

SPIRITED ATHLETES

# SABAH

BOLD AT HEART

SABAH Scenes

Fall, 2018



William J. Loecher  
Vice-Chair, Director  
The Children's Guild Foundation

## THE CHILDREN'S GUILD FOUNDATION'S SUMMER ATHLETES BOLD AT HEART PROGRAM

In 2011, SABAH entered The Children's Guild Foundation's 100 Years of Purpose and Passion \$100,000 grant competition in the hopes of establishing a new School Day program for children challenged by disability. With tremendous gratitude for the generosity of The Children's

This award became pivotal in the history of SABAH, as The 100 Years of Purpose and Passion grant funding changed the organization's focus from one which was limited to adaptive ice skating to one which offers a full scope of adaptive recreational programs, on ice and on turf, throughout the year.

*"Each year, we have the privilege of witnessing the growth of children who continue their participation from our winter program through The Children's Guild Foundation's Summer Athletes Bold At Heart program. The outcomes of the program, validated by independent testing, have surpassed our expectations and make us fully aware that this program positively impacts the lives of children with special needs. On behalf of hundreds of children challenged by disability, as well as the teachers and families who care for them, we are deeply grateful to The Children's Guild Foundation for their dedicated support for this vital program."*

SABAH's Executive Director, Sheila O'Brien

Guild Foundation, the award was presented to SABAH to extend adaptive recreational programming into the spring and summer months, on a turf surface, for over 400 children challenged by disability.

The Children's Guild Foundation's Summer Athletes Bold At Heart is measured through an annual research based evaluation. The gains across Physical, Emotional, Social, and Academic Domains yield remarkable results for children with disabilities.

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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:

Although the summer is typically considered our "off season," this past summer was nothing short of endless energy, action, and adrenaline. Both The Children's Guild Foundation's Summer Athletes Bold At Heart program and our Adults Fit and Fun program moved to the Riverside Rink where the ice

is seasonally replaced by a sport court surface. From April through June, both programs brimmed with participants enjoying many fun and educational activities. SABAH also offered an exciting football clinic on July 14th when participants, ages 8 to 56 years of age, learned new football skills and activities on a very warm Saturday morning. Also in July, SABAH held its annual Kickball Tournament on Buffalo's Outer Harbor all in support of SABAH athletes. The summer concluded with our Summer Skate session, where many of our athletes "beat the heat" with five weekly skating sessions at the Northtown Rink at Amherst. What a summer it was!

As we plan for SABAH's 2018-2019 Opening Days, our enthusiasm keeps building for our 42nd year! The new season will kick off with our Evening and Weekend skating programs at four locations throughout Western New York, as well as our School Day Adaptive Ice Skating program and our Adults Fit and Fun program.

We can't wait to get started!! For more information or to register, go to our website at [www.sabahinc.org](http://www.sabahinc.org). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call our office at 716-362-9600. See you soon!!

With gratitude,  
Sheila O'Brien

## A NEW SEASON BEGINS! SABAH'S 2018-2019 OPENING DAYS

### Hamburg Town Rink

2982 Lakeview Road

Hamburg, NY 14075

SATURDAYS

Ice Time: 9:50 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Opening Day 9/29

### Northtown Center at Amherst

1615 Amherst Manor Drive

Amherst, NY 14221

SUNDAYS

Ice Time: 11:20 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.

Opening Day 9/30

### Riverside Rink

2607 Niagara Street

Buffalo, NY 14207

TUESDAYS

Ice Time: 4:30 p.m. - 5:20 p.m.

Opening Day 10/2

### Niagara University Rink

University Drive

Niagara University, NY 14109

WEDNESDAYS

Ice Time: 6:30 p.m. - 7:20 p.m.

