



SOARING SOULS

QUISHA LEE

**IN HONOR OF
SPECIAL OLYMPICS & PARALYMPICS**



As a board member of the Hotchkiss Special Olympics Club, an avid athlete and passionate photographer, I initiated this “photolanthropy” project to raise awareness and funds for athletes with intellectual and physical disabilities.

Through my passion for photography, I hope to offer a glimpse into the Special Olympics and Paralympic community through my camera lens and raise awareness for them by sharing these images with you through my photography exhibitions at The Hotchkiss School, Connecticut from mid April 2023 to May 2023 and at The Peak Galleria, Hong Kong in July 2023.

These photos can also be found on the website: **soaringsouls.net**. My ultimate goal for this project is to create a sustainable and positive impact for the athletes and the organizations that have inspired me tremendously. I would like to thank everyone who generously donates in support of this cause.

Feel free to contact me at

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SOARING SOULS

HONOR OUR HEROES

A “Photolanthropy” Project by Quisha Lee

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This is a tribute to all donors and sponsors of my “photolanthropy” fundraising campaign for Special Olympics Connecticut, Special Olympics Hong Kong, and Hong Kong Paralympic Committee. This book includes information on each organization, my additional images and behind-the-scene moments, and my acknowledgement for everyone who has helped me throughout my project.

Through my photography exhibitions and this book, I hope to address the inequalities between athletes with and without disabilities, specifically in terms of unequal pay, recognition, and community support. I want to mitigate the stigma that comes along with disabilities in our society. I believe sports is a way to unite us all, and I greatly admire the meaningful work these three organizations undertake, athletically and socially.

I hope you all learn or see something new from my photography exhibitions and this book. Please join me on my journey to spread understanding and awareness of intellectually and physically disabled athletes around the world. Together, we can make a difference.

FOREWORD

Mr. Michael Mason

President & CEO of Special Olympics Connecticut (SOCT)

On behalf of the more than 10,000 individuals of all abilities that Special Olympics Connecticut serves, I extend my sincere thanks to Quisha Lee and congratulate her on the wonderful photo exhibition she has created to promote inclusion for all and share her gift for taking extraordinary pictures.

Quisha's passion and commitment to enriching the lives of Special Olympics athletes through her talent is humbling. The pride and spirit of our athletes shine brightly in Quisha's amazing images for all to see. These images beautifully demonstrate the drive, dedication and love our athletes have for their sport, their teammates and the volunteers who support them. Her photographs challenge others to look beyond

differences, and embrace the diversity of each individual's gifts - and, in doing so, experience true kindness and the joy of belonging.

We are grateful that Quisha has chosen to generously share her time and passion for photography with our organization. We hope this sharing sparks an interest in others to learn more about the amazing people who are part of the Special Olympics movement and attend our events. Special Olympics has been working to spread Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging for over 54 years - and we are fortunate to have the opportunity to partner with Quisha to continue this important work!

Mrs. Laura Ling

President of Special Olympics Hong Kong (SOHK)

For a long time, people with intellectual disabilities (ID) have been separated and isolated from the community. We are grateful to meet and have Quisha to be one of the advocates in the Special Olympics family to advance our movement.

“Let me win. If I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.”

— Special Olympics Athlete Oath

Sharing the same spirit as our athletes, Quisha has taken a brave and bold step to try addressing inequalities through this exhibition. The moments she captured

down not only demonstrate her passion in photography, but also her observation on the ability of persons with disabilities, no matter physically or mentally.

Echoing with the core mission of Special Olympics – social inclusion and acceptance, we are sure Quisha’s photo exhibition will inspire you to learn more about the minorities as well as the Special Olympics Program in your community. We look forward to seeing you in our events someday!

Mrs. Jenny Fung

President of Hong Kong Paralympic Committee (HKPC) and Hong Kong Sports Association for the Physically Disabled (HKSAPD)

Having been involved with sports development for disabled persons since 1986, I have had the privilege of witnessing their tears and laughters, as well as sharing their disappointments and crowning glories at the many Paralympics and international games over the years.

It is particularly gratifying to see Quisha taking the initiative to photograph our para athletes in order that “outsiders” not directly working with Paralympic sports could have a glimpse of our athletes at work and at play, and more importantly, find and develop interests in what is happening with the Paralympic Movement and the Special Olympics.

