



## SOGA CONNECTION

November 2012

DONATE NOW

### Year-End Torch Run SALE!

Now through December 31 you can purchase a Torch Run Gift Pack for the low price of just \$20 (shipping included). Help support Special Olympics Georgia and also get year-end write-off for your 2012 taxes!

Gift pack includes a 2012 Torch Run T-shirt, Hat, and Lanyard. To purchase & for more information, please contact Danny Knight at [Danny.Knight@SpecialOlympicsGA.org](mailto:Danny.Knight@SpecialOlympicsGA.org) or 229-292-5143.



### Get Head Start on Georgia Gives Day, Dec. 6

#### What is GA Gives?

The Georgia Center for Nonprofits is excited to be the driving force behind the new Georgia Gives Initiative – an effort to empower nonprofits to deliver greater impact and enhanced services in our communities by increasing individual philanthropic giving in Georgia and raising awareness of the state's nonprofit sector. Georgia Gives is a statewide initiative that focuses the attention of the public on the work and worth of nonprofits.

Georgia Gives Day inspires individuals to donate to participating nonprofits through a website with the goal of raising as much money as possible in a 24 hour period.

Georgia Gives Day will take place on December 6, 2012 but don't wait, you can start today! All proceeds benefit the 24,470 athletes of Special Olympics Georgia!! Click [here](#) to donate!



### Early Holiday Shopping on Bidding for Good

Visit our [Special Olympics Georgia Bidding For Good](#) Web site that allows you to bid on great items to help raise money for our athletes! Auction items range from vacation getaways and airline tickets to donated items guaranteed to delight and surprise. So, tell your friends, family, community. Let the bidding begin!

Visit [www.biddingforgood.com/soga](http://www.biddingforgood.com/soga).

# BiddingForGood

## We Did It - Help Us Fulfill Our Dreams!

Hi! We are Special Olympics Georgia athletes Aidan Abowd, Sissy Cooley, and Marnie Hornsby. We have been selected to represent Team USA at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea January 29th – February 5th, 2013. We will be joining 3,300 athletes and coaches from 112 countries for a week of competition and friendship. [Click here to learn more about each of us and how you can help us on our journey to South Korea.](#)

### **SOGA is very proud of the athletes, coaches and officials**

**attending:** Athletes Aidan Abowd (DeKalb County Ice Skating) Sissy Cooley (Colquitt County Ice Skating) and Marnie Hornsby (Henry County Alpine Skiing). Coach Tara Torbert (Colquitt County Ice Skating). Floor Hockey Officials of Brunswick: Nicholas Daniels and Tom Bullock.



*Aidan Abowd (above),  
Sissy Cooley (right) and  
Marnie Hornsby (below).*



## Get a Start on the 4th Annual Polar Plunge

Join us as we jump into icy waters of Lake Lanier Feb. 16th. All proceeds collected by "plungers" will benefit the athletes of Special Olympics Georgia. Prizes will be awarded for the best costume, highest fundraiser, highest fundraising team, and more! For those who do not love the Polar Bear habitat, we will have areas to keep you warm – such as heated areas, warm concessions, and fun souvenirs.

Visit <http://www.PolarPlungeGA.com> for details!



## Make it a Chili's Day Nov. 7

Join SOGA in dining at any Chili's in Georgia any time November 7 for the Chili's Give Back Night. Be sure to bring [this flyer](#) and show it to your server. SOGA receives 10 percent of the amount purchased when you remember your flyer. [Click here](#) for the flyer.



## Athlete Profile: Veronica Kostner

Do you need tips in bocce? How about getting those tips from an international bocce player?

Special Olympics Georgia athlete Veronica Kostner competes in bocce with Gwinnett County and at just 13 years old, Veronica has competed in bocce at an international level, competing in the Central America and Caribbean Games in Panama City in April. Veronica was chosen, along with former Gwinnett County athlete Marissa Radford, to represent Special Olympics Georgia at these games and both girls competed alongside a team from St. Lucia in bocce at the weeklong games. And Veronica's training and experience paid off; she won forth, silver and gold in her events. So, not only has Veronica competed in various state games but she can now say that she has competed in Panama and brought home gold.

At last month's State Fall Games in Dalton, Veronica also competed in unified bocce and took



home another gold medal. Of course bringing home medals is not why Veronica plays bocce. She loves the sport and being around her friends. Congratulations Veronica on such an incredible year!

*(Veronica is the athlete on the left standing on the number 1 awards stand at the Central America and Caribbean Games in Panama.)*

## Get Your Coaching Certification ONLINE

Coaches, you can now go online to get certified in Coaching Special Olympics Athletes. You can also receive re-certification classes in the sports of Basketball / Soccer / Softball / Tennis / Volleyball. Go to [www.ASEP.com](http://www.ASEP.com) and select the course you would like to take. After completing the course, please return your verification to [Kelli.Britt@SpecialOlympicsGA.org](mailto:Kelli.Britt@SpecialOlympicsGA.org) and your certification will be updated.

## Hurry, join us at Bob Busse Golf Classic on Monday, November 5th!

It's not too late to join us for the 17th Annual Bob Busse Golf Tournament Nov. 5 at the prestigious [Cherokee Town and Country Club](#). Enjoy a great game of golf along with golf-course prizes, prizes, a silent auction and wonderful golfers' reception all for the great cause of supporting Special Olympics Georgia athletes.

