



## SOGA CONNECTION

January 2012

**DONATE NOW**

### Publix Icons Now Available!

Publix Super Markets is selling torch icons at all register check-outs until Jan. 25. Buy your torch icons at any Publix Super Markets during the next few weeks to support the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics Georgia athletes.



### Plunge for the Athletes

Join other cold-water plungers Feb. 18 for the [Polar Plunge](#) at Lanier World at Sunset Cove in raising money for Special Olympics Georgia athletes. All you have to do is register, use your tool kit to collect pledges and then PLUNGE. Prizes will be awarded to the best costume, highest fundraiser, highest fundraising team, and more! Relief from the cold will be provided: heated areas, warm concessions and fun souvenirs. [Click here](#) to get started!



### Let's Go Over the Edge

Are you brave and courageous like our athletes? Do you like to push the limits?

[Sign up here](#) to Go Over The Edge April 21 at The Overlook III in Atlanta and raise much needed funds for the 23,630 athletes of Special Olympics Georgia! Afraid of heights? You and your co-workers could raise \$1,500 to send your boss Over the Edge. For more information, contact Amber Mullins at [Amber.Beach@SpecialOlympicsGA.org](#) or call (770) 414-9390 ext. 105.



## Athlete Spotlight: Andrew Martin

"Let me win, but if I cannot win let me be brave in the attempt" is the Special Olympic athlete oath. An oath which Special Olympics athlete, Andrew Martin, is very familiar. He has competed in basketball and athletics on the Lee County Schools for the last five years.

Doretha Hamilton and Kaion Hamilton have coached Andrew since he first started competing in Special Olympics.

Doretha Hamilton believes that Andrew is not only a great athlete but a spectacular individual with a great attitude both on and off the field. She says his huge heart and big smile continually touches lives around him. During the school year, Andrew travels with the school's basketball and football team as its manager.

He will attend his first State Games at the 2012 Indoor Winter Games in Cobb County. He will compete in 3 on 3 basketball and he, his family, and his coaches are very excited for this opportunity.

Special Olympics Georgia is proud to have athletes like Andrew. He is an exceptional young man, athlete, teammate, and friend. His athleticism is displayed every time he competes in a Special Olympics competition, but his character, heart, and dedication is apparent not only in competitions but in everyday life.

All those who know Andrew, compete with Andrew, and coach Andrew agree that his smile, enthusiasm, and optimism are not only inspiring but contagious!

## January's Volunteer of the Month: Erin Hoffman

Since she was six years old, Erin Hoffman has competed with Special Olympics Georgia including basketball, swimming, bowling and softball. Now 34 years old Erin has had many, many titles to add to her Special Olympics resume. This year, she accompanied a small group from Georgia to represent Team USA in the Special Olympics World Games in Athens, Greece.

Along with competing, Erin is also a Global Messenger and a very dedicated volunteer. As one of Special Olympics Georgia's Global Messengers, Erin accompanies the staff to make presentations to share her experiences with Special Olympics. This past year alone, Erin made over 20 presentations in the Atlanta area and has helped sell duck adoptions at Six Flags and to her neighbors during this year's Duck Derby. Erin also volunteers at the Special Olympics Georgia office frequently to help out with entering information into the database, making thank you calls, and writing letters to donors and volunteers. She is always enthusiastic about coming to the office to help out and is proud to call herself a part of the Special Olympics Georgia staff.

Thank you Erin for your wonderful years with Special Olympics Georgia! You continue to be a great role model to us and others!



## Monthly Giving Club

Athletes remind us every day that the triumph is in the trying and not necessarily in the winning. You can share the joy of Special Olympics by becoming a monthly donor and providing dependable funding for the athletes.

For \$10 a month, you will feed 24 athletes 1 meal at a State Game; for \$25 a month, you will provide medals for 12 competitions at a State Game; for \$50 a month, you will send 2 athletes to Camp Inspire; and for \$100 a month, you will provide 80 athletes housing for 2 nights at a State Game.

Your monthly donation can be any amount you choose. Each month, your contribution will be charged to your credit card or you can donate by sending in a check – whichever you prefer. As a monthly donor, you will be recognized on our Web site and in our quarterly newsletter, Georgia's Champions. To learn more, to

sign-up, or to make a change to your current monthly donation, contact Susan at 770-414-9390 x111 or [Susan.Skolnick@SpecialOlympicsGA.org](mailto:Susan.Skolnick@SpecialOlympicsGA.org). Together, we can make a difference!

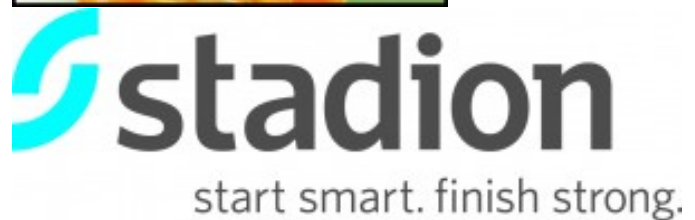


## Sponsor Spotlight: Stadion

We are pleased to announce that for the third consecutive year [Stadion Money Management](#) will serve as the Presenting Sponsor of the 2012 State Indoor Winter Games! Based in Watkinsville, Georgia, Stadion is passionate about supporting Special Olympic Georgia athletes and raising the much-needed funds to support SOGA programs.

