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Special Olympics Georgia

Georgia's Champions

June 2014

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News and Stories

Team Georgia to Depart for USA Games

Team Georgia will leave Saturday, June 14th for New Jersey to compete in the 2014 Special Olympics USA Games. 26 delegates (14 athletes, 5 Unified Partners, 6 coaches, and 1 Head of Delegation) will represent Georgia in Athletics, Bocce, Bowling, Cycling, and Tennis. Team Georgia will return Saturday, June 21st after a week of competition. Follow Team Georgia's progress on the Special Olympics Georgia Facebook page or on Twitter: @2014TeamGeorgia or @SOGAchampions.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2014 USA GAMES NEW JERSEY

Thank you MetLife, Special Olympics Georgia Staff, and Clipped Wings for sponsoring Team Georgia and helping to make it possible for our delegation to experience their Special Olympics dreams at the USA Games.

Largest State Games Also Marked a Turning Point for Carrollton Soccer Athlete

Goalie Ryan Young and his Carrollton soccer team "Chaos" came home with a silver at State Summer Games last weekend. Claiming that he missed one game-changing kicked ball into the goal, Ryan vows over the next two years to work especially on one-on-one competition at the goal. He'll be going on hiatus from competition as he joins Kennesaw State University's Academy for Inclusive Learning starting August 18th.

The Games at Emory University hosted athletes from across Georgia who competed in nine sports May 29-June 1.

Upcoming Events

Cops on Doughnut Shops June 27th-29th

Officers will soon take to the roofs of Krispy Kremes for our annual **Cops on Doughnut Shops**. Visit your local Krispy Kreme June 27th-29th to support your Georgia Law Enforcement Torch Run Officers and Special Olympics Georgia! Participating stores are in Atlanta on Ponce de Leon, Buford, Doraville, Duluth, Lilburn, Marietta, Riverdale, Roswell, Stockbridge and Columbus. Albany's store will host CODS June 13th-15th.

Duck Derby August 8th

Time to adopt ducks for the **Duck Derby!** On August 8th, 10,000 rubber ducks will race at Six Flags White Water. You can

The 2014 State Summer Games definitely wouldn't have been possible without the support of the Summer Games Sponsors. A huge thank you to the following sponsors for making the Games memorable for the athletes: Aetna (Presenting Sponsor), AutoTrader.com, SuperValu, ADP, ALTA Foundation, UPS, The Coca-Cola Company, Cox Enterprises, Winter Construction, American Honda Motor Company, Jones Day, LAZ Parking, Magnolia Advanced Materials, ING, Macy's, Allied World Assurance Company, Booz Allen Hamilton, Kaiser Permanente Foundation, The Men's Wearhouse, Aon, Which Wich, Enterprise, Whole Foods, Sports Radio 92-9 The Game, and Emory University!

Charitable Gift Annuities -- Give and Receive

Do you have certificates of deposit (CDs) that have a return of less than 4%? Are you comfortable with your retirement income now, but nervous about your income in the future? Do you have a parent or sibling whom you would like to support with a reliable stream of income? If you are age 65 or older and answered yes to any of these questions, then a charitable gift annuity may be a good option for you.

A charitable gift annuity is a way to give a gift of support to Special Olympics and still receive an income for yourself or others. In return for a minimum gift of $10,000, Special Olympics agrees to pay a fixed sum of money for a lifetime. You can establish an immediate payout that begins now or defer your payments for a number of years. But most importantly, with a charitable gift annuity, you provide for your future and also leave a legacy of acceptance, tolerance and inclusion for Special Olympics athletes. Contact us at (866) 690-3951 or **plannedgiving@specialolympics.org** if you would like to learn more about your options or see a personalized illustration.

Athlete of the Month: Karen Busby

Karen Busby is June's athlete of the month.

She began participating in Special Olympics in 2009 and recently joined one of SOGA's newer agencies: Gwinnett Special Forces. Karen, 62, has participated in bocce (unified and traditional teams) bowling, and basketball team skills.

