

SABAH

BOLD AT HEART

SABAH Scenes

Spring, 2018



SABAH'S 2018 EMILY HERMANCE SPIRIT AWARD RECIPIENT ROWAN POOLE

Each year, the Emily Hermance Spirit Award is presented to the SABAH athlete who exhibits a spirit of enthusiasm and determination in spite of challenges. While all of SABAH's athletes face the daily challenges of disability, this special award honors one athlete who best exemplifies the courageous and optimistic spirit of the award's namesake, Emily Hermance. This year's award is presented to Rowan Poole, an enthusiastic and cheerful SABAH athlete who has been with the Hamburg morning program for over six years.

In spite of her petite stature and sweet disposition, Rowan continues to demonstrate that she is a feisty and formidable young skater. When Rowan was just 6 years old, she faced surgery

on both of her legs to improve her flexibility. Within three weeks of her operation, Rowan insisted on returning to SABAH, even if it meant that she would have to take the ice encumbered with casts on both legs.

Rowan's success is also largely attributed to her devoted father, Christopher, who is always by her side on Saturday mornings and for SABAH's special events. His genuine love and support, along with the encouragement of Rowan's mother, Kimberly, continue to strengthen the 10 year old SABAH athlete.

For the joy and inspiration she brings to her fellow SABAH athletes, we are pleased to honor Rowan with the Emily Hermance Spirit Award.

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SABAH's MISSION

SABAH, a 501(c)(3) organization, is dedicated to the mission of enriching the quality of life for individuals challenged by physical, cognitive, and/or emotional disability by providing education and therapeutic recreation, promoting fitness, and developing social and communication skills.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

As we prepare for the 2018 Celebration on Ice show, we have the fortunate opportunity to reflect upon the countless accomplishments SABAH athletes have made since October. Many of our athletes, especially the children in our School Day Adaptive Ice Skating program, had never been on the ice

before and now can skate independently. We have also enjoyed watching SABAH's more experienced athletes make similar progress, with some graduating from a walker to independence or gaining the endurance to skate through an entire session. Over 670 athletes challenged by disability made big strides during the year, leading us to label this season as "SABAH's Big Adventure!"

The Celebration on Ice, on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at the KeyBank Center in Buffalo, is the culmination of a year of hard work and adventure for SABAH athletes! We hope you will join us to witness an inspirational performance that captures the courage, dedication, camaraderie, and triumph of those in our community who continue to overcome the challenges of disability.

With gratitude,
Sheila O'Brien
Executive Director

Announcing the 2018 Celebration on Ice Show

SABAH's Big Adventure

Saturday, March 24, 2018

2:00 p.m.

KeyBank Center, Buffalo, New York

**Tickets
\$12**

**For more information, go to our website www.sabahinc.org or
call the office at 716-362-9600**



The Barbara Ann Willhoff Volunteer of the Year Award

On November 8, 2017, SABAH lost a very dear member of our family, Barbara Willhoff. The grandmother of SABAH athlete, Emily Reinhart, and mother of SABAH staff member, Lisa Reinhart, Barbara was a very active volunteer and contributor to our special events over many years. More than that, Barbara continually brought joy and sunshine to SABAH athletes and volunteers alike.

One of Barbara's most memorable traits was that she was probably the youngest "senior citizen" you would have ever known. Although in her eighties, Barbara would roll up to the rink in her silver Jeep Wrangler and step out dressed in trendsetting fashion. Once inside, everyone's hearts would be instantly lifted by her warm hugs and thoughtful compliments. Barbara instinctively knew how to make everyone feel valued and appreciated.

Barbara also seemed like everyone's "mom" and in her presence we all felt her motherly love. While we continue to feel her loss, we can't help but feel uplifted when we think about Barbara's radiance, grace, and joyful spirit. As one of SABAH's most dedicated volunteers, as well as our 2003 and 2010 Volunteer of the Year, we could think of no better way to offer a lasting tribute to Barbara than by renaming our Volunteer of the Year Award as the Barbara Ann Willhoff Volunteer of the Year. We hope this award will serve as a lasting legacy to Barbara, as well as an inspiration to serve and love in the same way she loved all of us.

The 2018 Barbara Ann Willhoff Volunteer of the Year Sue Haumesser

There couldn't be a more appropriate recipient of the first Barbara Ann Willhoff Volunteer of the Year than Sue Haumesser. A SABAH volunteer for more than 10 years, Sue was also a dear friend of Barbara, as well as the entire Willhoff/Reinhart family. Sue and the rest of "Barbara Ann's crew" have been long time volunteers at the auction, using their incredible creativity to assemble beautiful auction baskets. This year, Sue instinctively knew she was needed and enlisted her friends for a late night session at the SABAH office to create many of the silent auction baskets for the annual Gala.



