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Winner Announced in Shaw Design-A-Rug Challenge

Special Olympics Georgia athlete awarded with winning rug

Dalton, Ga. – January 6, 2012 – Shaw Industries Inc. today announces Sharrod Vaughn as the winner of the Shaw Design-A-Rug Challenge, a creative competition that was open to all athletes who took part in the Special Olympics Georgia 2011 State Fall Games, Oct. 21 – 23. Vaughn, a 20-year-old Acworth, Ga. resident, who is autistic, has been a practicing artist for years, enjoying both drawing and painting in addition to a variety of other mediums. Vaughn was awarded with a 5'x8' Shaw area rug showcasing his design. The same rug was also donated to Special Olympics Georgia for display in their Georgia headquarters for visitors to enjoy for years to come.

“The Shaw Design-A-Rug Challenge was a fun way to acknowledge the diverse skills and talents of the Special Olympics Georgia athletes,” said Shaw Executive Vice President of Operations Hal Long, who spoke during the 2011 Special Olympics Georgia Opening Ceremony event. “The creativity was inspiring and we were very pleased to deliver the winning rug to Sharrod, a very talented and passionate art student.”

More than 70 drawings were submitted during the challenge. Sharrod’s winning hand-drawn rug design was inspired by New York City graffiti and trains, two of his favorite subjects. Sharrod, who was born in New York City and spent several years there, incorporates graffiti into many of his paintings.

The Shaw Design-A-Rug Challenge was designed to provide a unique Dalton, Georgia-inspired educational experience through enticing creativity and fun for the 1,330 athletes who participated in the games. Shaw was an event sponsor in 2011, supporting the Opening Ceremony and awards presentations for all sporting competitions.

“Special Olympics Georgia was honored to be supported by Shaw during the State Fall Games and through the Shaw Design-A-Rug activity for the athletes,” said Special Olympics Georgia CEO, Georgia Milton-Sheats. “The Shaw employees and their families came out in force all weekend and made a tremendous impact on all of the athletes and coaches. We hope to continue our relationship between Shaw and Special Olympics Georgia and appreciate being selected to have our athletes participate in the contest.”

The 2011 State Fall Games consisted of a variety of sports competitions, including softball, bocce, cycling, long distance walking & running and golf. Shaw associates volunteered during competitions at select venues throughout Dalton, Ga., including Heritage Point Park, Nob North Golf Club and Downtown Dalton Square. The 2012 Special Olympics Georgia Fall Games will be hosted in Dalton, Ga., October 13 – 14.

For photos of Sharrod and the winning rug, please contact Christina Connally Honkonen, Shaw marketing specialist. Learn more about Special Olympics Georgia by visiting

<http://www.specialolympicsga.org/>.

About Shaw

Shaw Industries Group, Inc., a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway, Inc., is the world’s largest carpet manufacturer and a leading floorcovering provider with more than \$4 billion in annual sales and approximately 25,000 associates worldwide. Headquartered in Dalton, Ga., the company manufactures and distributes carpeting, rugs, hardwood, resilient, laminate and tile &

stone for residential and commercial applications worldwide. A recognized leader in environmental stewardship, Shaw has implemented hundreds of sustainability initiatives and Cradle to Cradle design solutions, collectively termed the Shaw Green Edge. For more information, visit www.shawfloors.com.

About Special Olympics Georgia

Special Olympics Georgia provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The goal is to help bring persons with intellectual disabilities into the larger society under conditions whereby they are accepted, respected, and given the chance to become useful and productive citizens. When this goal is achieved through the sports program, it demonstrates that Special Olympics has a unique value: to show the world that every person counts and that every person can be something good when everyone works together. Special Olympics Georgia invests in people with intellectual disabilities, helping them to develop athletic skills, while also promoting the abilities of the athletes off the field.

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