

news

Spring 2011



Special Olympics
Michigan
Area 34

Monroe County Special Olympics

117 Special Olympic athletes were on the roster for winter sports (Snowshoeing, Skating, Alpine Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, and Basketball)

31 years that Pat Gilbreath has volunteered and coached with Special Olympics!

\$3000 was raised at our 1st Annual Area 34 Special Olympics Bowling Fundraiser that was held on Sunday February 27th at the Monroe Sports Center.

Find us on Facebook:
[Monroe County Special Olympics Area 34](#)

facebook



Spring Sports Begin Soon

Spring sports will begin soon. If you are interested in participating in volleyball, aquatics (swimming), athletics, powerlifting, MATP, or bowling, please contact the individual coaches for more details. Contact information:

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| • Volleyball | Coach Kerry Simmons | 734-224-0701 |
| • Aquatics | Coach Lisa LaLande | 242-5799 x1715 |
| | Coach Stacie Ourlian | 242-5799 x4227 |
| • Powerlifting | Coach Brad Booth | 242-5799 x2034 |
| • Athletics | Coach Patty McEwan | 734-654-9325 |
| • Bowling | Coach Mikki Eastman | 734-586-3118 |
| • Gymnastics | Coach Carrie Nartker | 734-854-2401 |
| • Bocce Ball | Coach Brittany Stevens | 734-770-6622 |

Practices will begin in mid-March and early April. Please check the [website](#) or the [Facebook](#) page for more details.

Special Olympics Fundraiser

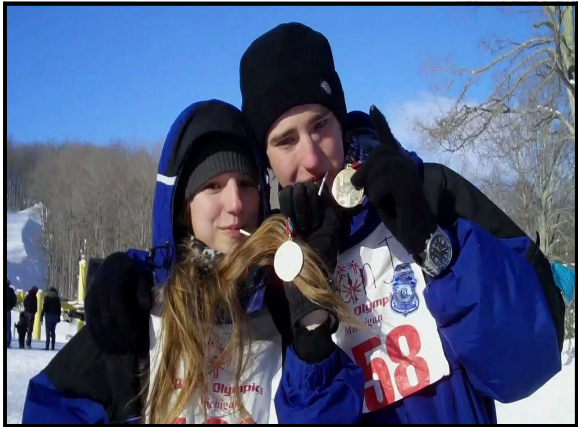
A big "thanks" goes out to all of the people who came to our 1st Annual Area 34 Special Olympics Bowling Fundraiser at Monroe Sports Center. Over 150 people Participated in the event. The day included door prizes, a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle, pizza and pop, and a whole lot of fun! The event raised over \$3000 for Area 34's Special Olympics program!



spotlight



Special Olympics
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Winter Games

Over 20 athletes from Monroe County trekked their way to Traverse City, Michigan on February 1-4 to compete in the annual event. This year's event marked the 30th anniversary of the involvement of the Wertz Warriors, a group of snowmobilers who have raised nearly \$8.5 million to help support Special Olympics Michigan. Nearly 900 athletes and 350 coaches attended the event. Athletes stayed at the Grand Traverse Resort and traveled to Howe Arena (speed skating) and Schuss Mountain Resort (alpine skiing and cross country skiing). Area 34's athletes participated in alpine skiing, cross country skiing,

speed skating, and snow shoeing.

Highlights from this year's event included snowmobile rides by the Wertz Warriors, a broomball tournament, a dance contest, dog sled rides, tug of war, sledding and tubing, ice bowling, snow volleyball, arts and crafts, movies, and lots of dancing! A special thanks goes out to the coaches, volunteers, parents, and families that helped organize the trip. Congratulations to all of our athletes!

What is aquatics?

Swimming is one of the most popular sports in the world. Unlike other sports, swimming is a life skill that is taught, first, to ensure safety and, secondly, for sports and competition purposes.

The Aquatics team works on aquatic technique; develop athletes' coordination, physical fitness and sense of accomplishment; and promote aquatics as a lifetime skill for sport and fitness. Special Olympics continually stresses the well-being of the athlete as well as fairness in competition.



The best way to get athletes interested in aquatics is to get them to the pool. Coaches help to develop the nonskilled or low-skilled swimmer from an observer to a competitor. Skills are presented in an order that ensures the athlete immediate and tangible results. Swimming events range from 25-meter to 1500-meter events in freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly. Special Olympics also offers swimming events for low-ability level athletes.

Would you like to get involved? Contact Lisa LaLande: lisa.lalande@monroeisd.us 734-242-5799 x1715 or Stacie Ourlian stacie.ourlian@monroeisd.us 734-242-5799 x 4227



Be sure to visit our official webpage for updates:

<http://somi.org/About-SOMI/RegionArea-Information/Southeast-Region/Area-34.html>

on the lookout



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Spring Track and Field Meet

On Friday May 13, 2011 our annual Special Olympics Spring Track Meet will take place at Jefferson High School. Opening Ceremonies will take place at 10:15am at the Jefferson High School Track. Events will include: **50M & 100M Dash, Bocce Ball, Softball Throw, Standing Long Jump, Horse-shoes, 4 x 100M Relay, 20M Walk/Run, Frisbee Throw, Batting Off Tee, Wheelchair 25M Race, Wheelchair Slalom Race, and Tubit Disc Toss.** The event will also feature train rides, food and beverages, Special Olympics buttons, and much more. Information regarding registration will go out in April. If you have any questions regarding the event, please contact **Brad Booth 242-5799 x2034.**

Photos from Winter Sports



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what's to come



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Calendar of Events

- ◆ March 17th **Special Olympics Social** — Come and mingle with fellow athletes, coaches, volunteers, families, and friends — Refreshments will be provided.
MCISD River Raisin Rooms 5:30-7:00 pm
 - ◆ **April 30-May 1 Duford Memorial Special Olympic Event** — Car Show, Craft Show, Raffle, Bingo, Silent Auction, Food, and Fun. Come and support Area 34 Special Olympics!
Rod Park in Dundee, Michigan
 - ◆ **March 1-30 Sign up for Spring Sports**
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