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Georgia's Champions

October 2013

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News and Stories

State Fall Games and State Horse Show Coming Next Weekend

Dalton athlete Tyler Hughey will be surrounded by his family at next weekend's State Fall Games: his Dad is his competition venue director; his Mom is the volunteer games director and especially his grandfather, as he is his bocce partner. "Easy does it" is the plan, Tyler said. "We really don't have an official game plan. We just go with the flow," he said. No doubt Hughey will have his favorite supporters cheering him on. Tyler is one of more than 2,200 athletes, coaches and unified partners competing at State Fall Games.



The State Horse Show is also being held next weekend at Chicopee Woods Agriculture Center in Gainesville. Approximately 200 athletes are expected to compete to be the state's top equestrian. This is the first of many years the State Horse Show will be in Gainesville.

You have helped us reach our fundraising goal in making it possible for athletes to attend the State Horse Show, but the State Fall Games still needs a little more support. We need your help in raising \$1,000 by Wed. Oct. 9. Please [click here](#) and donate today towards the Fall Games. Every financial gift amount is needed and appreciated.

Great Buys at Incredibly Low Prices

Upcoming Events

Oktoberfest Beer Festival Oct. 5th

Enjoy 30 types of German and seasonal beers at The Bird, 4719 Ashford



Dunwoody Rd in Dunwoody, for **Oktoberfest**. German food will be for purchase. Tickets cost \$20 in advance and \$30 day of. Proceeds of Oktober Beer Festival will go to Special Olympics Georgia.

Chick-fil-A Spirit Days Oct. 7th, 11th, 12th and 21st

Chick-fil-A will host Spirit Days October 7th, 11th, 12th and 21st at the



Chick-fil-A at 1517 Walton Avenue in Dalton. A minimum

We have a few inexpensive, but valuable, items from Special Olympics Georgia's silent auction fundraisers that will make great gifts for yourself or someone else. Treasures range from golf foursomes to restaurant gift cards.

Click here for a full list. If you are interested in purchasing an item or want more information, please contact **Susan Skolnick** or 770-414-9390 x111. Each silent auction item sale helps us to raise money and ensure that all SOGA programs are free to our athletes and their families.



Competition Corner

State Kayaking Invitational

The second State Kayaking Invitational was held September 21st at Lake Tobesofkee in Macon. Thirty athletes competed from Hall, Henry, Fayette, and Coastal Georgia. This year's participation numbers doubled the first year! Two of the heats' times were separated by only tenths and hundredths of a second. The athletes proved to be true competitors as they paddled to victory.



Sailing Invitational

The Sailing Invitational was held September 21st at Lake Tobesofkee in Macon. The wind was ideal for the sailing competition. Athletes set sail on an Olympic Course and displayed their abilities to maneuver their boats and take home the gold.



Fall Ball Bash

The Fall Ball Bash was held September 28th in Troup County. Thirteen softball teams competed in some serious competition to take home the coveted games' dog tag! Teams attended from Troup, Cherokee, Forsyth, Albany, Douglas counties and the Kay Center.

Battle of the Bats

The 5th Annual Battle of the Bats Softball Invitational was held September 7th in Forsyth County. Twenty-six softball teams competed from Gwinnett, Forsyth, Henry, Just People, Douglas, Walton,



of 10% of your purchase will go to helping athletes to attend the Fall Games competitions. Be sure to mention SOGA at the register. Spirit Days will be held from 5 p.m.-8 p.m. but all day Oct. 11th and 12th.

Red Robin Tip-A-Cop Oct. 12th

Law enforcement officers will be your celebrity



waiters Oct. 12th at select Red Robin restaurants all to support Special Olympics Georgia. **Click here** for more information and restaurant locations. Red Robin Tip-A-Cop is a Law Enforcement Torch Run fundraising campaign.

RunDunwoody Oct. 20th

RunDunwoody is a 5K Run



and a Peachtree Road Race Qualifier, 1 Mile Fun Run, Tot Trot, and family festival rolled into a morning of activities on October 20th in the heart of Dunwoody's Perimeter Place Center. As a beneficiary of RunDunwoody and long-time partner of the Rotary Club of Dunwoody (the run's founding and presenting sponsor), Special Olympics Georgia has created a team for the Team Challenge in the not-for-profit category. Registration fees start at \$15 and increase to \$35 as it gets closer to the date of the race. For more information on the race or to

Macon-Bibb, Kay Center in Fort Valley, and Dekalb counties.



Allen Langford Memorial Softball and Bocce Invitational

Douglas County hosted the Allen Langford Memorial Softball and Bocce Invitational on September 14th. Twenty-five softball teams and over 60 bocce teams enjoyed a day of true athletic competition. Athletes came from as far away as Dalton to Valdosta.

Have something interesting happening in your area? We want to hear from you! Contact [Wendy Bigham](#).

Matching Gifts

Double or triple your tax-deductible donation to Special Olympics Georgia through your company's matching gift program. Thousands of companies match charitable contributions made by their employees. Find out if your company will match your donation to Special Olympics with [our custom search engine](#) or by visiting your personnel office. If your company does match gifts, please provide SOGA with the necessary paperwork. What a great way to increase your financial support of the athletes with no additional cost to you!