Opening Day 10/3

# 2018 Hall of Fame Inductee

## CHRIS BIONDO

*SABAH's Hall of Fame honors the legacy of those exceptional individuals or organizations which have provided unparalleled support and commitment to SABAH. The Hall of Fame was established to annually recognize those who, for at least a decade, have worked tirelessly to promote the values of the organization, have dedicated their time and/or financial resources, and have sought to educate the public regarding the needs of those in our community challenged by disability.*

In 1995, SABAH made a formative and lasting impression on a young sixth grader attending the Celebration on Ice with family friends. Chris Biondo was attending the annual show, back then in Buffalo's "Aud", with the Frey family in support of SABAH athlete, Stephanie Edbauer. Deeply touched by the performance, Chris went home and wrote a letter to SABAH asking how he could help. Within weeks, Chris was going door to door in his neighborhood to raise money for SABAH's Walk-a-thon. Over the next year, Chris began his journey as an off-ice volunteer for the organization, as well as volunteering backstage during the Celebration on Ice show.

Although very young, Chris quickly became entrusted with many of the volunteer functions at the Audubon Rink (subsequently the Northtown Center at Amherst) including handing out walkers and ice skates to SABAH athletes and checking in volunteers. Chris also volunteered backstage with his group from the Audubon Rink during the Celebration on Ice. By 1999, Chris was named the Day of Show Chairperson, a role that made him responsible for all of the back stage movement for the entire show. Barely in high school, Chris had the responsibility of moving nearly 1,000 athletes and volunteers from dressing room to the ice at their designated times and then back again for the grand finale. For anyone of any age, managing such a sizable number of individuals is a monumental task. As a high school student, it was nothing short of staggering that this young man had the maturity and capacity to adeptly manage over 500 individuals with disabilities and their volunteer partners under pressure and in rapid succession.

Since that time, Chris has not missed an ice show in 22 years. Although he has moved away from Western New York for his position as Corporate Director of Distribution and Project Development at Standard International, he faithfully travels back to Buffalo to volunteer for the Celebration on Ice show each year. Over the past decade or more, Chris has flown back from Providence, Rhode Island; Los Angeles, California; New York, New York; and now Austin, Texas. Chris states, "It is great coming back each year to see my 'SABAH family' including the athletes, volunteers, teachers, and staff and catching up with them all. SABAH has been such a big part of my life and it is great to see everyone each year."

Chris also notes that the grand finale is his favorite part of the Celebration on Ice. "The finale is my favorite moment for each show. It's the last big movement my team has to do and it can be a bit stressful to ensure that every athlete and volunteer is on the ice. But once everyone is out there, it's great to see how happy, excited, and proud everyone is as they wait for the Balloon Drop."

"We have come to rely upon Chris's remarkable dedication and leadership for the Ice Show," states SABAH's Accountant, Sue Marchant. "Year after year, Chris willingly sacrifices his vacation time to come back to serve as our Day of Show Chairperson. Chris is so reliable that it would be easy to take his efforts for granted. But when we think about what he does, almost without us asking, we can't help but wonder how we would get along on the day of the show without him."

Not only does Chris offer his time and volunteer service to SABAH, but he also graciously donates to our annual Starlight Night Auction and Gala. Each year, Chris secures a stay in one of the stunning Standard Hotels, a highly anticipated item in the Gala's Live Auction. Although he is already overwhelmingly generous of his time and resources, Chris also donates to the Annual Appeal each year.

While Chris humbly credits SABAH and his fellow volunteers for making him the person he is today, we are quick to acknowledge that SABAH is deeply indebted to Chris for more than two decades of serving our athletes challenged by disability. For his unmatched dedication and commitment to SABAH, we are honored to name Chris Biondo as our 2018 Hall of Fame Inductee.

### SABAH's Hall of Fame

2010

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald J. Papa

2011

The Variety Club of Buffalo

2012

Mr. Brian F. Costello

2013

The Buffalo Sabres

2014

Wegmans

2015

The Children's Guild Foundation

2016

The Koessler Family

2017

Children's Foundation of Erie County



# They're **UNBEATABLE!**

The 4th Bae's  
2018 Kickstock Champions  
Third Consecutive Year!



