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Georgia's Champions

April 2014

Be a Fan. Bring Out the Champion in Everyone.

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News and Stories

We're Ready for the Duck Derby. Are You?

Hello, Special Olympics supporters and yellow duck lovers! We are busy in the office with lots of athletes' help packing **QUACK PACKS** of yellow ducks. They are ready for you to take them home.



SOGA needs to help 10,000 rubber ducks get adopted for the annual Duck Derby at White Water Friday, August 8th so we hope you'll **adopt** yours. Plus, there are **great prizes** to be won by you!

Thank you to our sponsors **Kids 'R' Kids Learning Academies**, **Rooms To Go Children's Fund**, Allconnect, LAZ Parking, Whitaker Oil Company, Risk Placement Services, Precision Aviation Group, 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, our media partner 94.9 The Bull and Property Masters.

Adopt a duck and learn what it'll mean to the athletes. Thanks for supporting the 26,702 athletes we proudly serve.

Athlete of the Month: Christopher Dunson

You could easily find Christopher "Buck" Dunson



Upcoming Events

Willy's Give Back Day April 8th

Please join us
Tuesday, April 8th
at Willy's



Mexicana Grill, located at 2280 Peachtree Road in Atlanta, for a fundraiser to benefit Special Olympics Georgia. **Print this flyer** and give it to your cashier and 20% of your bill will be donated to Special Olympics Georgia!

Zoes Give Back Day April 15th

Come to the Zoes
located in the
Peachtree Battle
Shopping Center
April 15th and give



back to SOGA! Drop your receipt in the bucket by the cashier and tell them you are there to eat for SOGA.

Over the Edge

leading his Heard County teammates in stretches before competitions. He motivates his team and encourages others, says the county's local coordinator Cynthia Spearman.



"Everybody knows Buck. If you don't, you are missing a treat," Cynthia said. "He is an enthusiastic athlete who is well known at Heard High School."

Buck was recently named Loco Rio's Player of the Week in the *Herald Citizen*.

At Winter Games, Buck won first place in his division at the basketball skills competition scoring 14 points in perimeter shooting, 21 points in rebounding, and 26 points in the dribbling obstacle course; which totaled 61 points. We look forward to seeing you play again, Buck! Congratulations to Buck for being April's Athlete of the Month.

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!



Volunteer of the Month: Cindy Dingler

Coweta County coaches and coordinators say Cindy Dingler has been a superhero this year. She has stayed on her 20-year course as Coweta County Board member and bookkeeper and all-around great volunteer.



"I call her my 'Super Woman' because she always wants what is best for the children. And, she wants things to be done the right way," says Renea Walton. "She is a fighter and has much love for Special Olympics. The compassion Cindy gives to each athlete as she encourages them to do his or her best is heartfelt and real."

Cindy has made sure her local program stays accredited and that all financial data is updated and available when needed for audits, grant information, and board meetings.

"Cindy is a dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer, whether she is

April 26th

Over the Edge 2014 is almost sold out!

Only a few spots are left for those looking to experience a once in a lifetime

opportunity. On April 26th, over 90 people will rappel off of Buckhead Tower to support Special Olympics Georgia. Over the Edge is in need of athletes to help out at the event. Those interested should contact **Autumn Unrein**. Thank you to our sponsors: AutoTrader.com, Fulcrum Equity Partners, Morgan Stanley, and State Bank and Trust Company.



Which Wich April 28th, May 12th, May 19th

Which Wich Superior Sandwiches will



hold Fundraising Days for SOGA on Monday, April 28th, May 12th, and May 19th at the following locations: Brookhaven @ Town Brookhaven, Canton @ Canton Marketplace, Cumming @ The Collection at Forsyth, Duluth @ Sugarloaf Day Centre, Emory @ Emory Point, Norcross @ The Forum, and Snellville @ The Shoppes at Webb Gin. Which Wich will donate 10% of all sales before tax to support the State Summer Games. To find the address of the location nearest to you, or to start planning what you'll have for lunch or dinner, visit www.whichwich.com. For more information, contact **Susan Skolnick** or 770-414-9390 x111.