Last weekend, she participated in the 100 meter race walk and shot put at State Summer Games. Throughout her career, Karen has won many medals and honors with Gwinnett Masters and Gwinnett Special Forces. And she improves every year.

adopt a single duck for $5, or increase your chances by buying a quack pack of 7 ducks for $30! If your duck is one of the first six to cross the finish line, you will win one 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, LAZ Parking, Whitaker Oil Company, Risk Placement Services, Precision Aviation Group, Dobbins Thrift Shoppe, Highwoods Properties, Sherwin-Williams, Craig Automotive, Dale Massey-State Farm Insurance, and North Georgia Replacement Windows. Also thank you to Six Flags White Water and our media partner 94.9 The Bull.

TitletownTasting August 9th

Enjoy live music, food and a silent auction at Titletown Tasting August 9th at the Cotton Corner in Valdosta. For tickets or information about being a sponsor or donating a silent auction item, contact **Stephen Sparks** at 229-292-6955.

Strike the R-word September 16th

Strike the R-word and bowl with former Atlanta Falcon and Georgia Bulldog Dj Shockley and other celebrity supporters

During the past two years alone, she has won 1 gold medal, 7 silver medals, and 1 bronze medal. In fact, for the past two years, she has gotten a better bocce score than her Special Olympics coach who sometimes competes with her, earning her bragging rights throughout the fall bocce season.

Karen is very active with her church and family; lives with her daughter and son-in-law (June and Dwayne) and 3 granddaughters; and enjoys gardening, walking, and retro TV shows.

We are very proud of her accomplishments, and it is a great pleasure to honor her as athlete of the month.

Volunteer of the Month: Kevin Enright

Kevin Enright, of Augusta, is the true definition of a dedicated volunteer.

Over the last 19 years, Kevin has been the local coordinator for the Augusta Stars Special Olympics agency; a certified head coach in many sports; a Unified Partner; sports clinician; Camp Inspire volunteer; games evaluation team member; bocce rules official; and most importantly, a parent of a Special Olympics athlete.

In 2003, Kevin traveled with Team USA to Ireland for World Games, serving as the Southeast Bocce Coach. Kevin has taken his agency to numerous Atlanta Braves and Atlanta Falcons games. In the process, he met several professional players; including former Atlanta Brave outfielder B.J. Surhoff, who played catch with his athletes.

Through it all, Kevin has said he wouldn't change anything because he gets to see every day how the athletes' abilities change the general public's perception of intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics Georgia is truly honored to name Kevin Enright as the Volunteer of the Month!

P&G Promotion

Help support Special Olympics with this year's P&GbrandSAVER® and **Thank you, Mom promotion**!
This promotion is based on coupon redemption: Special Olympics will receive 2 cents for every coupon redeemed at checkout. There is no limit to the donation from P&G, so the more coupons redeemed, the higher the gift to Special Olympics.

The coupons expire and the promotion ends June 30th.

September 16th at Bowlmor Atlanta. Enjoy bowling, food, silent auction, and goodie bags, while striking the r-word "retarded," which demeans and hurts people. For more information, contact **Wendy Bigham**.

GLOW for Gold September 20th

Help us encourage SOGA Athletes to Go for Gold at the first **GLOW for Gold 5K/FunRun** in Valdosta at the Freedom Park Softball Complex on September 20th. For more information on how to participate or sponsor, contact **Whitney Warren** at 229-712-9973.

16th Annual Marlow's Tavern Golf Classic September 22nd

Join us on September 22nd at the Country Club of Roswell for the 16th Annual Marlow's Tavern Golf Classic benefiting SOGA. Since 1999, this annual golf tournament has raised more than $431,000 for our athletes. This year's tournament goal is to raise $58,000! 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 Skolnick** or 770-414-9390 x111. Thank you Marlow's Tavern and past

Wrap-up of LETR's Summer Games Run

Thank you to all the Law Enforcement Torch Run officers who ran the torch, also called the "Flame of Hope," across the state for the past three weeks. Officers ran over 1,000 miles. They carried the "Flame of Hope" into the Opening Ceremony of State Summer Games at Emory University. Thank you to the LETR agencies for everything that you do for the Special Olympics Georgia athletes!

