



The 144<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Philadelphia

Charity Ball

THE MERION CRICKET CLUB | NOVEMBER 29, 2024





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# the program

## SIX O'CLOCK

Cocktail Reception

## SEVEN O'CLOCK

Dinner

## EIGHT-THIRTY

Presentation Ceremony

Introduction | *Warren Claytor, President, Board of Directors*

Presentations | *McBee Butcher, Jr., Master of Ceremonies*

The 2024 Jimmy Medal

Presentation of Debutantes and Young Gentlemen

## NINE O'CLOCK

Dancing | *The Renaissance Orchestra*

## ELEVEN O'CLOCK

Breakfast

## TWELVE O'CLOCK

Festivities Conclude



# welcomewelcome



*Welcome to the 143<sup>rd</sup> Philadelphia Charity Ball!* Your participation in tonight's ball is a testament of your shared vision to carry on the mission of our beloved organization established 144 years ago. That is, to inspire and encourage philanthropy in young people and to raise funds and awareness for deserving charities. This beautiful ball, steeped in Philadelphia tradition, exemplifies the charitable spirit and moral duty of our young ladies and gentlemen of contributing to our community and filling our souls with joy. Let these courageous and benevolent young people, leaders among their peers, inspire us to follow their lead as they continue to choose a life in which philanthropy is their guiding light that benefits us all.

Once again, this year's beneficiary is Special Olympics Pennsylvania. In May 1970, its first-ever competition was held with only 135 athletes participating in a small track and field competition at West Chester University. Now, in its 54<sup>th</sup> year, Special Olympics Pennsylvania has flourished, growing into an organization that trains nearly 16,000 Special Olympics Pennsylvania athletes to compete across 54 local county programs at over 300 annual competitions in Olympic-type sports with the help of over 21 coaches and volunteers. In particular, the Philadelphia Charity Ball altruistically vows its support of "The Inclusion Revolution", a campaign launched by Special Olympics "to end discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities and to create a fully inclusive world".



# welcomewelcome



## Our Mission

The mission of the Philadelphia Charity Ball is two-fold: to raise funds for non-profit organizations focused on youth in Philadelphia, and to inspire the young people of Philadelphia to make philanthropy a central part of their lives.

The Philadelphia Charity Ball is a tradition that dates back to 1881. It is a formal celebration and gathering that has raised millions of dollars for a variety of worthwhile charities over the years. Each year the Ball endeavors to build on and continue this tradition. For the first century, the beneficiaries of the Ball were the Philadelphia hospitals and the results of these events are evident throughout our local hospital system.

The Philadelphia Charity Ball is part of the fabric of the history of Philadelphia. Many past participants have gone on to assume positions in Philadelphia area charitable organizations.

New this year, is “Bring Your Charity to the Ball”, and our effort to be even more inclusive and bring awareness to several other wonderful organizations, and we encourage all of you to help spread the word to support these and other worthy organizations. I am filled with gratitude for so many people whose hard work and unwavering support are instrumental in the success of this ball and our mission. I would especially like to thank this year’s debutantes, young men’s committee members and their families whose involvement and generosity is greatly appreciated, the ongoing work of our committed and enthusiastic Board of Directors whose dedication, wisdom and guidance throughout the year make the ball a huge success and our talented, selfless and incredible Executive Director, Lydia Butcher, whose deep devotion and extraordinary passion make this ball possible. I would like to acknowledge and thank all the sponsors and guests here tonight. May you further guide and inspire the young people here to become future philanthropic leaders, while at the same time, help us continue to build history as part of this important Philadelphia tradition. Finally, I would like to thank my friends and family who have been so generous in their philanthropic efforts to help make this year’s ball possible. We are all truly blessed to be able to come together to celebrate this time-honored tradition. In the words of George Washington, “Human happiness and moral duty are inseparably connected.”

*Warren Clayton*

*President, The Philadelphia Charity Ball*



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**S**pecial Olympics is a global movement that unleashes the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sport, every day around the world. Through sports, health, education and community programming, Special Olympics is tackling inactivity, intolerance, isolation and injustice that people throughout the world face, especially people with intellectual disabilities. The athletes of Special Olympics — more than 20,000 strong in Pennsylvania and nearly 1,400 strong here in Philadelphia — are constant reminders of all that is right with the human spirit.