Stadion is a privately owned money management firm that was founded in 1991. [Stadion](#) has a disciplined approach to investment strategy and believes that their investment strategy is the main differentiator of their service. Stadion offers proprietary mutual funds, separate account management services, and active money management for retirement accounts.

Thank you [Stadion Money Management](#) for three years of amazing, volunteer and financial support for the Winter Games.



## Acworth Athlete Sharrod Vaughn Wins Shaw's Rug Challenge

Shaw Industries Inc. has announced Sharrod Vaughn as the winner of the Shaw Design-A-Rug Challenge, a creative competition that was open to athletes at State Fall Games Oct. 21-23. Vaughn, a 20-year-old Acworth resident, who is autistic, has practiced drawing and painting, among other mediums for many years. The same rug was also donated to Special Olympics Georgia to display at headquarters. For Shaw's full release about the challenge, [click here](#).

## Special Olympics Inspired Shaw Area Rugs

Three Special Olympics inspired Shaw Living area rugs [are available for purchase](#) through the new Rugs For A Reason campaign and may be available for purchase the weekend of State Winter Games in Cobb County. Each area rug -- the blocks with flowers, the circles and paisley with stripes -- is machine woven, not printed, and resistant to soil, stains and fading. [Click here](#) to learn more.



## AT&T Promotion

AT&T will make a \$40 donation to Special Olympics for each online purchase made on eligible AT&T products and services through our partnership micro site, [www.att.com/specialolympics](http://www.att.com/specialolympics) or by [taking this flyer into an AT&T company owned](#)

[store](#). Eligible products include U-Verse, DirecTV, U-Verse High Speed Internet, High Speed Internet, U-Verse voice service, Local Phone Service, New Wireless Service, and Contract Renewal for Wireless Service.

## You're Invited to the Art Auction

Join us at a beautiful Sandy Springs home March 24 and enjoy the home tour during this year's Art Auction.

### Here are the details:

7 p.m. Meet and greet as well as preview art.

8 p.m. Tour of the beautiful model home

8:30 p.m. Auction begins.

**Location:** Stratford Lane, Sandy Springs, GA

Entry fee of \$40 includes tour, beer, wine, hors d'oeuvres, door prizes, silent auction, and a special treat — an athlete speaker telling her personal story. Pre-registering is preferred but you may pay at the door. [Click here](#) for more information. Contact Danny Knight at [Danny.Knight@SpecialOlympicsGA.org](mailto:Danny.Knight@SpecialOlympicsGA.org) or 770-414-9390 ext. 119.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Art Auction Committee Member

Looking to use your planning and fundraising skills? Join the 2012 Art Auction committee and help plan and fundraise for this annual event.

### Polar Plunge, Lake Lanier

#### February 18

Yep, there are people out there that are willing to plunge into the freezing cold waters of Lake Lanier. It's all to benefit the SOGA athletes so let's show them some support. You'll never see a more excited group of freezing individuals.

### Art Auction

#### March 24

The Art Auction is being held at a beautiful multi-million dollar home in Sandy Springs. Volunteers are needed to help with the house set-up and the auction. Volunteers must be 21 or over to volunteer.

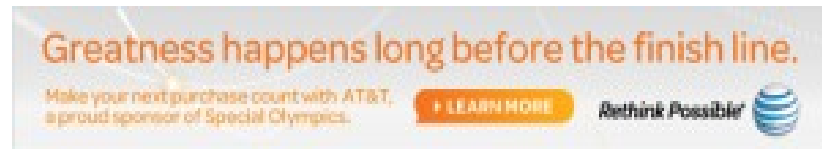
If you are interested in volunteering for any of the above events, please contact Leslie Anderson at [Leslie.Anderson@SpecialOlympicsGA.org](mailto:Leslie.Anderson@SpecialOlympicsGA.org).

## Free Prescription Discount Card

Special Olympics Georgia has partnered with AME Benefits on [a free prescription drug savings card](#). Every time you save on your prescriptions, Special Olympics Georgia will receive a donation. [Click here](#) to learn more information, print your card, and start saving money.

## Be an Athlete's Hero Today

You don't have to be a professional athlete to be a hero to a Special Olympics



athlete. As athletes are an inspiration, you can also be one by becoming a coach and teaching healthy habits or a sport, being there for an athlete at a State Games as a fan and, of course, making a donation. Without scoring a touchdown or pitching a no-hitter on the big screen, you can still help create a level playing field for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. [Click here to donate today.](#)

Help show that everyone can be a hero and that everyone can be good when we work together.

## Prescription Discount Card

active and ready to use

RXBIN:  
RXPCN:  
RXGRP:  
ISSUER:  
ID:



THIS IS NOT AN INSURANCE PLAN



## Downunder Horsemanship Walkabout Tour

Meet television celebrity Clinton Anderson. Get Clinton's autograph. Ask Clinton questions about your horse. Be inspired by watching him work with real problem horses. Meet other horse enthusiasts like yourself. Participate in the Ritchie Ball Charity Toss that is benefiting Special Olympics Georgia. January 28-29, Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter, Perry, GA. For more information, [click here](#) and visit [http://www.downunderhorsemanship.com/events/events\\_tour.cfm](http://www.downunderhorsemanship.com/events/events_tour.cfm).



## A Note of Gratitude:

Thank you to the wonderful volunteers who have sent in scarves for the scarf project! We are almost at our 2,400 goal now, which is very exciting. They are a beautiful array of patterns, sizes and textures. See the list of donors here: <http://www.specialolympicsga.org/support/special-events/scarf-project-2012/>

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