

Training Loose Leash Walking Tips

Volunteer Program Wins Award

Derby Brackett Takes permanent seat as CEO

CREATURE CHRONICLES

Letter From Derby Brackett



After a long, wet winter, I know we are all ready for the summer sun. I know I am. I also know that I am ready to take my seat as the permanent CEO. After my time spent in the interim role, our Board of Directors has given me the great honor of continuing to serve this vital organization.

I am buoyed by an incredible, engaged Board; I am reinforced by a highly skilled and devoted staff; and I am involved with loyal public supporters. I may bear the title of CEO, but it is our work together that will continue to evolve and serve the needs of animal welfare in our community. That's a great team to be on and I am truly humbled to continue to lead our effort.

And to lead us into summer- wildlife is in full swing with baby birds, squirrels, an occasional turtle or gull; summer camp fun is beginning for the children in our area; and, of course we have dogs, puppies, cats, kittens, bunnies, and birds all available for adoption. Summer is a great time to visit our shelter and our Adoption Center and see the many animals we take care of every day. Who knows? It may be your day to take someone home with you.

Before we leave the spring behind, I would be amiss if I did not thank the generous donors and volunteers who attended and supported our Western Wags & Whiskers Rhinestone Cowboy Gala on March 30th. The weather was cooperative, providing a breezy evening on the water at the Cavalier Golf and Yacht Club with over 300 of our best friends and 20 of our furry friends! It was a fabulous evening made even better by the over \$180,000 raised in support of the animals. I have said this before and I will keep saying it - THANK YOU - the animals need us and we need you. Dancing for Paws is up next with a lineup of local dance contestants and their pros. The event takes place on June 15th at Chrysler Hall, and we hope to see you there.

Other than attending special events, there are many ways that you can continue to support our organization. One of the newest initiatives is our Membership program. Becoming a member means discounts on our great retail goods, invitations to special events like our Yappy Hours at local breweries, and a T-shirt! A VBSPCA membership is a great way for you to stay connected and for us to see you more often... For the Animals!

In closing, I want to make you all aware of some changes that we are making to our facility and the environment for the animals. Thanks to the generosity of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation and the Alfred L. Nicholson Fund, we have updated the condos in our cattery. Our cats are now in "luxury", well-ventilated housing that will help with keeping them healthy and happy. The HRCF and the Alfred L Nicholson Fund have also provided funding for our Dog Yard Expansion Project, and - along with a generous discount from Hurricane Fencing and the funds raised through our recent Give Local 757 campaign - we are well on our way to our fundraising goal. Give Local 757 brought in \$14,000 for the project, THANK YOU to all who contributed! We still have some funds to raise, so if you'd like to help you can read more about our plans on page 7.

And lastly, we have put a fresh coat of paint on our lobby walls and done some redecorating and rearranging designed to give our entrance a brighter look. I welcome you to stop by and see us this summer. If you do, my door is open- so whether you bark, meow, squawk or talk, I would love to say hello. Come see me!

With gratitude,

Derby D. Brackett CEO



CORE VALUES

We believe in the value of all living creatures and that the animal-human bond creates healthier, happier, more connected communities.

How we engage with others

Empathy

We seek to better understand others and to be understood.

- We demonstrate compassion in all that we do.We treat all others with respect at all times
- regardless of the situation.

• We are kind and gentle in our approach to all stakeholders and customers.

• We operate with sincerity and transparency.

Joy

We passionately share our mission with others.

- We love the work that we do.
- We are proud of our impact in our community.
- We bring joy to others through the sharing and education of the animal-human bond.
- We support each other in both joyful and difficult times.

How we engage with our team

Dedication

We are committed to our mission, our work, and our team.

- We look for the good in all that we do.
- We display confidence in our processes, decisions and solutions.
- We work to make each other successful.
- We encourage lifetime learning.

Collaboration

We openly share our individual and collective expertise with others.

- We empower others by sharing information.
- We act with positive intent and assume the same of others.
- We work as a team, coming together for compromise and solutions.
- We communicate openly, honestly, and often.

How we position the VBSPCA in our community

Innovation

We strive to evolve, always exploring and encouraging to find solutions.

