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# Georgia's Champions

September 2013

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## News and Stories

### Kay Center Tigers Named National Softball Champs

Congratulations to the Kay Center Tigers in Fort Valley on their first place win in the North America Softball Invitational! They were 5-1 in the Unified Division 2 after playing teams from Maine, New York, Illinois, and Maryland in New Jersey Aug. 23-25.



"The athletes were able to rekindle old friendships and meet new teams," said Coach Todd Youngblood. After the games, the national champions attended a minor league baseball game and explored Time Square in New York.

We're so proud of you, Kay Center Tigers!

### September Only: New Monthly Donors Earn Our Athletes An Extra \$100!

Great news! A generous donor will contribute \$100 for each new monthly donation made in September, until we recruit 150 new Sustaining Partners. As a Sustaining Partner, your steady, ongoing monthly gift of any amount you choose will help ensure we're always able to provide training and competition opportunities to our athletes year-round. Thanks to the match, there's never



## Upcoming Events

### Sailing Regatta Sept. 13th-15th

Join us for beautiful sunsets at the 14th Annual Sailing Regatta on Lake Lanier Sept. 13-15. [Click here](#) to start fundraising for a chance to win the grand prize: a four-day and three-night trip to your choice of three exotic locations - Bahamas, Mexico or Dominican Republic's all-inclusive Wyndham Resorts. [Click here](#) for the registration form. For more info contact [Jennifer Daniell](#) or 770 414-9390 x110. The Regatta consists of two days of racing, awards, silent auction, athlete speaker, door prizes, BBQ and live music from Poverty Level Band. And grab your souvenir shirt designed by Henry County Athlete Dale Jones (see the drawing above).



been a better time to join, because your generosity will stretch even further. **Please help us take advantage of this incredible opportunity by becoming a Sustaining Partner today.** Help our athletes receive an extra \$100 just because you signed up in September.

## State Masters Bowling: Great Weekend of Competition and Huge Community Support

A combination of family cheerleaders and lots of practice at their home lanes -- Gold Cup Lanes -- helped athlete Susan and her mother and Unified Partner Sandy Shultz clinch the gold medal at State Masters Bowling in Warner Robins Aug. 23-25.

The Shultz pair joined a little more than 1,000 athletes in competition to be Georgia's top bowlers.

One of the highlights of the weekend was holding Opening Ceremony in the new location of the Museum of Aviation, which even with the rainstorm that evening and everyone moving in from the amphitheater, was fun for everyone. In addition, our athletes, coaches and unified partners were welcomed by the Warner Robins community -- everyone from games' sponsors to The Gap and the local boy scouts troop -- with the utmost hospitality.

Special Olympics Georgia is thankful to the following 2013 State Masters Bowling sponsors for their support: Warner Robins Convention & Visitors Bureau; Flint Energies Foundation; City of Warner Robins; Allied World Assurance Company; and McDonald's of Warner Robins & Byron.

## Athletes Received Needed Dental Screenings and Treatments at State Masters Bowling

At State Master's Bowling two weekends ago, 211 athletes had their teeth examined through the Healthy Athletes Initiative called Special Smiles. Athletes' dental health was evaluated by a team of volunteer dentists, dental hygienists, and dental students led by Dr. Jonathan Dubin. Part of the screening was educating the athletes on dental care, where they also received goodie bags filled with electric toothbrushes, toothpaste, and other essentials. Tim Rogers, a Special Olympics Rockdale County Athlete, said the most memorable part was the teeth-brushing puppets used to teach athletes on dental care.



## Athlete of the Month: Antron Shepherd

SOGA is proud to announce that Antron Shepherd has been named September's Athlete of the Month.

Antron never complains, goes above and beyond what is expected of him,



## California Pizza Kitchen September 18th

The California Pizza Kitchen restaurants in Perimeter, Lenox



Square, North Point, Pine Straw Plaza, Atlantic Station, and The Forum at Peachtree will hold a FUNdraiser give back day for SOGA on Wednesday, September 18th. Simply **print this flyer**, present it to your server when ordering, and California Pizza Kitchen will donate 20% of your check to Special Olympics Georgia. This offer is valid both for dine-in and take out orders. For more information, contact **Susan Skolnick** or 770-414-9390 x111.

## 15th Annual Marlow's Tavern Golf Classic Sept. 23rd

Join us on September 23rd at the Country Club of Roswell for



the 15th Annual Marlow's Tavern Golf Classic benefiting SOGA. Since 1999, this annual golf tournament has raised more than \$375,000 for our athletes. This year's goal is to raise \$52,000! 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 and current sponsors for your generous support over the years!

athletes, said his local coordinator Chandra Wesley of Albany ARC.



Anytime one of his fellow athletes is down about not performing well in competition, Antron is right there to bring the athlete back up with encouraging words or simply just a pat on the back to say, "It's OK friend, you'll get them next time."

He is always ready with a high five for a job well done, as he sees the positive in every situation. If practice gets cancelled due to weather or any unforeseen circumstances, he sees it as just a time to rest. If his team doesn't win, he sees it as a chance to improve the next time.

Overall, Antron exhibits the essence of the spirit of Special Olympics. Congratulations Antron!