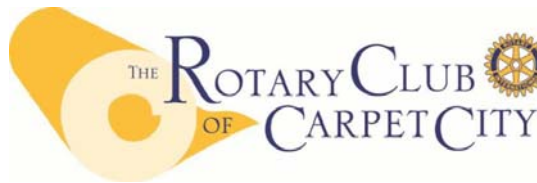


Sponsors of the Month: Carpet City Rotary Club and Shaw Industries Group

We are pleased to announce that, for the third consecutive year, [Carpet City Rotary Club](#) will serve as the

Presenting Sponsor of

the 2013 State Fall Games. "It is our pleasure as Rotarians to contribute our time and financial support to the Special Olympics, both in our community and the state of Georgia," said Zach Hash, Carpet City Rotary Club President.



Since 1995, [Carpet City Rotary Club](#) has been dedicated to positively impacting Dalton by making local support of Special Olympics its top priority. The Carpet City Rotary Club team works tirelessly during the Fall Games competition weekend to ensure the athletes experience high-quality competition.

Thank you [Carpet City Rotary Club](#) for being a friend and fan of Special Olympics Georgia athletes.

Special Olympics Georgia



register as part of Team Special Olympics Georgia, go to www.rundunwoody.net.

Joe's Crab Shack Oct. 23rd

Join your area law enforcement officers as



they serve seafood at all five Georgia Joe's Crab Shacks October 23rd. Dine out for our athletes and help support your local officers as they wait on you! Tips and 10% of your bill comes back to Special Olympics Georgia. [Click here](#) for a flyer and locations.

Titletown Tasting October 26th

Join SOGA at the Cotton Corner in Valdosta October



26th for a night of fun at Titletown Tasting. This SOGA fundraiser will feature a silent auction with many great items to bid on donated from various local businesses and community partners. Also featured will be live entertainment, great food and drinks. Tickets are on sale for \$30 per individual or \$55 per couple. Please contact [Stephen Sparks](#) to purchase tickets or purchase them [online](#). Sponsorships are still available.

Bob Busse Golf Classic Nov. 4th

The 18th Annual [Bob](#)



is thrilled to have **Shaw Industries Group** back at the 2013 State Fall Games as the Opening Ceremony and Awards sponsors. The Shaw Industries team is an enthusiastic bunch that serves as an engaged supporter of Special Olympics Georgia athletes and the Dalton community!



"Shaw is proud to sponsor the Special Olympics Georgia State Fall Games for the third consecutive year," said Shaw President Randy Merritt. "Shaw's associates share a passion for the communities in which we work. We are honored to be a part of this event, which helps the Special Olympics fulfill its mission to change lives by promoting understanding, acceptance and inclusion between people with and without intellectual disabilities."

Shaw Industries' belief is that its success and that of their employees is based on the core values of honesty, integrity and passion. They are dedicated to building a better future for their customers, their communities and their employees.

Thank you **Shaw Industries** for your extraordinary work in the community and for making Special Olympics dreams come true!

Athlete of the Month: Bobbie Jo Williams

Bobbie Jo Williams began competing as a Special Olympics Georgia athlete in 2003 at the age of 20 with one of our longest standing delegations, Just People.

She has been characterized as a strong leader and a great teammate.



Bobbie Jo has found success in many areas of her life. Most recently, she and her team were undefeated and won the gold medal in bocce at the Douglasville Invitational. She will compete again in bocce at State Fall Games next weekend.

In addition to her success on the bocce court, Bobbie Jo is also in her second term as president of the Aktion Club in Lilburn. The Aktion Club is an extension of the Kiwanis Club. Bobbie Jo coordinates all the meetings and helps organize the club's service projects. As if competing as a Special Olympics athlete and serving as president for the Aktion Club wasn't enough, Bobbie Jo also works for Just People as a receptionist and a cashier at its thrift store.

Congratulations Bobbie Jo on being named October's Athlete of the Month!

Volunteer of the Month: Edwin Collazo

Busse Golf Classic



is set for Nov. 4th at one of Atlanta's prestigious private golf clubs located in Sandy Springs.

Thirty-six foursomes have committed to the event but there are six openings for foursomes. **Click here** for more information.

The day will include golfing at a private country club, a reception and a silent auction.

The golf tournament is sponsored by UPS, Park N Fly, Allstate, State Bank, Classic Cadillac, Northwestern Mutual, Image Masters, Merrill Lynch, Coke CCE, and Ted and Barbara Seaman.

Georgia Gives Day Nov. 13th

Special Olympics Georgia aims to raise as much money as possible in 24 hours



through Georgia Gives Day: Nov. 13th. Georgia Gives is a statewide initiative that focuses the attention of the public on the work and worth of nonprofits. **Click here** for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Indoor Winter State Games
Jan. 24th-26th
Marietta



This month, we want to recognize Edwin Collazo for his service at the 2013 Masters Bowling Tournament in Warner Robins. Edwin, an employee of Boeing Company, volunteered Friday night at the Opening Ceremony and the Athlete Dance. He was very enthusiastic about being there to help and even enlisted the help of his nephew.



Many volunteers came out to help that night, but Edwin stayed to clean and pack up before he would even think about leaving. Not only did he stay late on Friday, but he returned with work colleagues to assist on the lanes with the bowlers Saturday. He always had a smile on his face and sometimes a tear in his eye.

Edwin had this to say about his experience: "Those days were very intense and emotional. The champions gave us a lesson of what life and love are made of."

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:

- * SuperValu - Golf Outing raised \$5,271
- * GreasePaint Movie Premiere/Melissa Holt raised \$222.



Volunteers are needed to help with sport venues, awards, meals, and Olympic Town.

If you are interested in volunteering at State Indoor Winter Games, please contact **Stephen Sparks** or you can register **online** starting Oct. 18th.

Volunteer Word Press Programmer Needed

We need someone to help with the more technical side of the Special Olympics Georgia Web site. Please email **Wendy Bigham** if you are interested.

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