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Georgia's Champions

July 2013

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News and Stories

Celebrities to Come Out and Strike the R-word

Sports and other celebrities have signed up to **Strike the R-word**, hosted by three-time track and field Olympian Hazel Clark, by bowling in the fundraiser Sept. 26th at 300 Atlanta.

"The connotation associated with the word 'retard' is not an accurate portrayal of people with intellectual disabilities," Clark said. "These individuals are some of the most amazing and courageous people I have had the pleasure of knowing. They should be celebrated for their differences not ridiculed."



So far, Clark has recruited Olympic gold medalist in the long jump Dwight Phillips, who has had trading cards on the back of Kellogg's boxes to bowl in the event. Stay tuned for a complete list of celebrities and [register now](#).

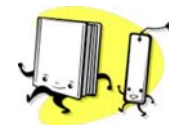
Participants who register first will be able to choose which celebrity they want to bowl in their lane. Some sponsorships are still available. Costs \$40 to bowl, and includes shoe rental, food, beverages, goody bags and an event T-shirt. For more information, email [Wendy Bigham](#).

Athlete's Family of Unified Partners to Compete at State Masters Bowling

Upcoming Events

Books-A-Million July 6th

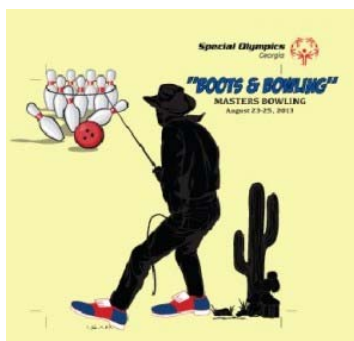
Please visit Books-A-Million July 6th



and purchase books where a percentage of the proceeds goes to support the athletes. This will be the last time this year the promotion will go towards benefiting the athletes. Participating Books-A-Million stores are in the following locations throughout Georgia: Acworth, Canton, Columbus, Dalton, Griffin, LaGrange, Lawrenceville, McDonough, Peachtree City, and Warner Robins. Don't forget to mention Special Olympics Georgia when you get to the register!

Color Me Rad 5K July 13th

Warner Robins Athlete Susan Shultz's bowling game might happen in a flash when she quickly grabs the ball and throws it down the lane and hopes for the best, but she'll have memories that will last a lifetime of family and friends at **State Masters Bowling** next month.



"She's very excited," said her mother and Unified Partner Sandy Shultz. While Sandy will bowl with Susan, Susan's brother, brother-in-law, niece and nephew are all bowling as unified partners with athletes at Happy Hour Service Center. In preparation, the family has taken the home-field advantage by bowling every Sunday morning at Gold Cup, one of the competition locations for the August 23-25 competition.

They will join more than 1,800 athletes, 350 unified partners, led by 700 coaches at Masters Bowling. The event is free and open to the public. **Click here** for more information.

America's Best Franchising Still In It To Win \$10,000 For Special Olympics Georgia!

America's Best Franchising has made it into Round 4 of the "Social Madness" competition that is sponsored by Atlanta Business



Chronicle/American City Business Journals. The national winners of the competition will win a \$10,000 donation to the charity of their choice, and they have chosen SOGA - a cause that is near and dear to their hearts! They can't continue to move on and win this money alone, and they are asking for your help to win this donation for SOGA!

Here's how you can help America's Best Franchising win the \$10,000 for SOGA:

- * "Like" them on Facebook - **America's Best Franchising, Inc.**
- * "Follow" them on Twitter - **ABest Franchising (abestfranchise) on Twitter**
- * "Connect" with them on LinkedIn - **America's Best Franchising Inc.: Overview | LinkedIn**
- * "Add" them to your circle on Google+ - **America's Best Franchising, Inc. - Google+**

Once you have done any or all of the above, the most important step is to "engage" with America's Best Franchising on their social media sites. "Like", "Share", or "Comment" on their posts;

Color Me Rad is coming to the Georgia International Horse Park in Conyers on



July 13th. Start out as clean as a newborn babe, and throughout the run, your body will be coated 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 cross the finish line into a final blitzkrieg of color. Racers of all ages and experience levels are welcome. **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.