The mission of Special Olympics Pennsylvania is to provide year-round sports training and 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. All training and competition opportunities are provided free of charge to the athletes and their families, enabling everyone to experience the benefits of Special Olympics that extend well beyond the playing field.





*The 2022 Ball*



*The 2023 Fall Festival*

# commemorating ten years



*The 2014 Ball*



*The 2021 Ball*



*The 2019 Fall Festival*



*The 2015 Fall Festival*



*The 2017 Ball*



# thejimmymedal

## JILL SUSCO

*The Jimmy Medal identifies and celebrates individuals who make a positive difference in the lives of others. Through their actions they exemplify the virtues of resiliency, humility, empathy and loyalty.*

Jill admired her athletic older brothers and struggled to find a consistent sport until joining the Special Olympics of Pennsylvania (SOPA) in 2008. She quickly found a welcoming community that provided instruction, teamwork, and challenges. Jill participates in equestrian events, tennis, bocce, and bowling, and plans to join SOPA golf while hoping to introduce pickle ball.

Jill's on-field achievements are impressive. She attended the 2010 National Games in Nebraska and won a gold medal. She has also triumphed in several SOPA State Competitions at Penn State and Villanova, forming connections with fellow athletes. Jill actively encourages friends to join SOPA and explore new sports.

Off the field, she promotes SOPA awareness. As an Athletic Leader in 2023, Jill created the Pickle Ball Queens and is training to become a Global Messenger in 2024 to inspire support for Special Olympics. She shares her experiences with various organizations, including the YMCA/Seekers and United Disability Services.

Through SOPA, Jill has gained communication skills and confidence, enabling her to live independently for over 13 years in her own home. She has worked at Aramark in food service for over 12 years and enjoys cooking and entertaining. Jill has traveled independently to places like Italy, Israel, and the Caribbean.

Her encouragement has inspired many to live independently and embrace the Special Olympics. United Disability Services featured her journey in a video at the 2022 UDS Annual Gala. Jill received the AADD Saft Family Member of the Year Award and was the keynote speaker at the 2024 Ivy Hill Therapeutic Equestrian Center's Kentucky Derby event.



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A photograph of a woman in a white, strapless, floor-length gown dancing with a man in a dark tuxedo. The woman is holding a bouquet of white and pink flowers. They are in a grand, ornate ballroom with high ceilings and arched windows. Other couples in formal attire are visible in the background, some dancing. The lighting is warm and ambient.

# debutantes debutantes

*Miss Kathleen Thi Mark*

*Miss Annabelle Sinclair McDonald*

*Miss Sabrina Yvonne Sandorff*



# kathleenthimark

*daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Peter W. Mark*

Kathleen is a senior at the University of Notre Dame, studying Finance and Real Estate in the Business Honors Program. On campus, Kathleen serves as the President of the Real Estate Club (REND), helps manage \$30 million of the university endowment as part of the Applied Investment Management, is an analyst in the Notre Dame Investment Club, and attended the Girls Who Invest program. Kathleen fulfills her love of traveling through Notre Dame Programs in London and Thailand. Kathleen has interned at EQT Exeter as a financial summer analyst and at Moelis & Company in New York, where she will be returning full time after graduation.

Kathleen was a lifer at The Episcopal Academy, where she was a tri-varsity athlete, Editor-in-Chief of the arts magazine, Editor of the school newspaper, and the Chair of the Class of 2021 Alumni Committee. Notably, Kathleen served as captain of the Girls Varsity Golf Team, set the home course school record and was awarded “Main Line Athlete of the Week.”

Kathleen also volunteered with the Horizon’s Summer Volunteer Program, is an active member of Project W, and raised funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. She is honored to be included in this distinguished group of young women and men as a 2024 debutante and thrilled that her participation helps benefit Special Olympics Pennsylvania.





