



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Katie Spencer Awarded the Sheetz Family Award of Excellence during Special Olympics Pennsylvania's 2021 Virtual Summer Games**

**(Norristown, PA, June 22, 2021)** – Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) and Sheetz are proud to announce that this year's 2021 Sheetz Family Award of Excellence recipient is Katie Spencer, a SOPA athlete from Montgomery County. Awarded on Friday, June 18th, during Special Olympics Pennsylvania's Virtual Summer Games, Spencer was honored due to her distinguished sportsmanship and perseverance throughout the Games.

The Sheetz Family Award of Excellence is given to an athlete whose determination and effort can only be understood by the power of the human spirit to overcome obstacles and inspire greatness. It distinguishes athletes who may not win, but whose courage, sportsmanship, effort and determination is award winning. As a result of the pandemic, this award has also recognized athletes who have exhibited resilience and willpower during this time of uncertainty by continuing to participate in various virtual sports and fitness competitions.

A six-sport athlete, Katie Spencer participates in basketball, soccer, bocce, floor hockey, bowling and unified softball. During COVID-19, she became a [Global Messenger](#) and recruited 50 athletes and coaches to participate in SOPA's Fitness Heptathlon, an event that enabled athletes to compete in seven different fitness exercises and earn points based upon their performance improvement in each. Due to that hard work, she was able to form a Fitness Heptathlon team with three of her fellow soccer players.

Spencer was also selected to virtually participate in Special Olympics' Capitol Hill Day to encourage continued funding in support of inclusive education and health initiatives for people with intellectual disabilities. For those efforts, she was awarded a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from Congresswoman Madeleine Dean. Additionally, Spencer became part of the Montgomery County Athlete Leadership Team. She has been checking-in on fellow athletes to see how they are doing, encouraging them to exercise and to get vaccinated, and continues to make a positive difference in their lives.

"Even through a difficult year, Katie has been determined to help the Special Olympics and encourage the organization's athletes to participate in upcoming events," said Sheetz Public Relations Manager Nick Ruffner. "We've continued to be amazed by her ability to lead and inspire her fellow athletes to succeed. At Sheetz, we are deeply committed to supporting the communities we serve and we are proud to present this award to Katie, who represents all that is good about the Special Olympics as they continue to transform lives through teamwork and friendship."

The winner of the Sheetz Family Award of Excellence was selected by a team of Sheetz employees from applications submitted by Special Olympics leaders and coaches. All nominees remained anonymous during the selection process.

**About Special Olympics Pennsylvania:**

Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round training and competition to nearly 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities in a variety of Olympic-type sports, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community. For more information on how the movement inspires greatness, visit our web site at [www.specialolympicspa.org](http://www.specialolympicspa.org).

**About Sheetz, Inc.**

Established in 1952 in Altoona, Pennsylvania, Sheetz, Inc. is one of America's fastest-growing, family-owned and operated convenience store chains, with more than \$6.4 billion in revenue and more than 18,200 employees. The company operates more than 565 store locations throughout Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Ohio and North Carolina. Sheetz provides an award-winning menu of M•T•O® sandwiches and salads, which are ordered through unique touch-screen order point terminals. All Sheetz convenience stores are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Recognized by Fortune as one of the 100 Best Companies to Work For, Best Places to Work for Women, Best Workplaces for Millennials and by Forbes as one of America's Best Employers, Sheetz is committed to offering employees sustainable careers built on an inspiring culture and community engagement. For more information, visit [www.sheetz.com](http://www.sheetz.com) or follow us on Twitter (@sheetz), Facebook ([www.facebook.com/sheetz](http://www.facebook.com/sheetz)) and Instagram ([www.instagram.com/sheetz](http://www.instagram.com/sheetz)).

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