



## **Georgia's Champions**

January 2018's Triumphs On and Off the Field

[Visit our website](#)

[Support our athletes](#)

## **Athletes Around Georgia**

### **Special Olympics Georgia Hall County Athlete Brings Infectious Smiles and Remarkable Attitude to Winter Games**

Described by everyone he meets as "remarkable," 21 year old Will Crain has been competing as an athlete with Special Olympics Georgia for over 10 years. Throughout his time as an athlete, the Hall County native has competed in alpine skiing, bowling, kayaking, soccer, bocce, and one of his favorite sports, basketball. In fact, Will will be competing at the 2018 SOGA State Indoor Winter Games in basketball with his teammates from Special Olympics Georgia Hall County Parks and Recreation.



Starting his career as a Special Olympics Georgia athlete in 2006, Will not only overcame obstacles of confidence, but also obstacles in health. That same year, he had a liver transplant, only slowing him down for a brief period of time.

At this year's Winter Games, you will be able to easily spot Will. He will be the Special Olympics Georgia Hall County Parks and Recreation basketball player with an infectious personality, a strong attitude of determination, and a smile as big as his heart.

The 2018 State Indoor Winter Games will take place in Cobb and Bartow Counties January 12-14. Over 2,800 athletes, coaches and Unified Partners will compete in basketball, bowling, floor hockey, artistic gymnastics and powerlifting. The games are free and open to the public. For more information on the 2018 State Indoor Winter Games, [click here](#).

### **Our Athlete of the Month: Chris Logas**

**Chris Logas** is a senior with Houston County Schools in Warner Robins. He is a great athlete who is always willing to help others.

With an infectious big smile and positive attitude, his strong teamwork and work ethic show both inside and outside of the classroom. These qualities make him a great example for other athletes.

Chris' hard work also shows in his competitions. An athlete that never misses a practice and leaves it all on the field, he is a great competitor. He will be competing in powerlifting at the State Indoor Winter Games on January 12-14, 2018 in Cobb and Bartow Counties.

Congratulations Chris on being this month's Athlete of the Month!



## Competition Corner

More than 500 Special Olympics competitions take place annually throughout Georgia. Here is a special highlight from December:

- **Special Olympics Georgia Hall County** hosted the Area 2 Bowling Tournament December 5-7. Over 200 athletes attended the tournament each day.

---

# The SOGA Community

## Our Volunteer of the Month: Brenda Arnett

**Brenda Arnett** of Special Olympics Georgia Houston County has had the love and motivation to work with Special Olympics Georgia and the organization's athletes for many years. As a local committee member, she organizes the local games, emcees the events, and enjoys the spirited competition. Always smiling and willing to assist the athletes, she interacts with them as they compete at local competitions and ensures that everyone has a great time.



Brenda works equally as hard at the State Games. She has bowled at the State Masters Bowling as a Unified Partner for over 10 years. Because of Brenda's encouragement, her agency's attendance has tripled since 2014! Special Olympics Georgia Houston County will also participate at the State Indoor Winter Games on January 12-14, 2018, consisting of approximately 215 athletes, partners and coaches; the largest group attending the games.

Brenda truly has a heart for our special athletes, pushing them to be the best they can possibly be. In Brenda's eyes, they are all winners, and she makes sure each athlete believes that as well.

Congratulations Brenda on being this month's Volunteer of the Month!

## Our Sponsor of the Month: Law Enforcement Torch Run

Each year, law enforcement officers from across the state raise money for Special Olympics Georgia by conducting the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR). Since 1987, LETR has grown consistently every year.

The men and women who volunteer for LETR not only serve and protect us on a daily basis, but they serve and protect the human spirit by helping Special Olympics Georgia athletes' dreams come true! Not only do LETR volunteers guard the 'Flame of Hope' for Special Olympics Georgia, but law enforcement officers in communities across Georgia increase public awareness and understanding of Special Olympics' mission.



On top of this, in 2017, LETR set a new record and raised over \$1,238,000 for Special Olympics Georgia! Every year, the Law Enforcement Torch Run volunteers exceed expectations through their dedication and support of our partnership. Through the combined efforts of hundreds of law enforcement volunteers throughout the state, LETR has contributed over \$7 million to Special Olympics athletes in Georgia since its inception. Funds raised through the Law Enforcement Torch Run help offset the expenses of State Games so that they are free to all Special Olympics Georgia athletes!