- We are nimble, displaying organizational agility at all times.
- We seek diversity of thought and experience through our associates and our partners.
- We thrive on continuous improvement.
- We exercise discovery first, then invention and collaboration.

Community

We are an integral and critical partner in animal welfare throughout the region of Hampton Roads.

- We develop our strategic vision beyond our Virginia Beach territory to understand and develop available resources to provide timely solutions for all animals in our community.
- We explore opportunities to educate and inform the public about our mission.
- We collaborate with other shelters to share information and best practices.
- We support other nonprofits to create greater impact in our community.
- We work together to secure funding necessary for sustainability.

Our mission is to eliminate animal suffering and increase human compassion.





SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS

"The knock on his head resulted in a mild case of hydrocephalus"

When Knox came to the Virginia Beach SPCA in February 2019, the 7-month-old Chihuahua mix puppy had already been through his fair share of tough times. Knox was transferred to the Virginia Beach SPCA from Anson County Animal Shelter after being rescued from a hoarding case involving 26 other puppies. As if sharing with 26 other puppies wasn't challenging enough, a cast iron skillet fell on Knox's head when he was just 6-weeks-old causing his skull to be slightly flattened on one side. The knock on his head also resulted in a mild case of hydrocephalus, which is a build up of fluid around the brain.

When VBSPCA staff first met Knox he was timid and shy. He would hide and shake

if you got too close to him. However, Knox took a liking to VBSPCA's Animal Outreach Manager, Suzy Swims, so she took him home on foster while he recovered from his trauma. While in foster care, Knox was treated and monitored by the VBSPCA Clinic staff to ensure there were no significant effects from the skillet accident. Fortunately, Knox cleared all tests and his case of hydrocephalus was classified as mild and non-life threatening. After a few months of foster care, Knox had developed a silly and playful personality and was finally made available for adoption.

Knox didn't have to wait long to find his forever home. After only one week of waiting, he was adopted. It's safe to say that Knox (now named Dallas) has graduated from the school of hard knocks and is making the most of his second chance in life.





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Saving Lives

Meet Dr. Abigail Schmidt

In October of 2018, the VBSPCA clinic welcomed Dr. Abigail Schmidt to the team. Dr. Schmidt completed her undergraduate degree at Virginia Tech, and loves anything and everything Hokie. She moved overseas for vet school, graduating from the University of Glasgow School of Veterinary Medicine in 2015. She then moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to pursue an internship in Emergency and Critical Care medicine. Originally a military brat, she claims Virginia to be "home" and was excited to return to the state after her internship. Since then, she has worked in both ER and general practice medicine. Dr. Schmidt's special areas of interest include preventative care, wound care, and surgery, and she has completed over 250 surgeries since her arrival at the VBSPCA. In her free time, she and her husband Will enjoy being pestered for attention by their 3 dogs: Bonnie, Tyr, and their most recent addition, Dempsey - a VBSPCA alum! They also enjoy taking "breather days," trading off between lazy beach days and active mini-adventures.



"It's a privilege to work at the VBSPCA and help the animals of our community to bring a better quality of life and wonderful forever homes to all the animals we serve." - Dr. Abigail Schmidt

Protect Your Pets

Over 1 million dogs in the U.S. currently have heartworm disease.



Heartworm disease is caused by Dirofilaria immitis, a parasitic worm transmitted by mosquitoes. If your pet is bitten by a carrier mosquito, microscopic larvae are deposited into the bloodstream, eventually taking up residence in the heart, lungs, and blood vessels. If untreated, heartworm disease can be fatal. The good news is that this disease can be avoided. There are a variety of heartworm prevention medications for both cats and dogs, and they are proven to be very effective when administered responsibly and correctly.

Through September, the VBSPCA low cost medical clinic is offering a discounted heartworm package, including 50% off heartworm tests with the purchase of six months of preventative. If you qualify for our services, call the clinic to schedule your appointment to have your pet tested. You can reach the clinic by calling 757-427-0070 option 2.

Training Our Pets

In-house Training Initiative

This past March, the Virginia Beach SPCA launched a brand new training initiative to help improve the lives and adoptability of resident shelter dogs. VBSPCA Animal Behaviorist, Angel Hammond, partners adult volunteers with shelter dogs, leading them through a 60 minute training session. This initiative provides shelter dogs with one-on-one attention,



socialization, mental stimulation, exercise, and some much needed fresh air. A big thanks to the Hyatt House who helped launch this initiative! Their team volunteers once a month, cleaning kennels and training dogs.