Sue Haumesser (far right) with Barbara Willhoff and SABAH athlete, Emily Reinhart

In addition to her remarkable support for the Starlight Night Auction and Gala, Sue also volunteers for the annual Celebration on Ice show. Each year, Sue can be found in the Northtown Center's dressing room where she hands out costumes, assists with dressing, organizes skates, cleans the room, and stores away the costumes.

On top of all of her volunteer support for the organization, she and her husband, Marty, also a dedicated SABAH volunteer, are United Way campaign contributors who designate SABAH as the recipient of their donations. Their daughter, Anna, also volunteers for SABAH.

Although SABAH is grateful for Sue's dedication and support, this year, in particular, has been one where we have leaned on her gracious offers of assistance more than ever before. For her tremendous support this year, and for every year prior, we are pleased to name Sue Haumesser as the 2018 Barbara Ann Willhoff Volunteer of the Year.



Gary George, Jr. Unsung Hero Award Kevin Brick

The Gary George, Jr. Unsung Hero Award honors a SABAH volunteer who exhibits quiet strength and compassion, the same qualities of the award's namesake, Gary George, Jr.

SABAH's 2018 Gary George, Jr. Award honors a SABAH volunteer who represents the quiet strength and compassion of the award's namesake, Gary George, Jr. This year's award winner, Kevin Brick, is a steady force in the life of Camia Baines, as she patiently awaits his arrival each Wednesday evening. Once on the ice, Camia's electrifying smile and joyful attitude reflect the time and energy Kevin devotes to his SABAH athlete. In spite of a busy schedule, Kevin is filled with enthusiasm when he arrives at the rink to greet Camia. A SABAH volunteer for five years, Kevin is a true unsung hero, as he quietly serves SABAH athletes without seeking any attention for his efforts. For all of his dedication and commitment to Camia, as well as all of SABAH's athletes, we are pleased to honor Kevin Brick as the recipient of the 2018 Gary George, Jr. Award.

In loving memory....

....of Sue Abbott

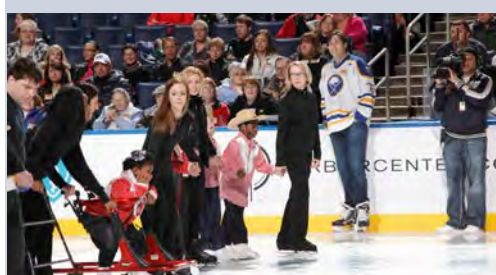
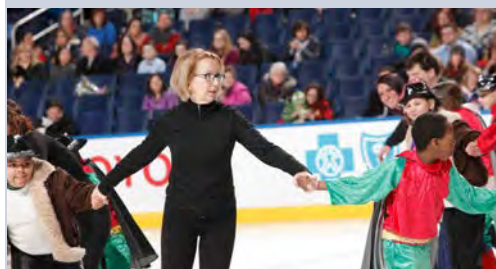
SABAH is deeply saddened to announce the passing of longtime SABAH volunteer, Sue Abbott. Sue was a dedicated volunteer for the organization for over nearly a decade, as well as a former teacher who participated in SABAH's School Day Adaptive Ice Skating program. Each year, without being prompted, Sue would volunteer for both SABAH's annual Starlight Night Auction and Gala and the Celebration on Ice show. Sue never desired any accolades or praise for her volunteer efforts, preferring to serve quietly for the reward of knowing she helped SABAH athletes. Year after year, Sue joyfully served in the Coat Check station and during the Live Auction for the Starlight Night Auction and Gala. However, her favorite time with SABAH was during the annual Celebration on Ice show where she would be in charge of the "make up" to make our athletes look glamorous for their moment in the spotlight. Sue also supported the Celebration on Ice show by assisting with the balloons for the Grand Finale Balloon Drop. Volunteering for SABAH was a tradition for the Abbott family, as Sue's daughters, Shauna and Lindsey, also served as volunteers for SABAH athletes. Although Sue was a "behind the scenes" volunteer, her contributions were immeasurable and will be deeply missed.



For 25 years of
dedicated service
(and counting!)

*thank you,
Jody Colby*

Jody has been a dedicated instructor for SABAH's School Day programs for 25 years. Her commitment and compassion for children with special needs is inspirational. We are thankful to have her on our staff!



SABAH's School Day Programs

SABAH's School Day programs provide children challenged by disability with curriculum based, educational programs that integrate movement with New York State Common Core Standards and life skill development. The School Day Adaptive Ice Skating program now serves 442 children challenged by disability and The Children's Guild Foundation's Summer Athletes Bold At Heart program serves 385 children challenged by disability. These programs, which are continually being measured by a research based evaluation, indicate that children experience tremendous outcomes as a result of participation in one or both programs. In order to improve outcomes for as many children with special needs as possible, the program is provided at no cost to the school or student. As a result, SABAH relies on the tremendous generosity of foundations, corporations, and individuals from the community to support this vital program. We would like to share our deepest gratitude to the foundations listed below, for their sponsorship of the School Day programs. Perhaps the best way to share our appreciation is through the heartfelt and eloquent words of Lisa Laske, a teacher from Olmsted who has been bringing her students to SABAH for six years.

