



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Hailey Fuzak, (610) 630-9450, ext. 219, [hfuzak@specialolympicspa.org](mailto:hfuzak@specialolympicspa.org)

### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS PENNSYLVANIA HONORS AREA M FAMILY WITH FAMILY OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**(Norristown, PA, September 22, 2020)** – Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) recently honored the Ramsey Family from its Area M local program during its Virtual Leadership Awards, on Wednesday, September 16, 2020.

Each year, this award is presented to the family which in the previous program year demonstrated outstanding support and assumed appreciable responsibility for the success of the program. Their actions encouraged others to get involved with and support Special Olympics.

For the Ramsey Family, being involved with SOPA is a family affair. Cherie (mother) is a coach, her daughter Sierra is an athlete, and her two other daughters, Savannah and Dixie, are both Unified Partners. Unified Partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) train and compete as a teammate alongside Special Olympics athletes on a Unified Sports Team. Together the Ramsey Family is involved in a multitude of sports including gymnastics, alpine skiing, athletics, and bocce.

The Family leads by example and anytime there is a call for help, they answer it. This could not have proved to be truer than during the 2019 gymnastic competition season. Cherie, a certified gymnastics coach, and her daughters saw the need to garner more assistance for the team to engage each SOPA athlete in hands on training. They worked with the gymnastic club where the Area M team trains and recruited gymnasts as volunteers to help demonstrate moves and routines to the SOPA athletes. The Family also helped to introduce the first Unified Gymnastics Competition in Pennsylvania.

According to a volunteer, “The Ramsey family examples of dedication to the athletes of Special Olympics speak volumes about their character. They are truly representative of the purpose, commitment and mission of Special Olympics.”

#### **About The SOPA Leadership Awards**

SOPA Leadership Award recipients were chosen by a statewide panel of business and community leaders representing both the private and nonprofit sectors. Nominations come from local Special Olympics programs throughout Pennsylvania. The event is part of a yearly Leadership Conference designed to provide ongoing training and recognition for Special Olympics athletes and volunteers.

#### **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)

###