Special Olympics Georgia appreciates the dedication and partnership with the Law Enforcement Torch Run! Thank you to the law enforcement men and women who volunteer their time to make this program bigger and better every year.

## Buy Your Torch Icon at Publix Today!

Publix Super Markets and Special Olympics have teamed up once again for Torch Icon Register Sales in the month of January. January 4 - 20, visit your local Publix store and ask for a Torch



Icon at the check out register to make a small donation to Special Olympics Georgia. Each donor will receive a coupon page for P&G brand products across the store. Donations received will allow Special Olympics Georgia to continue to provide free sports training and competition for 27,115 athletes across Georgia.

Thank you to Publix for their continued support of Special Olympics and Publix shoppers for your contributions. Because of you, we are able to continue to help bring out the champion in everyone!

## Procter & Gamble Military Commissary Promotion

Procter & Gamble, now in its thirty-eighth year of partnership with Special Olympics, is holding a month-long promotion for Special Olympics at military commissaries. The promotion will run January 1-29, and Procter & Gamble will be donating \$75,000 to Special Olympics.



## Help Athletes While You Work

Did you know that during your work hours, you can still help out Special

Olympics Georgia? Through workplace giving campaigns, you can help athletes like CJ (pictured) and so many others. Here are a few ways you can make an impact through your workplace giving program:



**Matching Gifts.** Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match any charitable contributions or volunteer hours made by their employees, and some companies even match gifts made by retirees and/or spouses. 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 double or triple your financial support of the athletes with no additional cost to you!

**Community Health Charities.** SOGA is a member of Community Health Charities, the largest workplace giving collaborative with a focus on health issues. If Community Health Charities is a part of your workplace giving program, you can direct donations to SOGA.

**Combined Federal Campaign.** Employees in the federal, civilian, postal or military workforce can designate SOGA for pledge contributions during the campaign season. Our designated code is 91290.

## We Have Moved to Our New Home!

To better serve YOU - our athletes, families, volunteers and friends - we have built and moved into a one-of-a-kind training facility and administrative space called Training for Life: Sports Lab & Center. This state-of-the-art new home includes a gymnasium and training space for athletes, gathering space for communities, and administrative support for our staff and volunteers to better serve more than 27,100 athletes!



The address of Training for Life: Sports & Lab Center is **6046 Financial Drive, Norcross, GA 30071**. Please update your records, and we look forward to you visiting us in our new home soon!

## Fundraising Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are needed to help identify and/or approach potential corporate sponsors and individual donors for State Games and fundraising events. This is an extremely important component to the success of these events. By generating new ideas and discovering new opportunities that can help us meet or exceed our revenue goals, you will make a vital contribution to SOGA. For more information, contact Susan Skolnick at (770) 414-9390 ext. 1111.



## Volunteer Opportunities

Interested in joining the SOGA community? Click below to see all the great ways you can give your time to SOGA events, competitions and athletes, or contact Liz Smith or Paul McNeil:

- **State Indoor Winter Games** - From January 12 - 14, 2018, athletes from across the state will gather in Cobb County to compete in artistic gymnastics, basketball, bowling, floor hockey and

powerlifting. Volunteers are needed to help at these competitions and be a fan! [To apply to volunteer, please click here.](#)

- **Polar Plunge** - On February 24, 2018, help brave supporters as they plunge into the icy waters of Lake Acworth to raise money and awareness for SOGA athletes. To apply to volunteer, please contact [Liz Smith](#) or [Paul McNeil](#).
- **Special Olympics Colleges** - College students and higher education professionals are invited to join a movement to bring awareness and volunteerism for SOGA to college campuses across Georgia. [To apply or learn more about SO Colleges, please click here.](#)
- **Coaching Opportunities** - Whether you are looking to become a coach with SOGA or just get re-certified, SOGA has opportunities for you. [Click here to find out about what you need to be a coach or to learn about the certification process.](#) Coaches are required to be re-certified in any sport every three years. For more information, contact [Kelli Britt](#) at (770) 414-9390 ext. 1122. To be re-certified in a specific area, click one or more of the following links:
  - [Unified Sports](#)
  - [Volunteer & Unified Partner Profile Form](#)
  - [Special Olympics Athletes](#)
  - [Principles of Coaching](#)
  - [Coaches Code of Conduct](#)
  - [Concussion in Sports](#)
  - [Coach's Concussion Training](#)
  - [Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)
  - [Protective Behaviors Quiz](#)
  - [Background Screenings](#)
  - [Click here to learn more about our required protective behaviors training.](#)
  - [Click here to learn about SOGA's volunteer screening policy.](#)