I have been a SABAH Special Education Teacher/On Ice Volunteer for six years. What does it mean for my students to participate in this wonderful program?
I have a plant analogy to best explain this:

Imagine you are a seedling. In a garden of plants, you are forever destined to be just that. You are given minimal sunlight and water. Perhaps, it is because of the crowding of other plants. Or, perhaps, it is because the garden bed is just too small for you to thrive. Along comes a great downpour. Suddenly, the water you so desperately need strengthens every cell. You suddenly find that you have room to grow and develop, as the other plants around you have been doing. You grow taller and stronger with each passing day. Soon, admirers notice what a beautiful flower you've become. The other plants lean toward you for your strength, as your roots have developed and become stronger despite small odds. This is value and meaning that SABAH has in the lives of its participants.

If this analogy seems overly dramatic to you, I can assure you it is not. Throughout my years with SABAH, I have seen these changes. They are physical, mental, social and emotional. My students have improved in their ability to ice skate. They have conquered their fears and trepidations. They create lasting friendships with each other. Their spirits are nourished by being able to achieve and shine, perhaps for the first time in their lives. Finally, their indomitable strength of spirit teaches all of us what it truly means to live life courageously. There is no other organization quite like SABAH for providing these amazing experiences to my students.

Lisa Laske
Special Education Teacher, Olmsted High School



VINCENT AND HARRIET
PALISANO FOUNDATION



CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION
OF ERIE COUNTY



\$50,000 Grant From The Children's Guild Foundation Supports Children Challenged by Disability

SABAH is pleased to announce that a check of \$50,000 was awarded to SABAH, Inc. (Spirited Athletes Bold At Heart) to support The Children's Guild Foundation's Summer Athletes Bold At Heart program. Because of the support of The Children's Guild Foundation, SABAH will continue to provide over 350 children with special needs with a curriculum based program that integrates movement with New York State Common Core Standards and life skill development. The program, made possible in 2011 by The Children's Guild Foundation's 100 Years of Purpose and Passion competitive grant funding, has now grown to provide adaptive recreation on a sport court surface for over 350 children with special needs during the spring and summer months.



"Through our partnership with The Children's Guild Foundation, SABAH has been able to expand vital programming to include The Children's Guild Foundation's Summer Athletes Bold At Heart program. The program, which will begin its eighth season this May, improves educational, physical, and social outcomes for hundreds of children challenged by disability each year."

Sheila O'Brien

SABAH's Executive Director



Thank you, 2018 Celebration on Ice Sponsors

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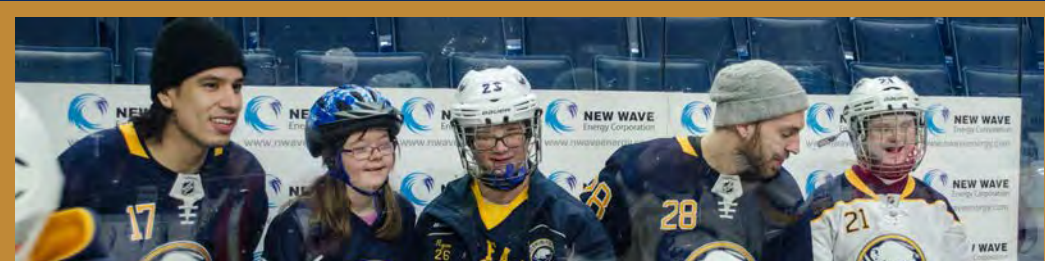
Tax deductible donations can be made to SABAH
and sent to the following address:

SABAH
2607 Niagara Street
Buffalo, New York 14207

or online
at:
www.sabahinc.org

SABAH's 2018 Skate with the Sabres

On January 10, 2018, the Buffalo Sabres graciously hosted SABAH athletes to the annual "Skate with the Sabres" at the KeyBank Center in Buffalo, New York. SABAH athletes and volunteers rocked the rink while skating with their favorite Buffalo Sabres and Sabretooth! Thank you to Buffalo Sabres Zemgus Girgensons, Jordan Nolan, Nathan Beaulieu, and Chad Johnson, as well as Sabretooth, for making the evening a memorable one for all of our athletes and volunteers!



SPIRITED ATHLETES

SABAH

BOLD AT HEART

2607 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14207
PHONE: 716-362-9600 FAX: 716-362-9601
EMAIL: sabah@sabahinc.org
WEBSITE: www.sabahinc.org

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Join us for SABAH's 3rd Annual Kickstock Kickball Festival on
July 21, 2018 on Buffalo's Outer Harbor! See our website for more details!
www.sabahinc.org