I am sure visitors to Quisha’s photo exhibition will find her works touching and enlightening. I sincerely hope that you will come away inspired and interested, and henceforth join us to

“BUILD AN INCLUSIVE WORLD WITH SPLENDOUR IN PARA SPORTS”.*

*Mission Statement, Hong Kong Paralympic Committee



Mr. Michael Mason and I met for the first time at the SOCT headquarters in Hamden, CT.

Winter 2022



Mrs. Jenny Fung (left), Mrs. Laura Ling (right), and me at our first joint meeting in Hong Kong.

Summer 2022

“Special Olympics is a global organization that serves athletes with **intellectual disabilities** working with hundreds of thousands of volunteers and coaches each year.”

SOCT
FACTS
per the 2021 census

Founded in **1969**

8,432
Registered Athletes

714
Coaches

INFORMATION on SOCT

“Special Olympics Connecticut provides **year-round sports training and competitions** for over 10,000 athletes and Unified Sports® partners. We also promote a healthy lifestyle by offering **free health screenings** at events, and providing participants with the education and resources to improve their sports performance and enhance their overall health and fitness.”



Unified Sports® is a program that combines approximately equal numbers of athletes with and without intellectual disabilities on sports teams for training and competition.

A partnership with Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference to spread Unified Sports® across the state. There are **2792 Unified Partners** and **1,843 Athletes** under this program in 2022.



SOCT provides a world beyond sports



Photos by Chad Lyons, Norbert Herzog, and SOCT

“Special Olympics Hong Kong strives to provide opportunities for over 50,000 headcounts of people with **intellectual disabilities** aged 8 or above to participate in a variety of Olympic-type sports.

With **sports as a means of integration into the society**, they can also share the joy gained from sports participation with their families and friends.”

Life beyond sports

**Athlete Leadership,
Family Network,
Healthy Athletes®, Law
Enforcement,
Torch Run® for Special
Olympics,
Motor Activity Training**

INFORMATION on SOHK

Founded in **1975**

17
official sports

121
coaches



**Register for the
SOHK FANS Scheme!
Be a supporter and
promote acceptance and
inclusion of all people!**



700 SOHK athletes took part in 20 Special Olympics World Summer / Winter Games from 1979 to 2017. They brought back a total of 1276 medals with 610 gold, 401 silver, and 265 bronze.

SOHK's **Young Athletes** program is designed for children from age 2-7 with intellectual disabilities to participate in the Special Olympics movement. The program focuses on introducing basic skills that are crucial for cognitive development as well as social skills through interacting with peers and instructors.



Founded in 1972
18 sports
131 medals
in Paralympic
Games

The Hong Kong Paralympic Committee (HKPC) is dedicated to promoting para-sports, **physically disabled** athletes, and inclusivity.

HKPC is in close liaison with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) and respective international sports federations. Together, they strive to take forward the Paralympic Movement and the interests of Para athletes worldwide.

INFORMATION on HKPC

The Hong Kong Paralympic Committee regularly organizes the I'mPOSSIBLE education program, which includes a sports trial session for students to experience Para sports first hand. This immersive programme enhances students' knowledge of the Paralympic Movement and promotes inclusiveness via sports, encouraging everyone to see the possibilities in disability.



Photos from HKPC



Students listened attentively as athletes shared their stories and experiences in the I'm POSSIBLE education programme, aimed at enhancing the knowledge of Para sports to students.



The Hong Kong Paralympic Committee organized Hong Kong's largest Para sports event named Hong Kong Paralympic Day in 2022, offering several activities such as exhibition and sports trials to the public. Participants of all ages tried out various sports, promoting Paralympic Movement.

After a successful opening ceremony, President of the Hong Kong Paralympic Committee and other officiating guests joined in the fun by trying out the sports demonstrations, encouraging everyone to embrace the joy of Para sports.

MORE



SOHK's after-school golf training sponsored by Hong Kong Jockey Club.

OF

EXHIBIT

THE



SOCT swimmers participated in exhibition relays at The Hotchkiss School.

February 2023.



Swimmers Will Geanuracos and Steven Emblidge from SOCT.



Jeremy Yeo (left) is a promising Special hurdles athlete in Singapore.

Five-time Paralympic gold medallist swimmer Yip Pin Xiu. She is Singapore's most decorated Paralympian.





Leung Yuk Wing (left) and So Wa Wai (right) competed in the Paralympic Games for Boccia and Track respectively, earning numerous gold medals for Hong Kong.

