

COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR THE VULNERABLE THROUGH SUPPORT OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Montgomery Council has defended the life of those most vulnerable in society, the unborn, through financial support of the ultrasound program (over \$1000 contributed this fraternal year), continued prayer, communicating pro-life issues through email, writing letters to legislators, participation in the March for Life (including a first for the GK this year), and many other initiatives. Equally important for a Culture of Life is care of other vulnerable members of society; the aged and infirmed and those with special needs. As individuals, members of the Council are supporting elderly parents, active involvement in the Tootsie Roll Campaign, and financial support for Little Sisters of the Poor. The subject of this Third Quarter Report is the Council's support of those with special needs, specifically our first ever chili cook off to raise funds to support Special Olympics.

The Council participates in many Special Olympic activities, such as a fall picnic, hosting a Christmas party, volunteering for the Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge (a first for the GK in 2011 - what a spectacle!), and other activities. To support these activities, and to raise awareness of those with special needs, the Council hosted a chili cook off fundraiser to support the Council's Special Olympics fund. There were 8-10 different kinds, from vegetarian, turkey, a Guy's special, hot, mild, white bean, and the best, the Grand Knight's special. Side dishes included fries, spaghetti, salad and deserts. A 50-50 added to the evening's enjoyment, the winner so excited as she "Never won anything before!"

For all these efforts, the Council was able to raise \$795. Special thanks go to John and Nancy Durbin for all their efforts with Special Olympics, Mike Bean and Pat Gilroy who dedicate so much effort to the Council, and to the many cooks and other volunteers (about 40 volunteer hours) that made the evening a success.

I would like to dedicate this report to my parents, James and Patricia, for their inspiration and steadfast support of a Culture of Life.



The Council supports Special Olympics.



Look at all that chili! Maureen enjoyed tasting them all – several times!



Plenty of side dishes to pick from.



And lots of activities too.



Grand Knight directing traffic at the MSP Polar Bear Plunge. It was cold.



Maryland Kof C State Council banner at the March for Life. Cold that day too, but what an enthusiastic crowd!