### Sponsor of the Month: Winter Construction

Based in Atlanta, **The Winter Construction Company** is a privately owned and operated construction company. Their expertise has kept them consistently ranked

in the ENR top 400 contractors in the United States for over 25 years. Today, Winter provides construction and environmental services to clients in the hospitality, retail, government, education, corporate/office, religious, healthcare, historic restoration, industrial, and multifamily markets throughout the Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States.



Of all the things **Winter** has built over the years, the most valuable to them are the relationships they have established with their clients. Every day they work to strengthen these relationships by maintaining the quality of their construction method and the value of their professionalism, and by ensuring consistent, successful delivery on all projects. After all, they want everything they build to last a lifetime - including their client relationships.

**Winter** is passionate about supporting Special Olympics Georgia and raising the much-needed funds to support SOGA programs. In 2004, Winter inaugurated their first annual golf tournament with SOGA as the beneficiary. To date, Winter has donated over \$306,000, and hundreds of Winter employees and their families have volunteered and provided hands-on assistance at Team Basketball during the State Indoor Winter Games and Volleyball during the State Summer Games.

Thank you **Winter** for believing in SOGA's mission, for believing in our athletes, and for helping our athletes realize and reach their potential! Know that as part of the Special Olympics Georgia family, you are impacting and changing thousands of lives - the athletes, their families, and the community as a whole.

### Volunteer of the Month: Bob Busse

SOGA is proud to announce that Robert Busse has been named September's Volunteer of the Month.



### Strike the R-word Sept. 26th

Help stand up to the R-word and bowl in the fundraiser called **Strike the R-word Sept. 26th at 300 Atlanta**. You'll also receive an event T-shirt,



goodie bag, food, beverages, and meet spokeswoman Olympian Hazel Clark. If you can't join us, you can still help by **making a donation** to the event or to a team's page. 11Alive's and former V-103 radio host Elle Duncan will be the emcee. This event also leads into Special Olympics Founder Day Sept. 28th, which will be celebrated worldwide, bringing together people with and without disabilities in activities to honor the inspiration and impact of Eunice Kennedy Shriver. Pre-registration only. For info contact **Wendy Bigham** or 770-414-9390 x117.

### RunDunwoody Oct. 20th

RunDunwoody is a 5K Run and a



Peachtree Road Race Qualifier, 1 Mile Fun Run, Tot Trot, and family festival rolled into a morning of activities on October 20th in the heart of Dunwoody's Perimeter Place Center. As a beneficiary of RunDunwoody and long-time partner of the Rotary Club of Dunwoody (the run's founding and presenting sponsor), Special Olympics Georgia has created a team for the Team Challenge in the not-for-profit category. Registration fees start at \$15 and increase to \$35 as it gets closer to the date of the race. For more information on the race or to register as part of Team

been a long-standing volunteer with Special Olympics Georgia. In the early days, he organized and ran the Tara Lady Golf Classic, which was an annual fundraiser for SOGA. He has previously served on our board of directors for 12 years. In those 12 years, he has served as board chair and board secretary. For the past 18 years, Bob has been an essential part of the Annual Bob Busse Golf Classic planning committee, which was named after him. Bob also serves currently on our honorary board of directors. He has supported countless state competitions, presented many medals to athletes, and besides being one of our longest running volunteers, he is our oldest volunteer, turning 100 just this past June.



Thank you Bob for your wonderful service to Special Olympics Georgia. You are truly one of the greats!

### Vehicle Donations

Are you thinking of selling or trading in that old car, boat or RV? Why not donate it instead? As a charitable contribution, your donation will make a big difference. SOGA has partnered with Car Program, LLC to turn your old vehicle into much needed funds for our program. Car Program will make all the arrangements at no cost to you. They handle the title transfer requirements and will provide you with a tax deductible donation receipt when they pick-up your car. Need more information? Click here to [donate your vehicle](#) and a helpful representative will call you shortly, or you may call our car donation program 24/7 at 1-800-240-0160.



### Help With Fall Games

Special Olympics Georgia has recently received donations through our Gift Give Account of stop watches, tennis balls, soft balls, and a MP-3 Player. Thank you for your generosity!

If you are seeking a way to donate, please follow [this link](#) to shop for Special Olympics Georgia's State Fall Games' needs and decide which need your money goes to fulfill.



### 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



Special Olympics Georgia, go to [www.rundunwoody.net](http://www.rundunwoody.net).

### Bob Busse Golf Classic Nov. 4th

Join Special Olympics Georgia for a wonderful day of golf at the **Bob**



**Busse Golf Classic** at one of Atlanta's prestigious private golf clubs located in Sandy Springs Monday, November 4th. Singles and foursome spots are still available. [Click here](#) for more information.

### Volunteer Opportunities

#### Strike the R-word September 26th Atlanta



Volunteers are needed to assist event goers, work registration and silent auction tables.

#### State Fall Games October 11th-13th Dalton

Volunteers are needed to keep score, work registration, prepare and hand out meals, and set up and tear down events.

#### State Horse Show October 11th-13th Gainesville

Volunteers are needed to assist in the ring, work registration, and set up and tear down events.

If you are interested in the volunteer opportunities above, please contact [Stephen Sparks](#).

helps us to raise money and ensure that all SOGA programs are free to our athletes and their families.

### 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:



\* Layne Heavy Civil - Golf Outing raised \$3,000

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