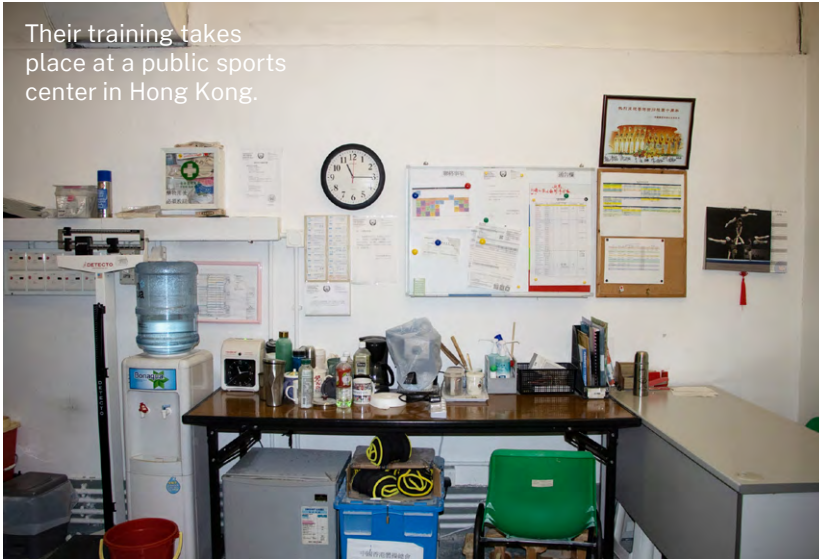


Special Olympics athletes – “game changers” indeed.



SOCT's basketball training with Unified Partners involves athletes with and without disabilities engaging in sport together.

Their training takes place at a public sports center in Hong Kong.



SOHK's gymnastics training for students with intellectual disabilities.



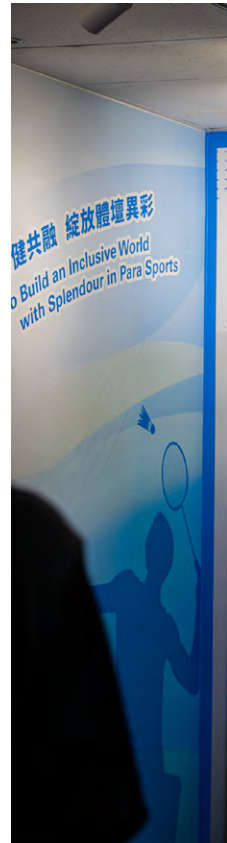
Training begins at a young age for SOCT athletes.



Leung Yuk Wing with his wife who is also a Boccia coach for Hong Kong.



SOHK teen golfers.



So Wa Wai in front of the HKPC medallists wall.



21-yr-old special hurdles athlete Jeremy Yeo training at Home of Athletics, Singapore.

Gymnasts' fun up close.



BEHIND THE EXHIBIT



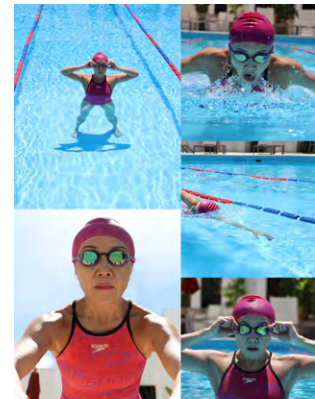
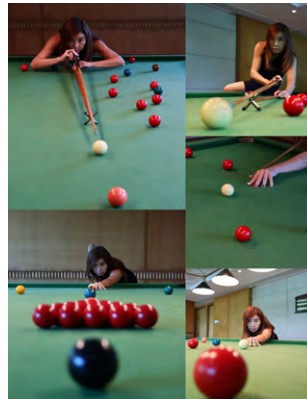


A BIG THANK YOU TO...

Mr. Christiaan Hart
for introducing me to
sports photography
during Summer 2022...



...and also my Mom for being my unwavering model.



My family for always supporting my passions and initiatives.



Hotchkiss faculty who supported my project.

Ms. Joan Baldwin
Mr. Craig Bradley
Mrs. Lisa Brown
Mr. Thomas Drake
Ms. Sunie Gorey
Mrs. Johanna Haan
Mrs. Colleen MacMillan
Mr. Keith Moon
Mr. David Thompson
Ms. Ann Villano
Mr. Fabio Witkowski

My grandpa for inspiring me with his personal experiences with disability.



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