

March 2024

Paint the month green!



Happy St. Patrick's Day from Special Olympics Georgia!



Thank you to all of our plungers, Honda, Executive Council, volunteers, and sponsors for supporting Georgia's Champions during our 2024 Polar Plunge!





























Cobb Sports Alliance Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Table Girl Scouts Troop 15122

#### **Developmental Disabilites Awareness Month**

#### Choose Inclusion daily.



#### **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Awareness Month

Visit www.nacdd.org for more information!

30th Annual

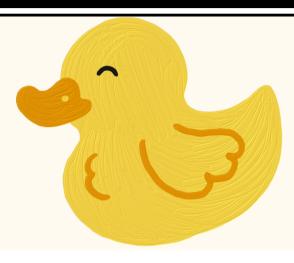
# BOB BUSSE MEMORIAL CLASSIC

Monday, November 11th, 2024

Country Club of Roswell 2500 Club Springs Drive Roswell, GA 30076

For more information about participation or sponsorship, please contact Mary Thomason at mary.thomason@specialolympicsga.org or (770) 414-9390 ext. 1121

# DUCK







### ADOPT A DUCK TODAY!

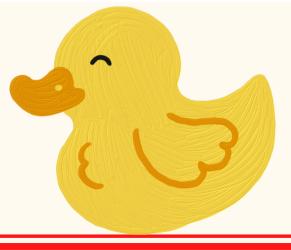


HELP SEND AN ATHLETE TO THE 2024 SUMMER GAMES AND PURCHASE A DUCK TODAY!

https://www.duckrace.com/atlanta

With your help we are able to provide meals, housing, and equipment for Special Olympics Georgia Athletes





## PLUCK

# Become a part of Special Olympics Georgia!



www.youtube.com/SpecialOlympicsGeorgia

#### SAVE THE DATES





Sign up to be a 2024 State
Summer Games
Volunteer!

Click the link to sign up: https://bit.ly/48RRrhP

#### Capitol Hill Day 2024

The 2024 Capitol Hill Day in D.C. was very productive and engaging. Rudolpha, our delegate/athlete was able to meet more members of Congress than she did last year, which was mostly just staff. She enjoyed sharing her story and what Special Olympics has done as a whole and how SOGA will only continue to progress her goals for the future.

SOGA team member Jake and athlete Rudolpha were prompt and direct about reminding the representatives and their staff about what was needed for the upcoming appropriations requests and their committees and to remember Special Olympics. Thankfully, most if not all the staff and representatives we met from GA said "YES" to the cause and would continue to support funding and allocate the importance of creating access to healthcare and limitless opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities through Special Olympics.

What was thought would be a stressful and three days ended up becoming collaborative, fun among peers, conversational in meetings, and an empowering day for not just the representatives, but also for our Special Olympics athletes like Rudolpha. She did amazing and represented SOGA well.



#### **Sponsor Spotlight**



Inwood Holdings has been supporting and volunteering for Special Olympics Georgia (SOGA) for over 11 years! At every State Game and at most of SOGA's special events, we can count on the employees from Inwood Holdings and Woodward Management Partners to arrive early and volunteer until the wrap up. We truly count on their hard work and positive attitudes to make each event the best that it can be!

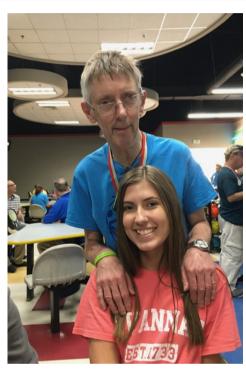
So many SOGA athletes recognize Inwood Holdings and Woodward employees at the State Games, and they receive endless high fives and encouragement as they compete and afterwards on the awards podium. We are looking forward to seeing Inwood Holdings and Woodward Management Partners volunteer at the upcoming State Summer Games at Emory University on Saturday, May 25th! They will be at the Table Tennis venue, as well as, cheering on athletes from the stands at multiple other venues. Check out more about Inwood Holdings and Woodward Management Partners at:



<u>www.inwoodh.com</u> <u>www.woodwardmgt.com</u>

#### ATHLETE OF THE MONTH





#### Nick I.

Nick I. is an awesome athlete and loves participating in Tennis, Bocce, Basketball and Bowling the most! He is a big UGA fan and comes to practices dressed in his UGA outfits and ready to play. Nick has been an athlete with Cherokee County Special Olympics for several years and has brought many smiles to everyone who knows him! He has many friends on his teams and especially enjoys time with his peers. He is very focused during practice and competition and always asks the time for his next match so that he is not late. Cherokee County has truly enjoyed having Nick be a part of their delegation and feel this spotlight is well deserved!

#### **VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH**

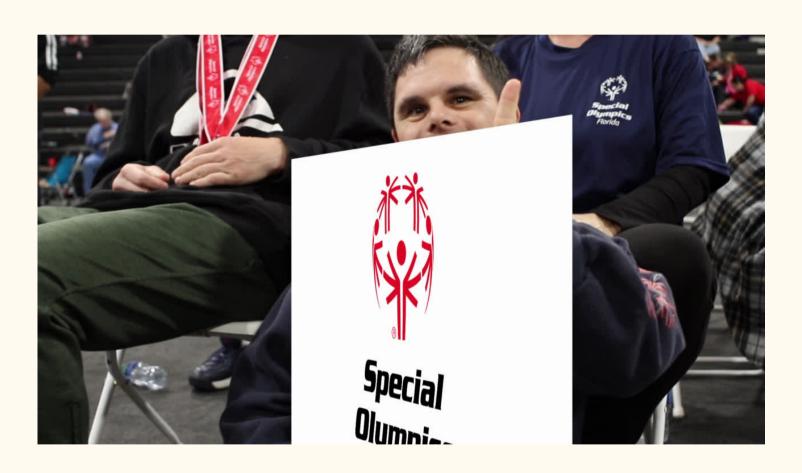


David W.

David has been an admirer of Special Olympics for a long time and he's been honored to direct a philanthropic organization that has funded SOGA for almost 15 years. In his non-work life, he's a photographer. While he enjoys many genres of photography, one of his favorites is capturing special moments with human subjects. When CEO Georgia Milton-Sheats, invited him to shoot State Indoor Winter Games, he jumped at the chance. "It is so gratifying to see these individuals pouring their hearts into their various athletic pursuits. The volunteers and coaches are a fount of encouragement. I just hope I have captured some of those precious moments," David said.



# Relive the joy from Special Olympics Georgia's 2024 State Indoor Winter Games!

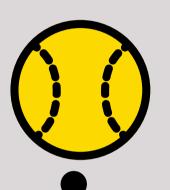


<u>www.youtube.com/SpecialOlympicsGeorgia</u>

#ChooseToInclude #InclusionRevolution



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



https://www.specialolympicsga.or g/become-an-athlete/coach/



# CALLING ALL UNIFIED PARTNERS

Unified partners train and compete on the same team comprised of athletes with and without intellectual disabilities.

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



#### **March 2024**

### Georgia's Champions



#### 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.



#### GoodSearch

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

WEB SEARCHES Each time you conduct a search on 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 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 enewsletter to your friends and family so they can sign up to also receive the monthly e-newsletter!











