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Georgia's Champions

May 2013

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News and Stories

Elena Weaver Receives 11Alive Community Service Award

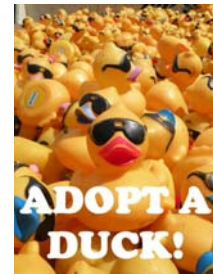
For the last 38 years, the 11Alive Community Service Awards (CSA) has honored 11 Who Care - outstanding local volunteers who have demonstrated selfless devotion for the betterment of the community. We are extremely proud that SOGA athlete Elena Weaver was chosen as one of the 2013 CSA recipients for her service at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA). Since September 2008, Elena has volunteered three days a week and almost 3,000 hours in Guest Services. She collects wheelchairs and wagons for the children, cleans toys, puts together information packets, shares smiles with the children, delivers flowers, and does whatever she can to offer a little bit of comfort and help to the patients and their families. (She and her family know all too well what it's like to spend time at CHOA). Elena was recognized for her outstanding service at the CSA Dinner on April 23rd, and she was the only award recipient to receive a standing ovation at the conclusion of her video package and acceptance speech. As part of the CSA, Elena was able to direct an award gift to the charity of her choice. Elena decided to split this gift between CHOA and SOGA, with the SOGA donation going towards sending three athletes to SOGA's Camp Inspire this summer. Congratulations



Upcoming Events

Duck Derby, June 21

Don't miss out on the most "quacked" about event of the season! We're racing rubber



ducks in the 8th annual Duck Derby, but to get to our goal of 9,000 racing ducks, we need your help! Adopt your duck today, and if your duck is one of the first five to cross the finish line, you win! All proceeds raised from the Duck Derby benefit the athletes.

To adopt your duck, go to www.AtlantaDuckDerby.com.

Your adoption enters you for a chance to win: (1st place) a 42" flatscreen TV with DVD and Home Theater System, (2nd place) an iPad mini, (3rd place) a \$300 Publix gift card, (4th place) an iPod touch, or (5th place) a \$150 VISA gift card.

can't think of anyone more deserving, and we are extremely proud that you are a part of the Special Olympics Georgia family! For more information on the CSA, or to see Elena's video package and other pictures from the dinner, go to <http://www.11alive.com/life/community/csa/>.

SOGA featured at the Final Four Weekend

During the Final Four, Special Olympics Georgia athletes also had moments on the court with basketball heroes.



Kicking the weekend off was a clinic hosted by NCAA Division III on April 5. The Amherst College Lord Jeffs and University of Mary Hardin-Baylor Crusaders helped coach an athlete basketball clinic held at Emory University.

Then on April 7 -- the eve of the NCAA® Division I Men's Basketball Championship game -- members of the Allstate National Association of Basketball Coaches Good Works Team®, college basketball's community service award, taught approximately 80 SOGA athletes basketball fundamentals at Atlantic Station. Basketball legends Dominique Wilkins and Turner Sports analyst Steve Kerr participated in the basketball clinic. Before the clinic, SOGA was thrilled to receive a \$10,000 donation from Allstate.

The last event of the weekend was right in the middle of NCAA Men's Championship excitement on the following day. Among excited fans and basketball all-stars were six lucky SOGA athletes and six representatives from SOGA statewide partner Coca-Cola who participated in the first Coca-Cola - Special Olympics Unified Sports Experience. Teams featured Coke, Special Olympics and celebrity players who competed against each other in a series of timed spot shots, obstacle courses and relays.

Athletes (featured in the photo above) Sherrie Ferguson, Kyle McEver, Rashad Richardson, Brittney Hagelthorn, Chip Ford and Tarcia Keys competed with Nicole Powell (current WNBA), Reggie Love (Duke 2001 Championship team), Dikembe Mutombo (retired, NBA and Special Olympics ambassador), Robert Horry, Jr. (retired, NBA), Ruth Riley (current WNBA) and Lindsay Whalen (current WNBA) and their Coca-Cola teammates for a challenge between "Team Powerade" and "Team Coca-Cola."

What a true unified sports experience!
(Photo courtesy of Special Olympics International.)

View and Share Maria Shriver Video then Enjoy Mother's Day Coupons

One adoption costs \$5. But you can increase your chances to win by purchasing various of packages of duck adoptions. You can also create a team and get your friends, family, co-workers, etc. to adopt on your behalf.

Thank you to our sponsors **Kids 'R' Kids Learning Academies**, Allconnect, Atlanta Arms & Ammo, LAZ Parking, Rooms To Go Children's Fund, Whitaker Oil Company, Risk Placement Services, Precision Aviation Group, Dobbins Thrift Shoppe, Highwoods Properties, Marquis at Mt. Zion, Craig Automotive, North Georgia Replacement Windows, and The Accident & Disability Attorneys of Monge & Associates. Also thank you to Six Flags White Water and our media partners 94.9 The Bull and WSB-TV Family to Family.

