

BAYLEY BRISTOW & VALERIE MERCIER



**Sport: Unified Tennis**

**Hometown: Atlanta, GA**

**Agency: Special Populations Tennis**

**Years Playing Tennis As A Team: 5**



Bayley Bristow and Valerie Mercier, who have been competing as a Unified Tennis team for five years, will represent Team Georgia at the Special Olympics 2014 USA Games in New Jersey. From Atlanta, the team practices and competes as part of the Special Populations Tennis agency which is a delegation of Special Olympics Georgia. Bayley says that attending USA Games is an opportunity of a lifetime and she feels very blessed to be getting the chance to go. Valerie is looking forward to competing and says that she and Bayley cannot wait to make new friends on the Tennis Courts at USA Games. Read more about the team below:

#### Bayley Bristow (Tennis Athlete):

For the past 13 years Bayley has been involved with Special Olympics in some form or fashion and has competition experience in Tennis, Aquatics, and Basketball. Bayley says that in addition to growing her abilities on the tennis court her Special Olympics experiences have made her a more self confident person. Bayley is employed as a Teacher by Heart of Hope, which is an academy for children with special needs and in her free time performs with Habima Theatre and enjoys swimming and doing arts and crafts.

#### Valerie Mercier (Tennis Unified Partner)

Valerie says that Special Olympics has brought so much joy to her life. She has also met wonderful individuals that have inspired her to embrace life, live in the moment, and have fun no matter what life throws at her. Valerie calls the chance to represent the state of Georgia at the 2014 USA Games an honor and a privilege and is thrilled to have a great teammate to go with. In her free time Valerie loves to travel, run marathons, and share great food with her friends and family. Valerie also serves as a member of the Special Pops Board of Directors, which she was elected to in July of 2012.