SOGA Now Accepting World Games Nominations

Nominate an athlete to participate in the World Games to be held in Los Angeles July 22nd-August 2nd, 2015. The sports are aquatics, equestrian, artistic gymnastics, kayaking and sailing team unified. Nominations are due June 27th.

Athletes are eligible if they have participated and received medals in 2014 State Summer Games Aquatics, 2013 State Horse Show, 2014 State Winter Games Artistic Gymnastics, 2013 State Kayaking / Sailing. Athletes that have NEVER been to World Games will be considered before those that have. **Learn more** about the nomination process. Selected athletes will be notified by July 15th, 2014.

Sponsor of the Month: UPS

UPS continues to come out in full volunteer force for the Special Olympics Georgia State Summer Games every May held at the beautiful Emory University Campus. Hundreds of **UPS** employees and their families join us at the State Summer Games to cheer on the athletes; volunteer at the meals venue; assisting athletes with their trays; preparing meals; cleaning up the cafeteria; and greeting the delegates and wishing them well in their competitions. It's great to witness the friendships that have been built over the years between the athletes and the UPS employees and to recognize how much each of them look forward to the weekend!

UPS has supported SOGA since the early 1990's, and we appreciate their ongoing dedication to the SOGA mission. **UPS** hosted a lunch for law enforcement officers from across the state earlier this year at their offices and thanked them for supporting SOGA year round. THANKS UPS for believing in the athletes and being their greatest fans!

Try Out the NBA2K14 Samsung Galaxy S5 Challenge

and current sponsors for your generous support over the years!

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 Memorial Classic November 3rd

Special Olympics Georgia once again proudly hosts the **Bob Busse Memorial Classic** in honor of Bob, who passed away last month. The tournament will be held at a prestigious golf club in Sandy Springs Nov. 3rd. 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 Masters Bowling

Do you play **NBA2K14** Samsung Galaxy S5 Challenge or heard of it yet? Check it out because you can help Special Olympics Georgia and the Law Enforcement Torch Run just by playing NBA2K14! Starting now, you can enter the Samsung Galaxy S5 Challenge! You could have the chance to win an all-expense paid trip for two to Los Angeles and compete for the $5,000 grand prize! **Register** now.

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:
* Midvale Elementary School - Hat Day raised $146
* Kayak Trader.com - Kayak Challenge raised $350

Silent Auction Items Needed

SOGA has several upcoming silent auctions that are in need of items. If you personally have or know someone/a business who might be willing to donate any of the following, please contact **Susan Skolnick** 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.

AmazonSmile

Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Special Olympics Georgia every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that

Tournament
August 22nd-24th
Warner Robins
Love bowling? We have a whole weekend of bowling for you and we need your help! Volunteers are needed to assist athletes on bowling lanes and hand out awards afterwards.

Strike the R-word Bowling Event
September 16th
Atlanta
Special Olympics has a worldwide campaign to eliminate the word "retard(ed)" and educate people on the effects of the hurtful word. Volunteers are needed day of to help with this event.

If you are interested in the volunteering opportunities above, please contact Stephen Sparks.

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Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price back to SOGA.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, select Special Olympics Georgia to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Then every eligible purchase you make on **AmazonSmile** will result in a donation.

Competition Corner

Equestrian Invitational

26 athletes participated in an Equestrian Invitational May 3rd at Lost Creek Equine Center in Sylvania. Events included Showmanship, English Equitation, Western Horsemanship, and Trails.
More than 50 volunteers assisted with the day's competition.

Two SOGA Teams Excel in USA Volleyball Invitational

Henry County Big Dogs and the Kay Center Tigers played in the USA Volleyball Championship in Phoenix, Arizona during the weekend of May 24. Henry County Big Dogs got first place in their division and Kay Center Tigers got fourth in their division. (Pictured to the right is the Kay Center Tigers.)

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