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Georgia's Champions

March 2014

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News and Stories

Q100's DJ Adam Bomb Joins Over the Edge

DJ Adam Bomb from Q100's Nights Live will join Stacey Weiss, wife of Q100's Bert of the Bert Show, to go Over the Edge April 26th. In Texas, Bomb has already rappelled as Spiderman to support Special Olympics.



Climbing or rappelling experience is not required to rappel 20 stories from Buckhead Tower. Join Stacey and Adam and register this week, and you will be entered to win 4 tickets to The Lion King at the Fox Theatre this April!

All you need to do is register [here](#) and raise \$1,000 for the athletes. For more information contact [Autumn Unrein](#).

R-word Rallies Across Georgia in March and April

Wednesday, March 5 was the official annual day of awareness of the hurtful and dehumanizing effects of the R-word. The campaign, called Spread the Word to End the Word, engages schools, organizations and



Upcoming Events

GEICO Walk March 15th

For the 31st year, GEICO is organizing and hosting a benefit for Special Olympics Georgia. This year's event is a 1 Mile Walk on Saturday, March 15th at the GEICO facility in Macon. GEICO's goal is to raise \$65,000. All participants will receive a t-shirt. For more information on sponsoring or participating in the walk, please contact [Randy Thompson](#), Walk Director.



Cafe Jonah and the Magical Attic Brunch March 30th

Enjoy Sunday Community Brunch March 30th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Cafe Jonah and the Magical





communities to rally and pledge their support at www.r-word.org to promote the inclusion and acceptance of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Tracey Price, of Ola Middle School in McDonough, organized a poster-making activity throughout the school and asked students and teachers to sign R-word certificates.

Throughout March and in the following months, people everywhere can help spread the word throughout their communities and schools year-round through pledge drives, youth rallies and online activation. Students and teachers should reach out to their Special Olympics Georgia [regional manager](#) for suggestions and materials to use in their rallies.

SOGA is hosting its statewide rally April 9th at the Atlanta Braves vs. New York Mets game. Tickets may be purchased by contacting [Justin Johnson](#) with the Braves. Cost is \$12 per ticket.

Thank You Plungers: Polar Plunge Exceeded Goal

Thanks to law enforcement officers, athletes and supporters, the 2014 Polar Plunge raised \$106,000. This is the most money raised since the event began 5 years ago.



In addition to plunging in the freezing waters Feb. 15th at Lake Lanier Islands Sunset Cove, the day consisted of face painting, corn-hole games, music and basketball pop-a-shot games. Awards were given to plungers with the best costumes and to people who raised the most money for the event.

Thank you to all of the Law Enforcement Torch Run departments around the state for all of the hard work and dedication!

Sponsors were AllConnect, Waffle House, Rooms-to-Go Children's Fund, Awards Atlanta, Arrow Screen Printers, Interdev, Troncalli, Rock 100.5, Power Home Remodeling Group, Dry Branch Photography, LIFESouth and Lake Lanier Islands. Thank you to Kohl's of Gainesville and Cumming locations for your support in the event.

Kroger Community Rewards®

Kroger Community Rewards® makes supporting SOGA super easy...all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card! Sign up with your 12 digit Kroger Plus Card number at <https://customer.kroger.com/communityrewards.aspx>, and in the Community Rewards section, select Special Olympics Georgia (code



Attic.

10% of proceeds go to SOGA. The cafe is located at 3188 Paces Ferry Place NW, Atlanta, GA 30305.

Johns Creek Police Department Golf Tournament April 21st

The Johns Creek Police Department



hosts its 6th

annual golf tournament to benefit Special Olympics Georgia on April 21st at St. Ives Country Club in Johns Creek. [Click here](#) for the registration form. Tournament costs \$125 per person or \$500 for a team of four. Sponsorships are also available from \$250 to \$5,000.

[Click here](#) for more information.