For more information on the Duck Derby, contact **Leslie Anderson**.

Books-A-Million Bookfair, May 25

Books-A-Million will hold its Bookfair Saturday, May 25th from 12 p.m.-6



p.m. A percentage of the proceeds from the Bookfair will assist athletes competing at the 2013 State Masters Bowling Tournament. Please stop in your local Books-A-Million on May 25th, bring **this voucher**, or give the following number to donate to SOGA athletes: ID# 6000000557.



P&G has produced a short video entitled "The Gift My Mother Gave Me." In this video, Special Olympics International Board member Maria recalls the most important gift her mother, Special Olympics founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver, gave her - the gift of possibility. In addition to the tribute, Maria's video will also help raise funds for Special Olympics.



How to get involved:

- * On Friday, May 3rd, visit facebook.com/thankyoumom to view the video. Then, share the video with your Facebook friends. For every share of the video in May, P&G will donate \$1 to Special Olympics, up to \$50,000.
- * Beginning Tuesday, May 7th, visit twitter.com/thankyoumom to view the video. Then, retweet button to share the video. For every retweet of @thankyoumom's tweet featuring Maria's video in May, P&G will donate \$1 to Special Olympics, up to \$25,000.
- * Also, on May 7th, tune in to NBC's TODAY Show to see Maria Shriver's exclusive interview.
- * Mother's Day, May 12, keep an eye out for your P&GbrandSAVER® coupon books in your local newspaper. The coupon book has over \$48 in savings and Special Olympics receives 2 cents for every coupon used.

Sponsor Spotlight: Aetna

We are pleased to announce that Aetna will serve as the Presenting Sponsor for the 2013 State Summer Games.



This is the second consecutive year Aetna has been the presenting sponsor of the Summer Games. The company is a passionate supporter of Special Olympics Georgia athletes and has been very instrumental in the success of the Summer Games. On any of the three Summer Games competition days, you can see Aetna employees cheering on the participants and working tirelessly to provide a high-quality event for everyone in attendance.

"The Special Olympics Georgia State Summer Games are near and dear to the hearts of Aetna's people," said John Price, president of Aetna's Georgia market. "They celebrate physical activity and the realization of human potential. These athletes inspire all of us to overcome obstacles and strive to be our very best."

Aetna is committed to helping people live healthier, more productive lives by providing access to high-quality health care and protecting their finances against health-related risks.

Thank you **Aetna** for your extraordinary Summer Games support and for believing in Special Olympics Georgia athletes!

Athlete of the Month: Lenny Greenblatt

Cops on Doughnut Shops, May 31 - June 2

Officers will take to the roofs of Atlanta's 10th annual Cops on Doughnut Shops weekend



from 6 a.m. on Friday, May 31st to 6 p.m. on Sunday, June 2nd, where they will collect dough-nations from customers as they eat, sleep and play on the rooftops of Krispy Kreme stores.

Click here to donate to your favorite department/location for a chance to win a \$250 Publix gift card! *Must be a minimum donation of \$20. The drawing will be held Saturday, June 1st or stop by a Krispy Kreme. **Click here** for a list of participating stores.

For every \$10 you donate, you will be entered in a contest for some great prizes!

Color Me Rad 5K, July 13

July 13th, Georgia International Horse Park, Conyers. Start out as clean as a newborn babe, and



throughout the run, you'll coat your body with Color Bombs of blue, green, pink, purple, and yellow until your face, shirt, and body come out silkscreened like a tie-dyed hippy on the other side. Each section of the run adds a new explosion of color to your clean, painter's palate until you

Lenny Greenblatt, turning 70 in May, competes in every sport that is offered at Annandale Village: basketball, bocce, volleyball, softball, cycling, and athletics. Aside from sports, he's quite busy serving others.



"He not only competes in these sports, but is also one of our top athletes," said recreation instructor Adrienne Clay. "Lenny is a great teammate and is always encouraging his fellow athletes."

He offers a helping hand around campus whether it is visiting the local day program or the local nursing home. Lenny is not only admired at Annandale, but also in the community of Suwanee. As Lenny has dreamed of being a police officer, it was easy for a friendship to be developed with the local police department. They often make visits to Annandale in Lenny's honor.

Each week, you'll find the black belt practicing Tang Soo Do. And visitors of Annandale Village will find Lenny among the first to greet them with a handshake and a smile.

Lenny will be competing in modified volleyball at the Summer Games in May.