Joe's Crab Shack July 18th



Our favorite law enforcement officers will serve you seafood at all five Georgia Joe's Crab Shacks. The best part? All tips received by the cops

"Re-Tweet", "Favorite", or "Reply" to their tweets; just basically engage with them as much as possible. America's Best Franchising will be scored solely on "social engagement", as well as the number of votes received at **Business News - The Business Journals**. The number of "likes" or "followers" will not count towards scoring, so please "engage" as often as possible.

The local winners will be announced Tuesday, July 9th. The local winners then advance to the national competition to compete for the \$10,000 donation, with the winners being announced on Tuesday, August 20th. For more information on the contest, visit **Socialmadness.com - The Business Journals**.

America's Best Franchising needs your help, as they would love to win the \$10,000 for our SOGA athletes.

Camp Inspire Gave Athletes Chance to Practice Healthy Habits, Independent Living Skills

More than 70 athletes and 33 young leaders participated in SOGA's annual athlete camp, Camp Inspire June 17-21 in Warm Springs. The week started off with the Testing Recreational Activities and Improving Nutrition (TRAIN) program -- designed to measure, track and improve athlete physical fitness and health-- and didn't slow down from there. Athletes, youth leaders, coaches and SOGA staff had a great time as campers fished, flew on the giant swing, climbed the vertical playpen, honed their archery skills, and climbed the huge rock wall among many other activities. The dance, a constant athlete favorite, wound the week down, where everyone showed off their dancing skills before heading home Friday morning. We're already looking forward to doing it all again and more next year!



Planned Giving

For most of us, our charitable giving helps us answer significant questions such as "Who am I?" and "What are my values?" Our giving might be something learned from our parents, based in faith, or driven by a life-changing event. As a result, leaving a legacy is much more than a financial aspiration -- it represents a chance to pass along our values. By establishing a planned or legacy gift, you will ensure that SOGA's work of empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition



and 10 percent of your bill goes directly back to SOGA. You must take **this flyer** for the promotion to apply. **Click here** for a list of Joe's Crab Shack locations. Contact **David Crawford** for more information.

Sailing Regatta Sept. 13-15th

Skippers be the first to get your souvenir designed by an athlete for



the 14th Annual Sailing Regatta at Sunrise Cove Marina Sept.13-15 to support SOGA. **Click here** to set up your fundraising page now - quick and easy! **Click here** to print the registration form. Contact **Jennifer Daniell** for more information.

15th Annual Marlow's Tavern Golf Classic Sept. 23rd

Enjoy a fun-filled day of golfing that will



include a putting contest, shotgun start, hole contests, lunch awards reception, and silent auction at the **15th Annual Marlow's Tavern Golf Classic**. **Click here** for the corporate sponsorships and player information and **click here** for the

continues well into the future. For more information on making a planned or legacy gift to SOGA, please visit our [gift planning website](#) or contact Connie Grandmason, Director of Bequests & Estate Gifts, toll-free at 866-690-3951 or cgrandmason@specialolympics.org.

Silent Auction Items Needed

SOGA has several upcoming silent auctions that are in need of items. If you personally have or know someone/a business who might be willing to donate any of the following, please contact [Susan Skolnick](#) or 770-414-9390 x111: vacation/time-share home, resort/hotel stay, sports memorabilia, sporting event tickets, concert tickets, airline tickets/vouchers, golf foursome, restaurant gift card, or any other item, type of service, or recreational activity that you think would be a great addition to a silent auction. Each silent auction item donation helps us to raise money and ensure that all SOGA programs are free to our athletes and their families.



Athlete of the Month: Julie Doss

Julie Elizabeth Doss, who is a 26 year old with Williams Syndrome, has already had quite a stunning athletic career with Special Olympics Georgia.



