

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contacts: Kristin Craven, 610-630-9450, ext 252, kcraven@specialolympicspa.org
Britt Kleine, 215-671-5063, bkleine@specialolympicspa.org

SPECIAL OLYMPICS PA – PHILADELPHIA TO HOLD MEDICAL FESTIVAL AT WELLS FARGO CENTER FOR MORE THAN 400 PARTICIPANTS

(Philadelphia, PA, October 23, 2016) – Special Olympics Pennsylvania's (SOPA) Philadelphia program will offer free physical examinations to more than 400 athletes as well as partners who train with our athletes in Unified Sports at the Wells Fargo Center located on 3601 S Broad St, Philadelphia, PA 19148 on Thursday, November 17, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30p.m. as part of its Medical Festival (MedFest). Medical personnel from throughout the city of Philadelphia will provide full screening services including height/weight, body mass index, blood pressure, vision, orthopedic exams, electrocardiography and physical exams (abdominal, heart and lungs).

The schools expected to participate are: Abraham Lincoln High School, Charles Audenreid Junior High School, Frankford High School, George Washington High School, High School of the Future, Martin Luther King High School, Parkway West High School, South Philadelphia High School, Thomas Edison High School, and William L. Sayre High School. Each school currently participates in Project UNIFY®, an education-based project that uses the sports and education programs of Special Olympics to activate young people across the U.S in order to promote school communities where all young people are agents of change – fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities.

The goals associated with MedFest are to offer free sports physicals and other health screening services to people with intellectual disabilities; recruit new athletes to Special Olympics; foster new partnerships between Special Olympics and the community; and provide health care providers with training and specialized experience in the examination and assessment of people with intellectual disabilities. In many cases, life-threatening conditions have been found and subsequently treated thanks to MedFest.

Participating MedFest High School students consist of Special Olympics Athletes and Partners (60% are students with intellectual disabilities and 40% are part of the general student population).

For more information about the MedFest or Project UNIFY®, please contact Britt Kleine, Director Special Olympics Pennsylvania – Philadelphia at 215.671.5063 or bkleine@specialolympicspa.org.

About Special Olympics Pennsylvania

Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) provides year-round training and competition in 22 Olympic-type sports to more than 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or closely related developmental disabilities. For more information, visit our web site at www.specialolympicspa.org.

###

Special Olympics Pennsylvania – Philadelphia

2900 Southampton Road, Philadelphia, PA 19154 Tel 215.671.5069 Fax 215.671.5033

Email philly@specialolympicspa.org www.SOPAPhilly.org Facebook.com/SOPAPhiladelphia Twitter @SOPAPhilly

Created by Joseph P Kennedy Jr. Foundation. Authorized and accredited by Special Olympics, Inc. for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities.