



**Georgia's  
Champions**

**January 2024**

*There's so much in store, for year*

**2024!**



*Happy New Year from Special Olympics Georgia!*

**Special Olympics**  
Georgia



# ***FOLLOW:***

-the accomplishments of our Athletes  
-the commitment of our Coaches  
-the unity of our Unified Partners  
-the versatility of our Volunteers  
-the support of our Sponsors and  
-the social media pages of  
Special Olympics Georgia!

specialolympicsga specialolympicsgeorgia SOGAchampions specialolympicsgeorgia



# SAVE THE DATES

Georgia's  
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SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA

# INDOOR WINTER GAMES

JANUARY 26TH-27TH 2024



Sign up to be a  
State Indoor  
Winter Games  
Volunteer!

Click the link to sign up: <https://bit.ly/3EZYrfx>



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# Georgia's Champions

## "LIGHT THE TORCH" WITH PUBLIX JANUARY 12TH - 21ST, 2024



# Publix

"Light the Torch" with  
Publix Super Markets,  
January 12<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Meet Publix Associate & Special  
Olympics Georgia Athlete  
Michael.

"I have been a Special Olympics  
Georgia Athlete since middle  
school and have been a Publix  
associates for ten years. I look  
forward to the Publix Campaign  
each year to help support my  
favorite organization at my favorite  
place to work!"

Stop in at your local Publix in January and  
make a donation at a cash register.

**Special Olympics**  
Georgia





# 2024 HOT CHOCOLATE RUN COME JOIN US! VOLUNTEERS AND RUNNERS NEEDED!



*“America’s sweetest run is back for our most indulgent Hot Chocolate Run season yet in Atlanta on Sunday, February 4, 2024! With 5K and 15K distances and a post-run party that’ll make you go cocoa crazy, you and your friends will experience the ultimate chocolate celebration!”*

*For more information and to volunteer or run,  
click here: <https://hotchocolate15k.com/city/atlanta>*



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## 2024 Polar Plunge

Be freezin' for a reason and come out to take The Plunge in support of Special Olympics Georgia Athletes!



Saturday, February 24, 2024  
Acworth Beach  
4425 Beach St., Acworth, GA 30101

For more information, contact:  
Jalen Young  
(770) 414-9390 ext. 1109  
[Jalen.Young@specialolympicsga.org](mailto:Jalen.Young@specialolympicsga.org)





***UPS employees and their families arrive each year at the State Summer Games, held in May, at Emory University with enthusiasm, smiles and the willingness to volunteer!! Special Olympics Georgia (SOGA) can't wait to see the huge wave of brown UPS t-shirts on the backs of the hundreds of UPS employee volunteers for the 2024 State Summer Games on May 24 – 26th.***

***You will see hundreds of UPS volunteers around campus that weekend working hard to make the State Summer Games a huge success!! The 2,500 athletes, coaches and unified partners who participate in the games look forward to seeing their UPS friends around campus, especially at the meals venue to give words of thanks, high fives and hugs!***

***UPS believes in the organization and believes in the 17,731 registered athletes involved in Special Olympics Georgia. We applaud UPS for giving back to the community, and we couldn't do it without them. THANK YOU for your high energy, your willingness to volunteer and for getting the job done in order to make for a great weekend for the athletes and coaches.***



**[www.ups.com](http://www.ups.com)**



## ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



**Alex M.**

***Alex started lifting in 2006, at the local YMCA, when he was 15 years old. In 2009 he began lifting with Special Olympics but did not compete, because he was playing Special Olympics basketball and could not compete in both sports at the same time. In 2013 he started official powerlifting competitions with Special Olympics and continues today. Thanks to the talent & dedicated coaching of Mark Keese, Alex has continued to improve over the years and achieve goals that have increased his strength & self-confidence.***

***Alex joined Publix in November 2012 and recently celebrated his 11-year anniversary with the organization. Alex works as a front-end clerk and his duties include assisting customers with purchases and helping the store uphold their cleanliness standards. Alex's friendly personality and desire to please others makes Publix a good fit for him.***



## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



### Luca B.

*Luca is a 7th-grade volunteer that has been a buddy with his program for two years. He's a travel hockey player who takes time out of his schedule to assist and encourage the Miracle Sk8ters and sled hockey players. His calm demeanor and creative motivation make him a favorite amongst the athletes. Luca is a promoter of inclusion and is also a peer buddy for the special education students at his middle school.*

*He inspires the adaptive sport community and continues to fuel our mission to provide inclusion and acceptance for all. Congratulations, and thank you to this Volunteer of the Month and Unified Partner for his efforts with leading the next generation!*

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**COACHES  
NEED TO GET RE-CERTIFIED?  
RENEW YOUR CERTIFICATION  
ONLINE!**



<https://www.specialolympicsga.org/become-an-athlete/coach/>



ANY QUESTIONS EMAIL  
[LIZ.SMITH@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG](mailto:LIZ.SMITH@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG)

## CALLING ALL UNIFIED PARTNERS

**COME BE A PART OF  
INCLUSION. IF YOU ARE  
INTERESTED IN BEING A PART  
OF A SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
TEAM PLEASE CONTACT US!**

[LIZ.SMITH@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG](mailto:LIZ.SMITH@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG)





## SOGA PROMOS



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, heavy 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.



**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 Kroger Community Awards, and in the Community Rewards section, select Special Olympics Georgia (code SH080) 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 Kroger Community Awards (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 Mary Thomason at [Mary.Thomason@specialolympicsga.org](mailto:Mary.Thomason@specialolympicsga.org)



**WEB SEARCHES** Each time you conduct a search on [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com), one penny goes to benefit Special Olympics Georgia. Make Good Search your home page by going to "tools" in your browser and then clicking on "internet options." Type [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com) in the space for home page. The first time you visit the site, type "Special Olympics Georgia in the box for "Who do you goodsearch for?"

## SPREAD THE WORD

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!