LaGrange Mother's Day Triple Play Powerboat Grand Prix May 9th-11th

The LaGrange Mother's Day Triple Play Powerboat



Grand Prix is three days of powerboat racing, music, food, and activities the entire family can enjoy. This event is the inaugural powerboat race for the 2014 APR Superleague season, and Special Olympics Georgia has been selected as a beneficiary of the event. [Click here](#) for more information on what promises to be an exciting weekend.

Duck Derby August 8th

Time to adopt ducks for the



57973) as the organization you wish to support. Once you're enrolled, you'll earn rewards for SOGA every time you shop and use your Plus Card, and you'll keep earning rewards points for yourself!

Enroll now for the Kroger Community Rewards Program (you must re-enroll each year to continue earning rewards for SOGA). If your Kroger Plus Card is not already registered online, you will need to create an account. If you already have an account, simply sign in, find the Community Rewards section, and select Special Olympics Georgia. Questions or problems, contact **Susan Skolnick** or 770-414-9390 x111.



The Tax Advantages of Planned Giving

During tax season, many people realize that they would like to have additional tax deductions in the future. We can help with that! Here are some ideas on how you can both give to Special Olympics and save on taxes.



Gifts Of Cash: If you itemize, you can lower your income taxes simply by writing Special Olympics a check. Outright gifts of cash are fully tax deductible.

Gifts Of Stock: If you own stock, it can be even more tax-wise to contribute stock than cash. A gift of appreciated stock generally offers a two kinds of tax savings. First, you avoid paying capital gains tax on the increase in value of the stock. Second, you receive an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock at the time of the gift.

Life Income Gifts: If you own stock that is paying low dividends, a "life-income" gift or charitable gift annuity (CGA) may be an appropriate gift. You can transfer the stock to Special Olympics and establish a CGA that will provide you with a fixed payment. This income would be paid to you and/or a loved one for life, after which the assets would be distributed to us. Through such an arrangement, you can increase your income and make a meaningful (and tax-deductible) contribution to Special Olympics at the same time.

We can provide you with additional information on any of these topics. Then, you can discuss the information with your attorney, accountant, or other tax advisor to learn how these options apply to your personal situation. For more information, please call toll-free at (866) 690-3951 or email plannedgiving@specialolympics.org.

Athlete of the Month: Louis Maxwell

SOGA is proud to name Louis



Duck Derby! On August 8th, 10,000 ducks will race at Six Flags White Water. You can adopt a single duck for \$5, or increase your chances by buying a quack pack of 7 ducks for \$30! If your duck crosses the finish line first, you could win any of these amazing prizes: iPhone 5c 16 GB, .55 Carat Diamond Stud Earrings on 14K White Gold, Six Flags White Water Family Ticket Package, Surface RT Tablet 32 GB, \$300 Publix Gift Card, or a \$150 QuikTrip Gift Card! Visit www.AtlantaDuckDerby.com to adopt your ducks today!



Thank you to our sponsors **Kids 'R' Kids Learning Academies, Rooms To Go Children's Fund,** Allconnect, Whitaker Oil Company, Dobbins Thrift Shoppe, Highwoods Properties, Craig Automotive, Dale Massey-State Farm Insurance, and North Georgia Replacement Windows. Also thank you to Six Flags White Water.

Clay Shoot September 25th

Secure your spot now for the Sporting Clay Charity



Tournament, called the 2014 Shoot for Champions, Thursday, Sept. 25 at Foxhall Resort and Sporting Club in Douglasville. The event benefits the athletes of Special Olympics Georgia. Costs \$425 per person and includes breakfast, lunch, shells, snacks, beverages, and awards. **Click here** for the flyer. For more information, contact

Maxwell, of the Kay Center in Fort Valley, as March's Athlete of the Month.

He recently lifted a new record of 710 pounds in the deadlift at USA Powerlifting Power Partners in Tennessee.



