed up her experience perfectly with her statement, "I hope they have another Unified basketball team so I can play again!"

**Sponsor Feature: Honolulu Star-Advertiser**

This month we are recognizing the Honolulu Star-Advertiser for their continued support as a Year-Round Supporter of Special Olympics Hawaii since 2004. The Honolulu Star-Advertiser plays a significant role in providing our organization with more than $37,000 in print ad value every year! Thanks to the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, we are able to run two mahalo ads every year to thank our sponsors and six ads to raise awareness for our Over the Edge fundraiser. These ads reach thousands of households statewide and help us generate excitement and participants for our annual Over the Edge event.

"For more than a decade, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser has been partnering with Special Olympics Hawaii to provide ad space to bring awareness to our cause and for our athletes," said Tracey Bender, Special Olympics Hawaii's director of development. "We are grateful for this long history working together, and I look forward to their continued help in sharing our athletes' stories of courage and bravery."

This year marks our 15th year of partnership and we look forward to many more years with such an amazing partner. Not only has the Honolulu Star-Advertiser been a long and trusted supporter, but they are also a Bronze Medal sponsor for our annual Cheer for Champions fundraiser!
Holoholo Club

Windward Mall - Every Tues. Afternoon
4:00 - 4:30 pm in front of Big City Diner

Ala Moana Center - Every Wed. Afternoon
4:00 - 4:30 pm in front of Target on Mall Level 2

Top Walkers This Month:

Athlete - Anuenemakamae Abella, 377 miles
Athlete - Marcelino Galdones, 371 miles
Partner - Ma Shoyen White, 351 miles

Overall Walker for 2019:

Parent - Randall Yokoto: 2,525 miles