Kickstock 2018 featured a race to the finish! In spite of a valiant effort by Team Friendship and Fun, there was no unseating the reigning champs, the 4th Bae's. The exhilarating tournament on Buffalo's Outer Harbor included Buffalo's food trucks, the Beer Garden, music, and plenty of sunshine! The best part? The proceeds of the tournament support SABAH athletes!



## Kickstock 2018 Buffalo's Outer Harbor





Photos by Fred Bressette and Claire Bressette of Potted Palm Photography



Thank you, Kickstock sponsors!



BARCLAY DAMON







On July 14, 2018, SABAH hosted an indoor football clinic on the sport court surface of the Riverside Rink. The day was a fun-filled event, as SABAH athletes from 8 years to 56 years old learned new football skills!



# SABAH'S 2018 FOOTBALL CLINIC

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Photos by Fred Bressette of Potted Palm Photography

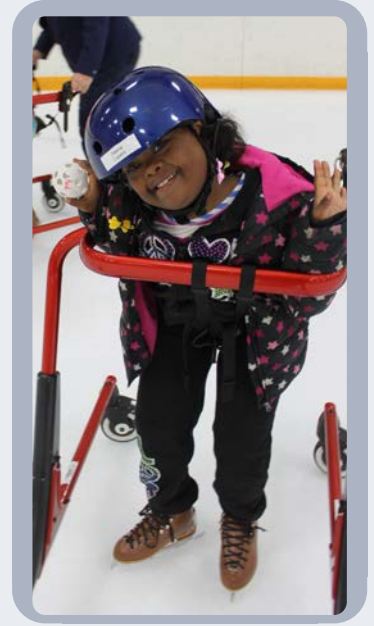


# THE RALPH C. WILSON, JR. LEGACY FUND FOR YOUTH SPORTS CONTRIBUTES \$18,210 FOR ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR SABAH'S SCHOOL DAY ADAPTIVE ICE SKATING PROGRAM

SABAH is pleased to announce that the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Fund for Youth Sports has provided funding of \$18,210 for SABAH's School Day Adaptive Ice Skating program. Their generous support will allow SABAH to meet the growing demand for adaptive equipment including Rifton Walkers, A-Frame Walkers, and adaptive ice skates.

SABAH's School Day Adaptive Ice Skating program now serves over 440 children with special needs from 26 schools from the Western New York region. The curriculum based program, which is provided at no charge to the school or student, integrates movement with New York State Common Core Standards and life skill development. Executive Director Sheila O'Brien states, "As this vital program continues to grow, SABAH is exceedingly grateful for the support of the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Fund administered by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo.

This generous donation will improve outcomes for hundreds of children challenged by disability this year and well into the future."



We are grateful for the Helping Hands Team of Chiampou, Travis, Besaw, & Kershner, LLP



Each year, employees from Chiampou, Travis, Besaw, & Kershner, LLP spend a day volunteering for SABAH's School Day programs and the Adults Fit and Fun program. Each time this "Helping Hands Team" visits our programs, the day is filled with joy and laughter and learning for our participants.



## How do I donate?

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](http://www.sabahinc.org)

Save the Date

# SABAH's 2018 Starlight Night Auction & Gala



Friday, November 16, 2018  
6:30 p.m.  
Buffalo Niagara Convention Center

SPIRITED ATHLETES

# SABAH

BOLD AT HEART

2607 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14207  
PHONE: 716-362-9600 FAX: 716-362-9601  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Ready for a mouth-watering,  
sizzlin' good time?

SABAH is having a

**MEAT** Raffle

Friday,  
September 21, 2018

Proceeds to  
benefit  
SABAH  
athletes  
challenged  
by disability!

Tickets available on  
SABAH's website at  
[www.sabahinc.org](http://www.sabahinc.org)  
or by calling the office at  
716-362-9600  
21 and over only!

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.  
First drawing at 7:00 p.m.  
\$5.00 includes beer, wine, and pop  
Pizza available for purchase  
Basket raffles  
50/50 Drawing  
Door Prize

Cardinal O'Hara High School  
39 O'Hara Road  
Tonawanda, NY 14150