If your business or organization would like to participate in this program, please contact volunteer@vbspca.com to learn more!

Tips From Our Trainers

Leash pulling is one of the most common frustrations expressed by pet owners. Dogs pull, which makes them difficult to manage, leaving many pet owners unable to provide their dogs with the exercise, stimulation, and enrichment they need. While leash pulling may seem like more like a frustration than a behavior problem, it should be addressed and corrected as soon as possible to prevent more difficult issues from developing.

You will find a number pet products out there that claim to fix the pulling behavior, however nothing will completely solve the problem without actual training. Below are a few tips to help get you started with the training process. If you need further support, we suggest contacting one of our behaviorists or reaching out to your local trainer.

Pick Your Equipment

The Harness Lead and the Easy Walk Harness are both great choices. The Harness Lead is a leash and a harness all in one, and the Easy Walk offers an easily attachable harness that clips at the dog's chest, essentially turning them around when they attempt to lunge. For stronger pullers, a head collar may be appropriate. We suggest visiting with one of our behaviorists to discuss options.

Harnesses and Leads are available for purchase at the VBSPCA Main Shelter and the VBSPCA Pet Supplies & Adoption Center.

Teaching A Heel Command

Teach your dog that good things happen when they walk at your side. Try walking just one or two steps, stop to reward your dog, and then repeat. It is important that you reward your dog with the hand that is closest to your dog as it helps train and reinforce where he is to walk. Continue this reward exercise, slowly fading away the treats as your dog becomes more and more reliable.

How To Address Pulling

We fight pulling or we give in, which both reinforce the pulling. You have to retrain a new behavior to override the existing behavior. When the leash begins to get tense, abruptly change direction and head another way. When your dog joins you at your side, reward him. Consistent 5-10 minute training sessions are all it takes to have a dog that walks beautifully on leash.

Workshops are available at the VBSPCA if you need additional help with loose leash walking or any other unwanted behavior. For more information, visit vbspca.com/petacademy.

Giving Our Dogs More Space

Dog Yard Expansion Project

On May 14th, the Virginia Beach SPCA participated in Give Local 757, a local effort that draws awareness and funding to the many great mission based organizations serving the people, pets, and environment here in Hampton Roads. Through a robust 24 hour social media campaign, the VBSPCA brought in over 200 individual donations totalling \$14,000!

All funds raised through Give Local 757 are dedicated to the upcoming Dog Yard Expansion Project. This project expands the current count of 10 dog yards to 24 dog yards, with over 8,500 square feet of outdoor play space for resident dogs. This initiative was launched in March, and through the funds raised in Give Local 757, donations made at the VBSPCA gala, a generous grant from the Alfred L. Nicholson Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, and a contribution from Hurricane Fencing, \$34,000 in funding has already been raised for this project! If you would like to contribute to this project, visit vbspca.com/ways-to-give.



THE BENEFITS

Space - These new and improved yards will provide more space so more dogs can be outside at any given time.

Sunshine - More time outside means more sunshine, more trees, more fresh air, and less time indoors in confined spaces.

Safety - The creation of a pathway between the shelter doors and the individual kennel yards will allow staff to safely bring dogs in and out of the building without dog to dog interactions.

Streamlined Pathways - The locations and designs of these new yards will allow a streamlined path for staff to take animals outside without interrupting other shelter or clinic operations and avoiding interactions with other animals.

Disease Control - With a safe, independent path in and out of the yards as well as newer materials that are easily cleaned, the risk of cross contamination between dogs is decreased.





Celebrating Our Mission



On Saturday, March 30th, over 250 rhinestone studded business leaders, community members, and philanthropists came together in celebration of the 3,500+ pets that will find homes through the Virginia Beach SPCA this year. The event was held at the Cavalier Golf and Yacht Club and the weather was absolutely perfect. The drinks were cold, the music was lively, and the evening was filled with generosity and compassion. The night included musical performances by Ryan Dunn, Michael Paul Lawson, and Buckshot, and some very special VBSPCA animals shared the spotlight. Guests dined and danced, bid on silent auction items, and many raised their paddles to bring in over \$180,000 for the animals.



