



August 2012

**DONATE NOW**

## Register to Help Strike the R-word

Show your support in squashing the R-word (retard) and become a sponsor of Strike the R-word, a bowling fun-raiser! You can also secure your bowling spot for Sept. 20's [Strike the R-word](#) at 300 Atlanta. Enjoy bowling with friends, food, beverages, event T-shirt and opportunity to meet Special Olympics athletes and to win prizes. Costs \$40 to bowl. [Sign up to register](#). If your company would like to be a sponsor, please email [Wendy.Bigham@SpecialOlympicsGA.org](mailto:Wendy.Bigham@SpecialOlympicsGA.org).



## Visit CiCi's and purchase SOGA paper icon

This month, 20 participating [CiCi's Pizza](#) locations across Georgia will raise money for Special Olympics Georgia. Through Monday Aug. 13, participating Georgia CiCi's restaurants will offer "Buy a Smile, Be a Fan" Special Olympics paper logos for \$1. The logos will be displayed in the restaurants and all proceeds from the logo sales will benefit Special Olympics Georgia.

[Click here](#) for more information.



## Have a meal at Chili's for SOGA August 22

Join SOGA in dining at any Chili's in Georgia any time August 22 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.



## Sailing Slots Open for Sept. Lake Lanier Regatta

Put some wind in your sails at the 13th Annual Sailing Regatta Sept. 14-16 at Lake Lanier at Sunrise Cove. The event, supported by Southern Sailing Club, features a Sponsor Boat for race viewing, a skipper reception, prizes and much more.

All you have to do to enter, is raise at least \$250 through sponsorship pledges or personal donations. \*Don't forget, the sailing club that raises the most money wins the annual trophy and bragging rights for



a year!

[Click here](#) for more info. GRAND PRIZE trip is awarded to the skipper who raises the most money. Contact Rebecca Surles at [Rebecca.Surles@SpecialOlympicsGA.org](mailto:Rebecca.Surles@SpecialOlympicsGA.org) for more information.

## Cops Serving You at Joe's August 22

Join your area law enforcement as they serve up seafood at all five Georgia Joe's Crab Shacks Wednesday, August 22. Dine out for our athletes and help support your local officers as they wait on you! All of the cops' tips and 10 percent of you bill goes directly back to SOGA. Thanks to the generosity of Joe's Crab Shack! This is your chance to get to know your local law enforcement and see them serving, dancing and maybe even singing!



[Click here](#) for the flyer you must bring with you!

### Be sure to visit the following locations:

Douglasville: 2868 Chapel Hill Road  
Duluth: 1590 Pleasant Hill Road  
Kennesaw: 2501 Cobb Place Blvd  
Morrow: 1965 Mt. Zion Road  
Lilburn: 4300 Highway 78

## 14th Annual Marlow's Tavern Golf Classic

Join us on October 23rd at Country Club of Roswell for the 14th Annual Marlow's Tavern Golf Classic benefiting SOGA. Since 1999, this annual golf tournament has raised more than \$324,000 for our athletes. This year's goal is to raise \$50,000! The fun-filled day will include a putting contest, shotgun start, hole contests, and an awards ceremony, reception, and silent auction at Aqua blue Restaurant. [Corporate sponsorships and player information.](#) [Registration Form.](#) For more information, contact Susan at [Susan.Skolnick@SpecialOlympicsGA.org](mailto:Susan.Skolnick@SpecialOlympicsGA.org) or 770-414-9390 x111. Thank you Marlow's Tavern and past sponsors for your generous support over the years!



## Secure Your Spot in 17th Annual Busse Tourney

Join us for the 17th Annual Bob Busse Golf Tournament Nov. 7 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. [Click here](#) for more information and to register!

## Make a "Shout" Out to SOGA Every Wednesday

Enjoy dinner out at Shout, located at Peachtree & 14th Street in Atlanta, every Wednesday in August and the restaurant will donate a portion of your bill back to SOGA. We hope to see you on a Wednesday at Shout!



## Athlete Profile: Todd Howard

Valdosta's Todd Howard is on his own personal mission to spread respect and put an end to the R-word. Through fearless persistence, Todd has made a name for himself and the importance of Special Olympics. He has been on TV, the radio and has spoken at numerous civic organizations to spread awareness. As a motivational speaker and Global Messenger, he tells his audiences that words do hurt and that the word "CAN'T" is not in his vocabulary.

Todd continues to prove that one person can make a difference by spreading the message of acceptance and inclusion. He is a role model for his team mates and anyone that meets him.