---

## SOGA Events



**Polar Plunge**  
February 24, 2018

Do you have what it takes to make the plunge and be freezin' for a reason? On February 24th, 2018 brave Plungers will have the opportunity to jump into icy waters in the middle of winter to show their support for Special Olympics Georgia Athletes! Acworth Beach will once again be the backdrop for a day of chilly fun including live music, food and prizes. Participants (teams and individuals) who collect pledges from friends and



family totaling at least \$50 secure their plunging spot!

[Click here](#) for more information about Polar Plunge or contact [Sara Bruno](#) at (770) 414-9390 ext. 1105.

We would like to thank our Presenting Sponsor, The Coca-Cola Company.

We would also like to thank our Arctic Sponsors for their support: Northside Hospital and Resurgens Charitable Foundation.

## SOGA Promotions

There are currently several great ways to earn free money for SOGA athletes. If you have questions on any of these promotions, please contact [Susan Skolnick](#) at (770) 414-9390 ext. 1111.



Did you know that every time you shop at Amazon you can support SOGA athletes? Thanks to the [AmazonSmile](#) program, 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases will be donated to SOGA. Instead of going to Amazon's main home page, go to [AmazonSmile](#). AmazonSmile is the same Amazon that you know - same products, same prices, same service. If you click the link above, Special Olympics Georgia automatically will be selected as your charity. If it isn't, select it from the list. Now, every time you make a purchase from Amazon through [smile.amazon.com](#) you'll be supporting SOGA athletes!



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 [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](#) and in the Community Rewards section, select Special Olympics Georgia (code 57973) as the organization you wish to support. Once you're enrolled, you'll earn rewards for SOGA every time you shop with your Plus Card, while earning rewards/fuel points for yourself. **Enroll now for the Kroger Community Rewards Program.** If your Kroger Plus Card is not registered, you will need to create an account and register.



[DialAmerica](#) will donate 10% of your paid magazine subscription to SOGA. To subscribe to a magazine, call (877) 872-2362 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. or [click here](#).



Thinking of selling or trading in that old car,

boat or RV? Donate it instead! SOGA has partnered with CARS to turn your old vehicle, whether it's running or not, into much needed funds for our programs. CARS accepts most cars, trucks, trailers, boats, RV's, motorcycles, off road vehicles, heaving equipment, and most other motorized vehicles. CARS will make all the arrangements at no cost to you. They handle the title transfer requirements and will provide you with a written acknowledgement of your donation and tax deduction information. [Click here for more information or to donate your vehicle.](#) A helpful representative will contact you within 24 hours to schedule a pickup, or call CARS seven days a week at 1-844-404-SOGA (7642) to speak with a representative.

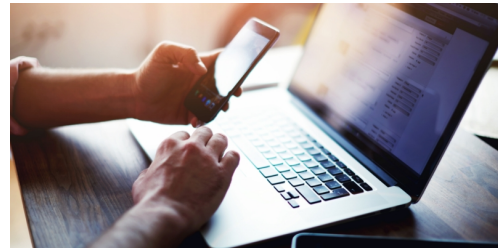


KidCents is a program created by the Rite Aid Foundation that allows Rite Aid customers to round up their purchases to the nearest dollar and donate their change to SOGA athletes. Make your change be the change for SOGA athletes! [Click here for more information or to sign up and start donating your change today!](#)

## Stay Connected

### Forward to a Friend

We're fortunate enough to have you as part of the Special Olympics Georgia family. Our goal is to reach as many potential sponsors, volunteers, and athletes as possible; so, please help us grow the family even more. Please forward this e-newsletter to your friends and family so they can [sign up](#) to also receive the monthly e-newsletter!



### Tell Us Your Story

We want to tell your stories! Email [Meghan Daves](#) with a story about a Special Olympics event or person who has brought out the champion in you!



### Quick Links

- [Sponsors](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Our Website](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Join Our Mailing List!](#)

---

Connect with us