Moe's Give Back Day May 2nd

preparing an athlete for competition, working at a Special Olympics event, serving on the local board, or fulfilling her duties as treasurer," says Coweta Local Coordinator Kelly Abercrombie. Congratulations to April's Volunteer of the Month, Cindy Dingler!

Make \$\$\$ for SOGA Searching the Web

Yahoo has teamed up with **GoodSearch** to donate a penny to SOGA every time you search the web. This is totally free, as the money comes from advertisers. Make **GoodSearch** your home page by going to "tools" in your browser and then clicking on "internet options." Type **www.goodsearch.com** in the space for home page. The first time you visit the site, click on "get started" and then type "Special Olympics Georgia" in the box for who you want to support.



Sponsor of the Month: Knights of Columbus Georgia State Council

The Knights of Columbus throughout Georgia have been incredible supporters of the Special Olympics Georgia organization. Athletes love to see Knights present the colors for SOGA at Opening Ceremony at all five State Games.



Knights of Columbus members believe in the athletes and know that they train to do their personal best at each and every competition. Every year, the Knights invite an athlete to speak at their annual conference so more members can hear an athlete's story firsthand. The Knights of Columbus Council is also supportive of Camp Inspire and are fans of all athletes in the program.

We value our partnership and thank all clubs around Georgia.

Share the Good News

Many of our most loyal supporters have already taken the step of including Special Olympics in their estate plans but haven't had the opportunity to tell us. If that's you-we would love to know! When you make an estate gift to support Special Olympics, you ensure a future filled with acceptance, dignity and empowerment to all people with intellectual disabilities. And we want to acknowledge and celebrate your meaningful commitment.



Everyone who includes Special Olympics in their estate plans automatically becomes a member of The Champion's Society, a group of dedicated individuals who have made a future commitment to support athletes with intellectual disabilities. The size of your gift is up to you and will be kept confidential by Special Olympics. There are no fees or

Moe's Southwest Grill will host a Give Back Day for SOGA May 2nd at its original location



at 2915 Peachtree Rd NE in Atlanta. Come out to eat some great food while also giving back to a great organization. Mention to your cashier you are there for Special Olympics Georgia and drop your receipt into the "spirit bucket." 20% will go back to SOGA!

Maki Fresh Give Back Day May 14th

Come to Maki Fresh on



May 14 in the Peachtree Battle Shopping Center and 20% of the day's sales will be donated back to Special Olympics Georgia. Enjoy some great sushi or hibachi.

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 **Georgia Milton-Sheats**.

Bob Busse Golf Tournament November 3rd

Special Olympics



minimum gift amounts. So again, share the good news! If you have already included Special Olympics in your plans or would like more information about how to do so, please contact us toll-free at (866) 690-3951 or email us at plannedgiving@specialolympics.org. We would love to welcome you into The Champion's Society or send you additional information.

Competition Corner

The Albany Recreation & Parks Special Olympics volleyball team traveled to Andrew College in Cuthbert to train with the Andrew Fighting Tigers volleyball team on March 22. Under the guidance of Andrew's coach Donna Rountree, the practice, drills and scrimmages were in true Unified Sports form. Special Olympics athletes trained and competed alongside students without intellectual disabilities. The great day wrapped up with the athletes being invited to lunch by the team in Andrew's dining hall.



Help by Recycling Phones

Looking for an easy way to give back to support SOGA? Take on our Phone Bones project and recycle old cell phones to fundraise and help the environment. Other items we recycle are empty toner/printer cartridges, laptops, and iPods.

We can even help you set up a collection at your business by sending a box and paying for shipping if you'll do the collecting! If you'd like to help, contact [Whitney Warren](#).



Tell Us Your Story

We want to tell your stories! Email [Wendy Bigham](#) with a story about a Special Olympics event or person who has inspired you! You can also [submit](#) your story online.



Georgia once again proudly hosts the **Bob Busse Golf Tournament** at a prestigious golf club Nov. 3rd in Sandy Springs. This event promises to be a great way to spend your day. Each year, this tournament grows and becomes better than the last. Expect a great golf game, prizes, a silent auction and wonderful reception. Email [Riley Cerone](#) for more information.



Volunteer Opportunities



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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