# AnnabelleSinclairMcDonald

*daughter of Mr. & Mrs. James W. McDonald IV*


Annabelle is a sophomore at Villanova University, studying Communications and Peace and Justice. Prior to Villanova, she graduated from The Baldwin School. At Baldwin, Annabelle played three varsity sports, was captain of the dance team, and was very active in clubs and organizations. She served as senior head of DECA, Baldwin's business club, and was a member of Model Congress, Cradles to Crayons, and the theatre club, Maskers.

Annabelle has always been passionate about helping others and is actively involved with the Take A Breather Foundation, a nonprofit organization that grants wishes to children and adults living with cystic fibrosis. She founded the Take A Breather Club at Baldwin, which assisted the foundation with events, fundraising, and cystic fibrosis awareness.

At Villanova, Annabelle volunteers for Special Olympics, serves as an engagement coordinator for NOVAdance, is captain of her intramural volleyball team, and is a member of the French Club. She is also involved in VSMT, the musical theatre club. Annabelle loves traveling and plans to study abroad in London. In her free time, she enjoys going to the beach and spending time with family and friends.





A portrait of Sabrina Yvonne Sandorff, a young woman with long, wavy blonde hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a light blue, sleeveless, form-fitting dress and a delicate necklace with a small blue pendant. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with green foliage and sunlight filtering through.

# sabrina yvonne sandorff

*daughter of Mr. Erik Andreas Sandorff & Mrs. Ingrid Van Wormer Sandorff*

Sabrina is a senior at Conestoga High School where she enjoys studying math and science. This year, she is particularly enjoying her statistics and physics classes. Sabrina plans on majoring in mathematics in college next year.

Sabrina has been a member of the Conestoga High School Varsity Swimming Team since her freshman year and has competed each year in the Central League swimming competitions. She also loves tennis, and has played on the Conestoga High School Junior Varsity Tennis Team since her freshman year. Sabrina loves the challenge of competition, but even more highly values the camaraderie of her teammates and good sportsmanship. During her off-seasons, Sabrina enjoys running, having completed her first 15K run in Philadelphia last April.

Sabrina is also passionate about travel. The summer following her sophomore year, she spent a month as an exchange student in Spain, where she enjoyed immersing herself in the local language and customs. She has also hiked the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu with her family. She has also enjoyed the cuisine, sights and culture of France, Italy, Spain and Switzerland on family trips. Sabrina enthusiastically looks forward to participating in study-abroad programs during college.

Sabrina enjoys playing piano, guitar and singing. She shares her love of music at Centro de Cultura, Arte, Trabajo y Educacion where she has volunteered since she was 13. She works with children in a variety of activities, most recently teaching ukulele and guitar. This past summer Sabrina volunteered weekly at the Philadelphia Children's Hospital welcoming patients and assisting their families. Sabrina is honored to be a 2024 debutante and to participate in helping Special Olympics Pennsylvania.



A photograph of three young men standing side-by-side, smiling. They are all wearing black tuxedo jackets, white dress shirts, and white bow ties. Each man has a white boutonniere pinned to his lapel. The background is a dimly lit indoor space, possibly a hallway or a room with a chandelier visible at the top.

*Mister Ajay Baran Chakraborty*

*Mister John Paul Gallagher*

*Mister Lucas Marlen Reasons*

*Mister Shane Carl Reasons*

**young** gentlemen's  
committee





## Ajaybaranchakraborty

*Son of Mr. Rajat Baran & Devika Chakraborty*

Ajay, 16, is a junior at The Haverford School. He is passionate about several things including finance, engineering, and service.

At Haverford, Ajay competes in VEX robotics, where he is a two-time State Championship qualifier. He is the senior news editor for Haverford's school newspaper. Ajay plays first tenor saxophone in Haverford's Jazz Band and serves as the president of the band. In addition, he plays on the tennis team, which has won the Inter-Ac for the past 13 years. In his free time, he coaches young players at his local tennis academy.

Ajay is passionate about building artificial intelligence tools to help treat sports injuries. He works with a professor at Penn, and his latest work will appear in the National High School Journal of Science.

Ajay is also passionate about clean energy and fighting unemployment. He recently published a paper in the IOSR's Journal of Economics and Finance. It details a solution to help large numbers of former fossil fuel workers who have been displaced from their jobs transition to green energy jobs. He hopes to implement this within the next year or two. Ajay is a fellow of The Germination Project, a platform for Philadelphia's young leaders. In his free time, Ajay enjoys kayaking and tracking football statistics.