At 8, Julie started gymnastics classes and her love for the sport began. Broadening her sports activities to include social ones, Julie then became a member of the Valdosta-Lowndes Parks and Recreations Program "Young Adult Club." Today, she lives with her parents Jeanie and Allen in Lake Park.

Quickly, she went on to swimming and won the gold in the 25 meter breaststroke and 50 meter freestyle at State Summer Games at Emory University.

Then, even after a 12-year break from gymnastics, Julie returned to the sport last year at the State Indoor Winter Games in Marietta; winning the gold in the bars, beam, vault and floor exercises; and finally receiving a gold medal for the overall Level 2 gymnast.

This January, Julie moved up a level in gymnastics at State Indoor Winter Games. After many long hours of practice, she came home with five gold medals. In addition to her involvement in young adult

registration form. Contact [Susan Skolnick](#) or 770-414-9390 x111 for more information.

Bob Busse Golf Classic Nov. 4th

Mr. Robert G. "Bob" Busse, former SOGA Board and



Honorary Board Member, has devoted more than 30 years of volunteer service to Special Olympics Georgia. This year, Mr. Busse has given us a goal to raise \$100,000 to mark his 100th birthday on June 15th. Join Mr. Busse in making a difference by registering for the 18th Annual Bob Busse Golf Classic on Monday, Nov. 4 at Cherokee Town & Country Club or by making a contribution to Special Olympics Georgia in his name. The tournament offers a great day of golf, prizes, a silent auction and a wonderful golfers' reception with Special Olympics athlete speaker. **Sign up today** and help us reach the goal! Contact [Camille Mallery](#) for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities

**Masters
Bowling
August
23-25th**



Warner Robins
Volunteers are needed to assist bowlers on the

club and of course SOGA, she is an active member of Chapel United Methodist Church in Echols County where she helps with an outreach ministry "Hungry at Home." Julie Doss is a great Special Olympics athlete and truly does inspire greatness.

Sponsor of the Month: UPS

UPS has supported Special Olympics Georgia since the mid-90's and they do it all! **UPS** employees organize food and eating utensils inventory for meals, serve and assist athletes and coaches at the meals venue at State Summer Games, one of the busiest venues. Many athletes and coaches look forward to seeing the UPS volunteers they have come to know and call their friends. UPS employees also come out in force to volunteer at various sports venues at the State Summer Games and are "Fans in the Stands."



UPS sponsors two foursomes in the Annual Bob Busse Golf Classic and volunteers at the event as well. Employees come out to set up and assist wherever they can. Special Olympics Georgia relies on UPS and appreciates everything they do in supporting the organization and the athletes.

UPS is team oriented and we are excited that we have teamed up with them. THANK YOU **UPS**.

Please visit the UPS website and read more about the company at www.ups.com.

Volunteer of the Month: Rikki Cottle

Rikki Cottle, a Valdosta registered nurse, certainly saved the day for Special Olympics Georgia last month. The SOGA staff was left without a nurse for the week-long annual Camp Inspire several days before camp started, because of unforeseen circumstances.



After several staff members scrambled to fill the void, Nurse Rikki answered the call. Not only was she able to come at a short-notice, but she was eight months pregnant, too. As you can see from the picture, the campers all loved Nurse Rikki, and she was great with the kids. One camper asked staffers every day, "where's the baby?" referring of course to Nurse Rikki. We were so grateful to have such a wonderful addition to our team for the week. We couldn't have asked for a more dedicated volunteer.

lanes and hand out awards.

Strike the R-word September 26th

Atlanta Volunteers are needed to assist event goers, work registration and the silent auction table.

If you are interested in the volunteer opportunities above, please contact **Stephen Sparks**.

Quick Links

[Principals of Coaching](#)

[Sponsors](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Our Web site](#)

[Contact us](#)

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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:



* Universal Tennis Academy - Fundraiser

raised \$1,000

* Gresham & Associates - Employee Anniversary Party raised

\$1,000

Friend Us on Facebook

Hey, friends!

Come find **us** on Facebook and you'll get faster updates on Special Olympics Georgia athletes and what event is happening next. Feel free to introduce us to your other friends.



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