

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bedford Resident Announced as One of Nine Special Olympics Pennsylvania Virtual UNcathlon Captains

Join One of Nine Unified Teams for the Virtual AMRAP Challenge

(Norristown PA, August 12, 2020) – Jessica Hott, a <u>Special Olympics Pennsylvania</u> (SOPA) athlete that participates in Bedford County program, was selected to be one of nine captains for the <u>2020 Virtual</u> <u>UNcathlon</u>, taking place from Sunday, August 16th to Saturday, September 26th. The UNcathlon will feature a physical AMRAP (As Many Rounds As Possible) Challenge as well as a fundraising component that will unite individuals with and without intellectual disabilities to raise funds and awareness for nearly 20,000 Special Olympics athletes. Hott, along with her co-captain Chelsea Mague from Krug & Associates, will lead a team representing a region of the state that includes Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Franklin, Fulton, Huntington, and Somerset counties.

Jessica Hott, 29, has been involved in Special Olympics for 10 years and has participated in softball, bowling, track and field, and long distance running. Her favorite sport is running and, in 2019, she won gold medals in the 3k, 5k, and 10k at Fall Festival at Villanova University. Her future goal is to compete in the Special Olympics USA Games and be able to participate in the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

During her free time, Hott loves to ride horses, play basketball, fix puzzles, watch old TV shows, and compete in local and virtual 5k events. With the help of her co-captain Chelsea Mague, Hott is eager to lead "Team Titans" to win gold in the AMRAP fundraising challenge.

The Virtual UNcathlon model includes an <u>AMRAP Challenge</u> which encourages participants to execute 10 repetitions of 5 exercises as many times as possible in 10 minutes. These exercises include push-ups, squats, lunges, mountain climbers, and plank jacks. Participants can choose to join Hott's team or <u>one</u> <u>of the other eight unified regional teams</u> to partake in this event.

<u>Special Olympics Unified Sports</u>, in which players with and without intellectual disabilities train and compete on the same team, allows athletes to engage in sports, create inclusion, socialize with peers and form new friendships. The UNcathlon seeks to create inclusion and acceptance through sport while raising funds and awareness for Special Olympics.

The UNcathlon is co-presented by Morgan Stanley and Aerotek, both of whom have been supporting this event for the last 4 years. Additional sponsors include: Mascaro; Clearview Federal Credit Union; Dollar Bank; ECI; and Julian Gray.

Participants can donate and join Jessica Hott's team until September 26th. For more information or to donate, visit <u>www.uncathlon.org</u> or call Jessica Kury at 724-375-7515, ext. 244.

About Special Olympics Pennsylvania

Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to more than 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or closely related developmental disabilities. For more information about how you can join "The Inclusion Revolution," visit <u>www.specialolympicspa.org</u>.

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