## johnpaulgallagher

*Son of Mr. & Mrs. Sean and Kara Gallagher*

Jack is a senior at Episcopal Academy with a passion for the humanities and photography. Jack's participation in Model UN has enriched his global awareness of cultural concerns. While cultivating his photography skills, Jack has been named Artist of the Month and received the Dora Khayatt Award for Photography.

On a three week National Geographic expedition to Namibia last summer, Jack collaborated with international photographers, students, biologists, ornithologists and the local population, to explore solutions for pressing environmental issues. Afterward, he curated an exhibit of his photographs for the campus art gallery to enlighten the EA community. The Head of School featured Jack on his podcast, *EA Unlocked*, to discuss his experience in Namibia.

Jack is a member of the EA cross country and rowing teams. He has rowed in several regattas; the Head of the Schuylkill, Head of the Charles, and National Scholastic Rowing Championships. Some of his many adventures include canoeing and portaging between lakes from the Minnesota Boundary Waters into Ontario's Quetico Park; sailing the Florida Keys on a liveboard journey; and hiking the northern Appalachian Trail to the summit of Mount Katahdin. Jack has four sisters with whom he shares his love for travel, rowing, skiing and the arts. Jack is honored to support the mission of the Philadelphia Charity Ball.



# lucasmarlenreasons

*Son of Mr. & Mrs. Bryan and Carrie Reasons*

Lucas is currently a senior majoring in Accounting at Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont. Most days, he balances many roles as a student, a Private in the Corps of Cadets, an Army ROTC participant, and a Varsity Football Player.

Lucas is known for his dedication and commitment on and off the field. As the starting center for his football team, he plays a key offensive position responsible for several critical tasks. Most importantly, he serves as a leader on the offensive line, communicating plays and implementing changes during the game. Off the field, Lucas has worked hard to graduate with Distinguished Military Honors and will commission into the United States Army as a Second Lieutenant, marking the start of a new chapter in his life of service.

Beyond football and academics, Lucas has a few favorite ways to unwind. He's an avid golfer who is always up for a round, whether it is a quick weekend escape or a fast nine holes with friends. Summers often take him to Margate, NJ, where he enjoys beach days, good food, and family time.

Lucas is looking forward to participating in and celebrating with the Special Olympics Pennsylvania athletes and is honored to be a part of the Philadelphia Charity Ball.



# shanecarlreasons

*Son of Mr. & Mrs. Bryan and Carrie Reasons*

Shane grew up in Chatham, NJ, and is currently a sophomore majoring in accounting at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. He is an active member of the club golf team, a competitive yet inclusive group that unites students who share a passion for the sport. The team engages in regular practices, participates in tournaments, and fosters a spirit of sportsmanship among its members.

In addition to golf, Shane is involved in both the Finance and Business Clubs on campus. Since high school, he has spent his summers working as a caddie at Canoe Brook Country Club in Summit, NJ, where he particularly enjoys assisting golfers with club selection, reading the greens, and offering encouragement throughout their rounds.

Outside of work, Shane loves spending time at the beach with family and friends in Margate, NJ. He especially enjoys playing and watching sports, particularly football, and he is a dedicated lifelong Eagles fan.







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*2024 Participant Mothers' Luncheon*





A photograph of a living room featuring a large stone fireplace with a white mantel. On the mantel are several decorative items including a framed picture of a horse, a trophy, and a small green plant. A large chandelier hangs from the ceiling. To the left, there is a large window with a curved top and patterned curtains. In the foreground, a light-colored sofa is adorned with blue and patterned pillows. Two round, dark wood coffee tables are positioned in front of the sofa, one holding a bowl of green apples and books. A large green plant stands near the fireplace.