There is still room for YOU! For more information & to register, e-mail [Rebecca.Surles@SpecialOlympicsGA.org](mailto:Rebecca.Surles@SpecialOlympicsGA.org) or call 770-414-9390 x 102 ASAP!



## Sponsor Spotlight: Park 'N Fly

We are pleased to announce that for the second consecutive year [Park 'N Fly](#) will serve as the Gold Athlete Sponsor of the Bob Busse Golf Classic! Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, Park 'N Fly is passionate about supporting Special Olympics Georgia athletes and raising the much-needed funds to support SOGA programs. Mr. Tony Paalz, the President and CEO of Park 'N Fly, serves on the Board of Directors for SOGA and Mr. Michael Deaderick, VP & CFO, is an Honorary Board Member. Park 'N Fly makes it a company goal to make their customer's lives easier by providing more than just parking. [Click here](#) to learn more about the unique services they provide throughout their 17 facilities in 15 markets nationwide. Thank you Park 'N Fly for being a good friend and for supporting the 2012 Bob Busse Golf Classic!



## 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!



## View Compelling Photos Taken at the Horse Show

Take a look at the amazing photos taken at the State Horse Show by Candace Moliken and her team from Light Horse Learning. [Click here](#) to view the galleries. [Click here](#) to email Candace for more information.



## Volunteer Opportunities

### State Indoor Winter Games

#### Marietta

January 25 - 27

Get out of the cold and volunteer for the INDOOR winter games. Over 1,500 SOGA athletes compete in basketball, bowling, power lifting, floor hockey, gymnastics, roller skating and ice skating.

Basketball Volunteer Coordinators needed for the State Indoor Winter Games!

If you are a team leader and ready for a more significant volunteer role, SOGA is looking for individuals who are ready to step into the role of volunteer coordinator. Volunteer coordinators are a part of the GOC (Games Organizing Committee) for the Winter Games and are in charge of the general volunteers at Basketball venues and will need to be available the weekend of January 25 - 27.

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

Swimming 3.jpg

## November Volunteer of the Month: Camrie Schwartz

For the 2012 State Fall Games, Camrie Schwartz took on the vital role of bocce volunteer coordinator. As anyone that has been to the State Fall Games in the past few years can tell you, bocce is a huge venue that starts that Friday afternoon and ends on Sunday, while most venues at the Fall Games take place in one day. There was a total of 22 traditional and unified bocce courts with each court using two to three volunteers – that is a total of 44 to 66 volunteers - and it was Camrie who managed each court and each volunteer. Camrie was out there all weekend – as long as the SOGA staff – with her cute pink baseball cap, leading volunteers and making sure that bocce ran smoothly. She was a crucial part of the bocce team and kept both fields efficient. Sometimes the volunteer coordinators role is downplayed but that role, especially in a venue as big as bocce, is important and no one – not staff, venue directors, etc – could run a venue without them, and everyone at SOGA is truly grateful to Camrie for stepping into the role and being a fantastic first time volunteer coordinator.

## SOGA Would Like to THANK The Fall Games Sponsors!

The 2012 State Fall Games were phenomenal! Special Olympics Georgia is extremely appreciative to the following sponsors for their support:

**Carpet City Rotary Club**  
**Shaw Industries Group, Inc.**  
**AXA Advisors**  
**Bennett Thrasher Foundation**  
**Carpet Capital Running Club**  
**Controlled Products**  
**Cycle –Tex, Inc.**  
**Textile Rubber & Chemical Company, Inc.**  
**Wells Fargo**  
**Marketing Alliance Group**  
**Dalton Parks & Recreation**  
**ALROL of America, Inc.**  
**Engineered Floors LLC**  
**Kaiser Permanente**  
**Rock Bridge Community Church**  
**Turner Broadcasting System**



## Publix/P&G Promotion 2013

We are please to announce that we will again be partnering with Publix Supermarkets in 2013. While you're at Publix January 3-23, 2013, show you're a fan of Special Olympics Georgia by purchasing your very own paper torch at the check-out register for \$1, \$3, \$5 or \$10 to support Special Olympics and your local athletes! The torches include \$11 in coupons on select Procter and Gamble products. These coupons are good above and beyond the brandSAVER™ coupons,

so purchase a torch and you'll find out just how rewarding it is to "Be a fan"! Special Olympics Georgia provides year-round sports training and competition to over 24,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities, at no cost to the athlete or their caregiver, as a means to achieve physical fitness, self-esteem and the life skills necessary to be productive, respected and contributing members of their communities.



### Why don't you like us on Facebook?

Check out the latest updates and news, photos and inspiring videos by getting Special Olympics Georgia updates in your News Feed. [Click here](#) to get to us.

### Forward this email to a friend

You know people-- family members, friends, work colleagues, just about everywhere you go there's someone you know. Will you introduce Special Olympics Georgia to them? Forward this e-newsletter and ask them to [click here](#) and then click on the Sign-up for the E-newsletter button.



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*(C) 2012 Special Olympics Georgia*