

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Contacts: Wenona Sutton, Mkt. Communications Mgr., 610-630-9450 ext 219; wsutton@specialolympicspa.org
Jessica Kury, Special Events Manager, 586-243-0976, jkury@specialolympicspa.org

Special Olympics Pennsylvania to Host Pittsburgh's Third Annual UNCathlon

Event Raises over \$90,000 for Pennsylvania Athletes through Unified Sports

Pittsburgh, PA (April 19, 2019) – Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) will host the third annual Pittsburgh UNCathlon on Sunday, April 28, 2019 at Schenley Park, located at 1 Overlook Drive in Pittsburgh, PA from 8:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. The UNCathlon will offer 11 events, one more than the traditional 10 found in a decathlon, and feature physical challenges with fundraising accounting for the 11th challenge. The event will bring persons with and without intellectual disabilities together to engage in Unified Sports with proceeds benefiting nearly 20,000 SOPA athletes.

The UNCathlon will involve several co-ed groups of six participants that include a Special Olympics athlete per team. Each Unified Sports® team will take part in 10 physical trials that test speed, strength and endurance. Challenge events will include pull ups, shot put, the 40-yard dash, 400 meter run, 800 meter run, weighted sled drag, 2 x 200 meter relay, long jump, 500 meter row, and a mystery event. The 11th event will be the fundraising component that participants complete prior to engaging in the sporting events.

Special Olympics [Unified Sports®](#), in which players with and without intellectual disabilities train and compete on the same team, is designed to enable athletes to learn new sports, refine athletic skills, experience inclusion, socialize with peers and form new friendships, and participate in their communities outside of traditional Special Olympics events. The UNCathlon strives to create inclusion and acceptance through sport while raising funds and awareness for Special Olympics.

The UNCathlon was initiated by Pittsburgh resident Shannon Barry, who had always dreamed of creating a national awareness fundraising campaign to bring recognition to a cause. Shannon's vision was to incorporate UNified play with UNconventional fun for an UNforgettable experience; and thus, the UNCathlon was born.

This year's event will be hosted by local DJ and Fireside Entertainment owner, Eric Burnett. Other guest speakers will include Pittsburgh District 5 Councilman, Corey O'Conner; Special Olympics Pennsylvania President and CEO, Matthew Aaron; and Port Authority Police Chief, Matt Porter.

Presenting Sponsors for the 2019 UNCathlon are Aerotek and Morgan Stanley. Additional corporate sponsors include: Mascaro Construction, Dollar Bank, Julian Gray, and SunCap Property Group. In-kind donors include: Evey True Value Hardware, G&G Fitness, Mecka Fitness, Athleta, and Don's Appliances.

Team registrations are no longer being accepted, but participants can still register to [join an existing team](#) until April 22nd. The event will not accept day-of walk up registrants; however, supporters can still give to the participants and athletes of SOPA through online donations. For more information about the event or to donate, visit www.uncathlon.org or call Jessica Kury at 724-375-7515, ext. 244.

About Special Olympics Pennsylvania

Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to nearly 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities. For more information about how you can "Join the Inclusion Revolution," visit our web site at www.specialolympicspa.org.

###