2019 Compassion Award Recipients: Dennis and Jan Ellmer

Dennis and Jan Ellmer have been supporting the VBSPCA mission for many years. Priority Automotive has been a signature sponsor at our annual Gala, as well as a sponsor at our three other signature events. They also support the animals through the annual Home for the Holidays adoption promotion, donating \$20,000 to cover adoption fees at the VBSPCA, Chesapeake Humane Society, and Norfolk SPCA. Jan serves as a guiding force on the planning committee for Dancing for Paws, and she also participated in the VBSPCA's National Award Winning Listening Ears Program. Dennis, Jan, and Priority Automotive are dedicated to our commity and we are so grateful to them for being a beacon of the VBSPCA mission in Hampton Roads.

2019 Lifesaver Award: In Memory of Micky Jester

Micky became involved with the VBSPCA at least 25 years ago. She began bringing her husband and their friends to the annual Gala, stressing to everyone that they should spend a little time "helping the animals." But not only did she attend the gala, she and her husband also participated in VBSPCA fashion shows, donated items to the silent auction, donated funds, and consistently supported the energy of the gala paddle raise, encouraging others to dig into their hearts and support the animals of the VBSPCA. Micky had a special place in her heart for her cats - Ralph, Roscoe, and Motley. All three were rescues and she welcomed them into her loving home, offering each one a long, happy life. Micky simply felt that pets were the consummate good thing on earth - always giving, always happy to see you, and always making you feel good in exchange for the smallest amount of attention.



With Our Annual Gala

We are deeply grateful to the following sponsors, donors, and volunteers who helped make our gala a success:



2019 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs Elissa Frantz Pierson and Meg Taylor

Committee

Board Members: Leila Bradley, Jan Fine, Angie Lombardi Staff Members: Derby Brackett, Kate Baldwin, Emily Peck Volunteers: Joan Bertucci, Amanda Colley, Renee Duval Fairchild, Morgan Ryder, Debbie Stephens

Volunteers

Kiam Abraham Manda Apiag Kathryn Arn Yvette Baker Jessica Bender Ashley Betz Doug Brackett Jessie Bradey Daniel Burke Rebecca Cackett

Cynthia Childress Ashley Cole Ashley Cooney Joe Correia Katie DeWitt Kevin Ford Heather Ford Angel Hammond Nancy Hart

Stephanie Callahan

Jenna Hert Dolly Holland Whitney Kochheiser Arvie Larson Mike Lawson Sherrai Lewis Marilyn Lombardi Michelle Lontco Jennifer Lopez Lacey Lopez Marian Mann Emily Olley Terry O'Quinn Brandon Parrish Sarah Parrish Andrew Peck Susan Phillips Karen Pinneo Samantha Sandel Dara Scott Charlie Shepperd Nikki Shepperd Diane Smith Lindsey Snow Michelle Stein Jessica Traynor Emiliya Vatner Evan Walker Lee Anna Walton

A special thanks to our VBSPCA Alumni animal guests: Hunter, Kelly, Miss Sophie, Princess, Roc, and Turtle.

V # SPCA

FOR PAWS JUNE 15 TH CHRYSLER HALL 7PM

MASTER OF CEREMONIES Barbara Ciara

TICKETS \$35

DANCE COMPETITION TO BENEFIT THE ANIMALS

10

ADOPTABLE ANIMALS, SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS, RAFFLES AND PRIZES, AND MORE For more information please visit vbspca.com/dancing

Being Of Service

Volunteer Appreciation

April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month, and the animals and staff of the Virginia Beach SPCA are deeply grateful for the many volunteers who serve the organization. From cleaning to fostering to transporting wildlife, volunteers play an enormous role in the impact of the organization, and the VBSPCA wouldn't be able to make the difference it does without them. In honor of Volunteer Appreciation Month, a Kennel Sponsorship has been dedicated to volunteers who serve the mission, and a plaque hangs in the kennel as a daily reminder of gratitude owed to the many wonderful volunteers of the VBSPCA.



April also brought a special acknowledgement for the Virginia Beach SPCA. Volunteer Hampton Roads held their annual awards ceremony where the VBSPCA Volunteer Program was recognized for its excellence. The VBSPCA recently completed the Service Enterprise Initiative Certification process and has continued to make great strides toward improving volunteer relationships, roles, and rewards.



