Athletes Helping Athletes

For many individuals with special needs, having social skills is sometimes a challenge. All a parent could want is for their child to be included and happy. That is exactly what Athletes Helping Athletes is all about.

Athletes Helping Athletes is a non-profit organization, and the money made from these events goes to charity. Some of these events include Prom, Baseball fun day, Christmas fun day, Football fun day and many more found on the AHA Instagram.

As described on the AHA website, “The mission of Athletes Helping Athletes is to connect local special needs athletes with mainstream student-athletes in a spirit of friendship for their mutual benefit and inspiration.”

Danny Kenney, a senior at Central Bucks High School South, shared his experience volunteering  
with Athletes Helping Athletes, he describes AHA as, “My home away from Home.”

Danny expressed that AHA is, “A program that allows for a one to one bond between a person with special needs and a typical person.”

Danny’s favorite event along with many others is, the Carnival held at Council Rock South. This event has mini carnival games set up around the school and is always a good time.

Being a senior, this year Danny plans on working more with AHA after college.

Rick Leonetti is the founder and president of AHA. Mr. Leo describes the impact AHA has, “Watching interactions between typical students and students with special needs and both having mutual benefits.”

Mr. Leo’s favorite event was also the carnival fun night. But he could not pick just one and enjoyed the prom, Christmas fun-day and the annual baseball event. Baseball fun day this year consisted of partners learning different skills including pitching, catching and, hitting.

Because of Mr. Leo and volunteers like Danny, there is a chance for athletes with special needs to feel welcomed in a sports community.