

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS:

Hailey Fuzak, PR & Marketing Manager, 610-630-9450, ext. 219 or hfuzak@specialolympicspa.org
Jessica Kury, Director of Events, Western PA, 724-375-7515, ext. 244 or jkury@specialolympicspa.org

Bethlehem 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) – Tyler Youngkin, a Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) athlete that participates in the Northampton County program, was selected to be one of nine captains for the 2020 Virtual UNcathlon, 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. Youngkin, along with his co-captains from the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire, will lead a team representing a region of the state that includes Berks, Bethlehem City, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, Monroe, and Schuylkill counties.

Tyler Youngkin has participated in Special Olympics for 17 years and has competed in basketball, bowling, floor hockey, skiing, and track and field. Additionally, he is a Global Messenger (spokesperson for the movement), Athlete Leader and multiple gold medal recipient. Youngkin hopes to carry his enthusiasm into this event and inspire his fellow athletes to join his AMRAP Challenge team.

A volunteer firefighter for Hecktown Fire Company#53, Youngkin is a brave and caring individual. Outside of Special Olympics, he works as a busboy at Pizza Joe's Restaurant and volunteers at Moravian Hall Square in Nazareth. Youngkin plans to bring the same level of dedication to the UNcathlon as he leads "Team Brave in the Attempt."

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 Youngkin's team or <u>one 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 <u>join Tyler Youngkin's team</u> 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 www.specialolympicspa.org.

###