Volunteers by the Numbers: 2018 Annual Numbers 565 Active Volunteers 20,989+ Volunteer Hours

The VBSPCA Volunteer Program is designed to be vast and flexible, providing a fulfilling experience for volunteers while also serving the needs of the organization.

More Information

visit vbspca.com/volunteer or email volunteer@vbspca.com

Visiting Paws

The VBSPCA Pet Therapy Program has a new name: Visiting Paws. An entirely volunteer run program, Visiting Paws is a pathway that carries the mission of compassion out into the community. Visiting Paws teams up VBSPCA volunteers and adoptable or alumni shelter animals, and together they offer brief companionship to residents in nursing homes and retirement communities, a positive distraction to collegiate students preparing for tests, and the joy of animal interaction to those residing in behavioral health facilities.



"There are often teary eyes in the room acknowledging what we all can see - how an innocent animal can bring joy, even in unexpected ways." - Linda, Visiting Paws Volunteer

If you are interested in scheduling a visit at your facility, please email visitingpaws@vbspca.com

Rescuing Wildlife

Cardinal Care

Sticky glue traps have long been used for mouse and rat control, and while most pest removal experts regard them as inhumane, it is still common to see them. Made from plastic, cardboard, or fiberboard and coated with a thick, sticky adhesive, these boards trap anything they come into contact with. Because these traps are open, they pose a risk to all kinds of animals, including those not considered pests or nuisances. This was the case when a cardinal stuck in a glue trap was brought to the Virginia Beach SPCA.

VBSPCA staff was able to remove the cardinal from the trap by using mineral oil. However, the cardinal lost nearly half of his feathers in the process, especially on the wing that had been trapped in the glue. Additionally, there was glue in the bird's beak that needed to be removed after he had unsuccessfully tried to free himself.



Do you have concerns about mice, rats, or other small rodents? Please consider using humane catch and release traps that don't cause injury.

Fortunately, x-rays did not reveal any structural damage to his wing. After being given a bath to remove the remainder of the glue and mineral oil, the cardinal was allowed to rest in the VBSPCA wildlife treatment room. He was monitored for the next few hours and staff found that he was eating and drinking without any difficulty.

The next day, the cardinal was transferred to a wildlife rehabilitator where he steadily gained weight and returned strength to his weakened wing. His feathers slowly grew back, and he was successfully released back into the wild.

Thanks to the Grandy Wildlife and Humane Education Fund, up to \$25,000 in donations will be matched providing critical care to local wildlife and humane education to local children. To support this match campaign, visit vbspca.com/ways-to-give

Honoring Loved Ones

Place A Personalized Stone In Honor Of Your Pet In Our Memorial Garden



For many years, the Virginia Beach SPCA has served as a platform where supporters, community members, and animal lovers can honor their loved ones through a gift to the animals. Birthday, tribute, and memorial gifts are deeply meaningful because they celebrate one life while saving another. Each month, these celebrations and memorials are shared on the VBSPCA website, and you can learn about the passionate people and pets who have helped the animals of the VBSPCA.

The VBSPCA also offers memorial stones to honor the pets and people who have graced our lives and touched our hearts. Each stone is designed to be uniquely personal and sentimental, serving as a lasting tribute to the life that was lost and the love that will endure. Personalized memorial stones rest peacefully in the Memorial Garden on site at the main shelter on Holland Road.

For a listing of recent birthday, tribute, and memorial gifts, please visit vbspca.com/honors-and-memorials.



MIRACLE MEDICAL FUND

"Johann's medical examination revealed a mouth full of broken and infected teeth."

Thanks to the dedicated team at PETA, Johann was rescued and transferred to the Virginia Beach SPCA in February 2019. Upon arrival, it was clear that Johann was in desperate need of help. The 12 year old cat was malnourished, his abdomen was bloated, and he wouldn't eat. Johann was quickly examined, and it was determined that broken and infected teeth were the primary cause of his malnourishment.