Todd is 44 years old and has been a part of Special Olympics his entire life. Todd has worked at Valdosta State University as a Groundskeeper for 18 years and lives independently. He competes in a variety of sports including bowling, floor hockey, softball and volleyball. He is currently preparing for the upcoming Masters Bowling Competition in Warner Robbins.



## Silent Auction Items Needed

SOGA has several upcoming silent auctions that are in need of items. If you personally have or know someone who might be willing to donate any of the following, please contact Susan at [Susan.Skolnick@SpecialOlympicsGA.org](mailto:Susan.Skolnick@SpecialOlympicsGA.org) 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.



## Volunteer Opportunities

**State Horse Show  
Perry**

### **August 24 - 26**

Love horses? We got them. Volunteer for this state event that features a lot of horses...and you don't have to have any experience with horses to volunteer.

### **State Master's Bowling Tournament**

**Warner Robins**

### **August 24 - 26**

Don't love horses but love bowling? Well, we have a whole weekend of bowling for you! Volunteers are needed to help assist athletes on bowling lanes and to hand out awards at the Master's Bowling Tournament. And we still need your help even if you don't love bowling.

### **Dunwoody Country Club Charity Dinner and Dance to benefit SOGA**

**August 25**

**Dunwoody**

Volunteers are needed to assist with the night's silent auction (computerized bidding system, overall organization of auction items, check out, etc.). Volunteers will be needed from 6 pm – 10 pm that evening.

### **Sailing Regatta**

**Lake Lanier**

**September 14 - 16**

SOGA partners with the Southern Sailing Club to host this annual fundraiser. Volunteers are needed to help with registration, reception, meals and the race. Volunteers must be 21 or over to volunteer.

### **State Fall Games**

**Dalton**

**October 12 - 14**

The state fall games return to beautiful Dalton for the second year. Come out to volunteer as over 1,500 SOGA athletes compete in bocce, cycling, long distance running/walking, golf and softball.

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).

## **August Volunteer of the Month**

Volunteers are the heart and soul of Special Olympics Georgia. Currently, SOGA serves 24,470 athletes all over the state of Georgia. Five state games are held each year, the largest hosting over 2,000 athletes and over 600 coaches. Needless to say, SOGA could not carry out its mission without our strong volunteer base.

Emily Hamilton is one of those amazing volunteers. Emily has been a part of the State Horse Show each year, helping with barn check-in, organizing Special Hearts Equestrian to compete in Horse Show, and offering to help wherever needed that weekend. Outside of the Horse Show, she is the main trainer for Equestrian Coaches Clinics, helping to train coaches, around the state. This year, Emily stepped up when SOGA most needed her – she became the new Horse Show Games Director, so now she heads up the entire Horse Show weekend. As most reading this newsletter know, being a State Games Director is no small feat because this person is the chief administrator and manager of the games, is responsible for the overall operation and function of





the games, oversees the entire games management team, runs games management team meetings each month, and ensures a successful weekend.

It was a big step but Emily took on all the responsibility of being Games Director with positivity and tenacity and has been a fantastic director. Thank you Emily for your many years with SOGA and for becoming our new Horse Show Games Director!

## Vehicle Donations

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!

## Sponsor Spotlight: Idealease

Special Olympics Georgia would like to thank [Idealease](#) of Atlanta for their decade of service of as a Sponsor for different programs and events. For 10 years, Idealease of Atlanta has donated the use of their trucks for Special Olympics Georgia State competitions and fundraising events during each calendar year. Without this incredible contribution, Special Olympics Georgia would not be able to provide professional events and competitions around the State of Georgia. Special Olympics Georgia is highlighting [Idealease](#) of Atlanta as our Sponsor of the Month for August of 2012!



[Click here](#) for more information about Idealease of Atlanta and their services.

## We Want to Hear from You!

Proud of a recent accomplishment? Have an inspiring story about one of your teammates? We want to hear about it! SOGA is looking for interesting stories to post on the Web site about what you're doing in your community. Please email [Wendy.Bigham@SpecialOlympicsGA.org](mailto:Wendy.Bigham@SpecialOlympicsGA.org) your story.

## Will You Introduce Us to Your Friends?

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.

Special Olympics Georgia | 770.414.9390  
4000 DeKalb Technology Parkway | Suite 400 Building 400 | Atlanta, GA 30340

For General Info, email:  
[Jennifer.Daniell@SpecialOlympicsGA.org](mailto:Jennifer.Daniell@SpecialOlympicsGA.org)

*(C) 2012 Special Olympics Georgia*