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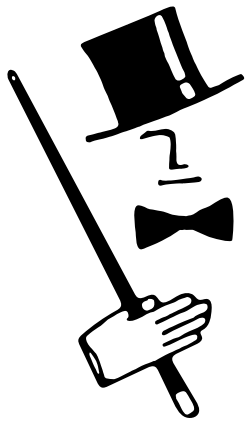
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# volunteerismvolunt



*Debutante, Sabrina Sandorff, teaching music at Centro de Cultura, Arte, Trabajo y Educacion (CCATE).*



*Debutante, Sabrina Sandorff, volunteering at the 2024 SOPA Fall Festival at Villanova.*



*2024 Special Olympics Athletes*



*Athletes and volunteers at the 2024 SOPA Fall Festival at Villanova.*





# Peerismvolunteerism



*Athletes and volunteers enjoying a day of flight school at Brandywine Airport.*



*Volunteers at the 2024 SOPA Fall Festival at Villanova.*



*Debutante, Sabrina Sandorff, volunteering at the 2024 SOPA Fall Festival at Villanova.*



*The Philadelphia Charity Ball sponsored a SOPA event at Brandywine Airport.*





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# CONGRATULATIONS!



to First Troop  
Philadelphia  
City Cavalry

*on their  
250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*



*SOPA athlete and 2019 Jimmy Medal winner, Katie Spencer, pictured with the Troop. Katie was full of life and loved by all who knew her.*

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*The 2023 Jimmy Medal Winner*





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2023  
debutantes &  
young gentlemen's  
committee





*Back row (left to right):*

Troop member, Joseph Bongiovanni V, Richard Cimino III, Mackenzie Cohn, Ethan Wyatt-Wang, Andrew Glaser, Troop member

*Middle row (left to right):*

Oona Hastings, Samantha O'Donnell, Jackson Raleigh, Rory Ganz, Alexandra Maddaloni, Sarah Cohen

*Seated:*

Katharine Lerch, Sean Seeger











# debutantes and parents

2023



Miss Sarah Emma Cohen  
*daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Samuel D. Cohen*



Miss Mackenzie Skylar Cohn  
*daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Noah Cohn*



Miss Oona Meanor Hastings  
*daughter of Mr. Robert Hastings & Mrs. Alison McCann Hastings*



Miss Katharine Kingdon Lerch  
*daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Jones Thompson Lerch, Sr.*



# debutantes and parents

2023



Miss Samantha O'Donnell  
*daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Scott O'Donnell*



Miss Alexandra Mae Maddaloni  
*daughter of Mr. Andrew Michael Maddaloni & Mrs. Jennifer Holsten Maddaloni, Esq.*



Miss Sean Cleary Seeger  
*daughter of Mr. Timothy William Seeger & Mrs. Christa Stack Seeger*







2023  
debutantes  
and dads



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*for her leadership, friendship and tireless efforts*

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*for her commitment to recognizing our unsung heroes*

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*for her excellent graphic design skills*

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# Katie Spencer

1989-2024



## *The Philadelphia Charity Ball mourns the loss of Katie Spencer.*

Throughout her adult life, Katie was a tireless advocate for people with special needs. As she said in many of her speeches, while she had Down Syndrome, she did not consider herself disabled. She personally raised nearly \$100,000 over the years for Special Olympics, Variety, and Best Buddies.

Katie was a seven sport Special Olympics athlete with an imposing collection of 132 medals. She was strong and resilient, refusing to let cancer keep her from playing sports.

Katie's awards included The Presidential Volunteer Service Award, Special Congressional Recognition from Congresswoman Madeleine Dean, the Sheetz Family Award, the Jimmy Medal from the Philadelphia Charity Ball and being named a Walmart Community Playmaker by the Philadelphia Flyers.

In recognition of her more than 25 year career, her service as a Global Ambassador and as a member of the Montgomery County Athlete Leadership Team, Katie was inducted into the Special Olympics Pennsylvania Hall of Fame during the Summer State Games at Penn State. She is one of fewer than 100 athletes who have been so honored. It turned out to be a fitting culmination to a wonderful career.

Katie made this world a better place and brought joy to so many. She made the best of each day she lived and left a lasting impact on this world. She was such a caring, loving person who had a mischievous sense of humor, a delightful giggle and a hearty laugh. She taught us how to make the most of every day. We are so thankful to have known her and lucky to have had her light in our lives, inspiring us to do better.

*Please donate to Special Olympics Pennsylvania in honor of Katie.*







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