Johann's teeth were extracted, and he spent the next several weeks recovering in foster care. Without a mouth full of painful teeth, Johann was finally able to eat and his personality began to shine. He grew healthier every day, and by April he was back in the shelter and ready for adoption. Johann's affectionate nature and playful headbutts quickly won over VBSPCA staff, especially Animal Care Technician Katie Dewitt. Staff was concerned that his senior status might deter adopters, but this tuxedoed gentleman proved to be too much to resist and he found his forever family after just one month of waiting.

To support the VBSPCA Miracle Medical Fund and help cats like Johann-

Email: donate@vbspca.com

Visit Our Website: vbspca.com/miracle-medical-fund





Summer is here and with it comes summer activities for kids! The VBSPCA summer schedule has expanded, and you will find single day workshops in addition to the popular week-long Animal Adventure camps. You can read more about summer offerings below, and a full schedule of camp and workshop dates can be found at vbspca.com/camps.



ANIMAL ADVENTURE CAMP

\$275

These week long camps offer a behind-the-scenes look at an animal shelter, guest speakers, animal inspired arts and crafts, field trips, critter time, and more. Camps are open to kids ages 6-12, and all camps take place at the VBSPCA Main Shelter from 9:00am - 4:00pm.

Camps are filling up fast, register today!



KITTEN-AROUND WORKSHOP

This one-day workshop is purr-fect for kids ages 6-12 who love kittens and want to learn all about kittens (and cats) and their care! This workshop also includes kitten-related activities and crafts. All Kitten Around workshops take place at the VBSPCA Main Shelter from 9:00am - 4:00pm.



JUNIOR TRAINER WORKSHOP

\$85

\$85

This one-day workshop provides an interactive dog-training experience for kids ages 6-12. In collaboration with the VBSPCA Pet Academy, junior trainers will get a head start on learning how to humanely train a dog. This workshop also includes dog-themed crafts and activities. All Junior Trainer workshops take place at the VBSPCA Main Shelter from 9:00am – 4:00pm.



VET FOR A DAY WORKSHOP

\$85

Vet for a Day is an educational program that exposes your child to a potential career in veterinary medicine. With both introductory and advanced workshop options, kids ages 6-12 are invited to participate in a fun exploration into the veterinary world. All Vet for a Day workshops take place at the VBSPCA Main Shelter from 9:00am – 4:00pm.

Adoption Updates



"Koko and Puff (aka Happy) are settling in great and I promise to love and take care of them!" Adopted by Carole, December 2018



"We found our perfect companion, and are so happy to save our best friend!!! Harley - now known as Maddy!" Adopted by Jenna, December 2018



"Coco had a lot of medical problems and really didn't know what it was to be loved and treated like a princess. Coco overcame everything and is truly a sweet, loving and obedient dog. We can't thank the VBSPCA for allowing us to adopt this sweet girl. We love her so much and will spoil her all of the days of her life." Adopted by Tonya, July 2018



"I was so appreciative of the open communication with the staff as we were waiting for tests results so we could bring him home! They were able to answer all my questions and were so insightful. Thank you so much for our baby! We love him sooo much already!" Adopted by Samantha, January 2019

Keeping in touch with VBSPCA animals is important to our community. It helps us highlight the happy endings that come from the generous support of our donors and the compassionate work of the staff and volunteers. If you've adopted an animal from the VBSPCA, we would love to hear how your beloved rescue pet is doing.

Send your stories and photos to adoption@vbspca.com.



3040 Holland Road Virginia Beach, VA 23453 phone: (757) 427-0070 fax: (757) 427-5939 www.vbspca.com • info@vbspca.com

OPEN FOR ADOPTION SEVEN DAYS A WEEK!

HOURS OF OPERATION

Shelter Adoption Hours: Monday: 12pm-5pm Tuesday: 12pm-6pm Wednesday: 2pm-6pm Thursday: 12pm-5pm Friday: 12pm-4pm Saturday: 10am-4pm Sunday: 10am-4pm

Shelter Receiving Hours: Monday & Thursday 12pm - 4pm Tuesday 12pm - 5pm Friday 10am - 3pm Saturday & Sunday 10am - 3pm *No Animals Accepted on Wednesday

Pet Supplies & Adoption Center Hours: Monday - Saturday: 10am-6pm Sunday: 12pm-5pm

Check out www.vbspca.com, where adoptable animals' photos are updated regularly.





Visit our website for more information or to register today!

COME JOIN THE FUN