Volunteer of the Month: Kathy Simpson

Kathy Simpson (featured on the left) has been a coach for Henry County Schools Special Olympics for 16 years as the certified equestrian coach, as well as co-coordinator of Henry County Schools Special Olympics.



She and her family tirelessly work at taking care of horses on her ranch, which is now non-profit Honey Creek Ranch in McDonough.

Kathy starts training her equestrian athletes in the Spring all the way through to the date of competition. When the State Horse Show takes place, she hauls her best horses and most of her ranch and takes off to competition with her athletes. They come home with gold, silver and bronze medals. Some of the athletes that train with her have been taking lessons from Kathy since they were in elementary school, and they are now high schoolers or graduates.

They always come back to help out on the ranch or to continue their training. She is overdue for recognition and is well

cross the finish line into a final blitzkrieg of color. [Register using Special Olympics Georgia's promo code SPECIALOLYMPICS](#) and save 10% off your registration and have 15% of your registration go to Special Olympics Georgia. Registration fees start at \$35 and increase to \$50 as it gets closer to the date of the race. For more information or to register, [click here](#) or contact [Susan Skolnick](#) or 770-414-9390 x111.

Sailing Regatta, Sept. 13-15

Hoist the jib and join us on Lake Lanier, which is at full



pool, for the 2013 Annual Sailing Regatta at Sunrise Cove Marina Sept. 13-15 to support Special Olympics Georgia. Contact [Jennifer Daniell](#) for more information. [Click here](#) to register and [click here](#) for the flyer. Volunteers are welcome.

Bob Busse Golf Classic, Nov. 4

[Register](#) today to play golf in the Bob Busse Golf Classic



Nov. 4 at the Cherokee Town & Country Club. This 18th annual tournament offers a great day of golf, golf course prizes, silent auction and a wonderful reception. Mr. Busse has given us a goal to raise \$100,000 to mark his 100th birthday on June 15th. [Sign up](#) today and help us reach that goal! Contact [Camille Mallery](#) for more information.

deserving of Volunteer of the Month for her unselfish acts of volunteerism.

Over the Edge raises \$184,000

On April 20th, Over the Edge was held at Buckhead Tower at Lenox Square where 125 people rappelled down 20 stories for Special Olympics Georgia!



Bert Weiss from The Bert Show on Q100 was amongst those brave souls Saturday. He and his team of listeners raised over \$23,000! Thank you Bert and Q100 for all your support!

Even though it was only the second year, Over the Edge raised more than \$184,000 for 25,878 athletes. A big thanks to our sponsors: AutoTrader.com, Commercial Property Professionals, Parmenter Realty Partners, and Baskin Robins on Peachtree Road.

[Click here for video of Bert rappelling down the Buckhead Tower.](#)

The SOGA Community Makes a Difference

We often receive calls from individuals, companies, and groups who have an idea for a fundraiser and want to donate the proceeds to SOGA. Every single fundraising effort, no matter the financial outcome, is very significant and makes a tremendous difference. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following:

- * UBS Financial - Jeans Month raised \$300
- * Anna Finnegan - Make It Count Fundraiser raised \$1,963



Vehicle donation

Are you thinking of selling or trading in that old car, boat or RV? Why not donate it instead? As a charitable contribution, your donation will make a big difference. SOGA has partnered with Car Program, LLC to turn your old vehicle into much needed funds for our program. Just download **[this form](#)** and fax it in. Car Program LLC will make arrangements to conveniently and quickly pick up your vehicle at no cost to you. They handle the title transfer requirements and provide you with a tax deductible donation receipt at pick-up!



A New Way to Give

At Special Olympics Georgia, we give our athletes a choice. A choice to



Volunteer Opportunities

Bicycle Ride Across Georgia June 3 - 8 Cordele to St. Mary's



Rest stop volunteers are needed to help refresh, feed and cheer on cyclists biking their way across Georgia. If you live near any of the cities along this year's route -- Tifton, Douglas, Waycross, Brunswick, St. Mary's -- we need your help!

Cops on Doughnut Shops

May 31 - June 2

Atlanta and Duluth locations

Let's support the cops that are sitting on the roofs of Krispy Kreme shops to raise money for SOGA. Volunteers needed to help collect donations at the Atlanta and Duluth Krispy Kreme locations.

Duck Derby Tagging Party

June 11

Atlanta, GA

Help us tag 9,000 rubber ducks with their official racing numbers for the Duck Derby.

If you are interested in any of the volunteer opportunities above, please contact

[Leslie Anderson.](#)

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participate in athletic events and develop the pride that comes from being in competition. As one of our valued donors, we want you to have a choice in how you meet our needs.



Please follow [this link](#) to shop for SOGA's needs and decide which needs your money goes to fulfill. This new way of giving will really help us, and your donation will make a big impact at this year's games!

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