Even at the young age of 24, Louis has competed in Special Olympics for 12 years in 79 events in various sports. However, powerlifting is the sport in which he is most recognized. At January's Southeast Powerlifting Competition, Louis won the gold in all 3 of his events: benchpress, squat, and deadlift.

Outside of competitions, Louis is a SOGA global messenger and has spoken to community groups about how Special Olympics has shaped his life. Louis is a hard worker and a serious competitor. Through the Kay Center, Louis works with their landscaping service and he is part of the local Aktion Club.

Congratulations Louis on being named the March Athlete of the Month!

Volunteer of the Month: John Clouse

John Clouse wasn't able to see his younger brother, who was a Special Olympics athlete, compete at 1991's State Summer Games. When he died soon after, John decided to volunteer with Special Olympics Georgia.

He loads equipment and anything else that is very heavy in hopes of helping make the games a success. John also has an older brother who is still living and also competed.



He shows up ready to work and always stays late until the work is done. In addition to volunteering at every State Summer and Winter Games, he also helped out at the 1999 World Games in Raleigh, NC while he was there for work.

When asked what his favorite thing is about Special Olympics, he said: "The athletes. They bring a smile to my face and they inspire me to work hard to do my best in everything I do."

Congratulations John on being named the March Volunteer of the Month!

Sponsor of the Month:
Platinum Partner of Special Olympics Georgia
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Georgia Milton-Sheats.

Volunteer Opportunities



Over the Edge

April 26th

Atlanta

Brave "soles" will climb over the edge of one of Atlanta's tallest buildings in the name of SOGA. Volunteers are needed to help with the day's activities -- and we promise not to send you "Over the Edge!" All volunteers must be 18 or older.

State Summer Games

May 30th-June 1st

Atlanta

We need Fans in the Stands volunteers and others to help run events for Summer Games. Come cheer them on! [Click here to apply to volunteer.](#)

If you are interested in the volunteering opportunities above, please contact [Stephen Sparks.](#)

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[GEICO](#) is the fastest growing private passenger auto insurance in the United States, handling auto insurance coverage for over 12 million private passenger auto policies and insuring more than 20 million vehicles. GEICO also provides insurance for motorcycles, ATVs, boats, RVs, and homes.

For 31 years, GEICO has been a tremendous friend and supporter of Special Olympics Georgia. GEICO's largest regional office in the country is in Macon. That means more than 5,400 local Georgians share the company's admiration for Special Olympics.



Every March, GEICO hosts a Road Race and/or Walk to benefit Special Olympics Georgia. Over the years, the events have raised more than \$700,000.

"It's a pleasure for us to say that 100% of the funds collected from entry fees and sponsors go directly to Special Olympics Georgia," says Randy Thompson, GEICO's liability claims director. "The event has no administrative fees because it's run entirely by [GEICO](#) volunteers from beginning to end."

"At GEICO, we consider it an honor and a privilege to stand beside and work on behalf of the Special Olympics Organization and the thousands of brave athletes whose efforts inspire us all," says Rhett Rayburn, GEICO Regional Vice President.

Scott Markel, GEICO Regional Vice President, adds that "it is rare in life that you get back more in return than what you put in, but for all of us who participate, we come away better for the effort and proud to be partners in such a great cause."

Special Olympics Georgia values our long standing partnership [GEICO](#) and relies on its generosity in helping us fulfill our mission and continue to grow -- thank you GEICO!

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. Car Program will make all the arrangements at no cost to you. They handle the title transfer requirements and will provide you with a tax deductible donation receipt when they pick-up your car. Need more information? **[Click here](#)** to donate your vehicle and a helpful representative will call



you shortly, or you may call our car donation program at 1-800-240-0160.

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:

* Books-A-Million - Give Back Days raised \$1,215



4000 Dekalb Technology Pkwy | Suite 400 Bldg. 400 | Atlanta, GA | 30340 |(770) 414-9390 | www.SpecialOlympicsGA.org
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