

May 29, 2019

"Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time."

Program

Ned Ray McWherter Institute Scholars' Trip to Morocco and Spain —Steve Vantrease

Future Programs

June 1—Ryan Martin: Food Insecurity and UTM Students

Club News

When people speak of the origin of Special Olympics, they look no further than the first Camp Shriver—founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver in the early 1960s. They talk of one woman's dream that started in her own backyard. They speak of her vision: how through sports, the lives of people with intellectual disabilities would be transformed and public perceptions would be changed forever.

In 1960, a woman from Bethesda, Md. called up Eunice and told her that she was having trouble finding a summer camp for her child with intellectual disability. The child wouldn't be accepted into a mainstream camp, and, at that time, the public education system couldn't figure out what to do with special-needs children never mind supply them with summer activities. Then another woman told her almost the same thing. "Enough," Eunice said, meaning "do something about it."

Thus was born Camp Shriver, which she started at her Maryland farm, Timberlawn. Eunice asked special schools and clinics in her area to provide names of special-needs children who might be interested. Then she recruited high school and college students to act as counselors. It was almost a one-on-one situation--34 children, 26 counselors.

To almost everyone's surprise--the exception being Eunice--it was an instant success. The children swam, kicked soccer balls, shot baskets and rode horses under the summer sun. Perhaps most importantly, the young counselors, wary at first, began to see, as Eunice already had, that these children were not "difficult," "unteachable," "belligerent" and all those other stereotypes that had been ascribed to them. They merely wanted to have fun...just like every other kid.

The first International Special Olympics Summer Games were held at Soldier Field in Chicago The 1968 event is described as "daybreak"—the early stirring of a global movement for people with intellectual disabilities. The goal was to put a bright—and very public—spotlight on ability, not disability. (Adapted from <https://www.specialolympics.org/about/history>)

Martin Kiwanis Calendar.

June 4 — Board Meeting, Weldon Library, 12 noon
July 2 — Board Meeting, Weldon Library, 12 noon
July 3 — No meeting (Fourth of July eve)
July 20 — Club Leadership Education, Conference Room
Baptist Hospital, Union City, TN
Aug 2 – 4 LaMissTenn District Convention, Memphis, TN

May/June Birthdays

Courtney HaleyMay 15
John Mayros.....May 19
Jim Clark.....June 16
Ann GathersJune 26

Special Olympics in Northwest Tennessee has been fortunate to have many special friends. Evelyn Blythe, Kiwanis and Lions Club member, recruited Bettye Giles to help her start Special Olympics locally. Linda Ramsey, who was a student of Bettye's at the time, was also recruited to help. Continuing that tradition, Kiwanis member Clinton Smith, Associate Professor of Special Education at UT Martin, is the Area Director for Area Seven (upper west Tennessee) of Special Olympics. At last week's meeting, Clinton told of the history of Special Olympics and brought members up to speed on local participants and activities related to Special Olympics.



Fittingly, Clinton Smith's presentation on Special Olympics came the day before the Celebration of Life Service for Evelyn Blythe. Members stressed how fortunate it is that Clinton continues the work begun by Evelyn for Special Olympics.

Active Members

SK Airee
Bill Austin
Anita Bell
Mary Elizabeth Bell
Frank Black
Natalie Boyd
Otha Britton
David Brodrick
Anna Clark
Jim Clark
Danelle Fabianich
Ann Gathers
Bettye Giles
Courtney Haley
Vickie Hazlewood
Harry Henderson
Jessica Hightower
Annie Jones
Steve Lemond
John Mayros
Jayne Parrish
Roberta Peacock
Keith Pettit
Linda Ramsey
Christie Ricketts
Sara Sieber
Clinton Smith
David Spencer
David Sudberry
Jamie Summers
Laura Taylor
Earl Wright

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