



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Hailey Fuzak (908) 239-2294, hfuzak@specialolympicspa.org

**AREA M PROGRAM VOLUNTEER HONORED BY SPECIAL OLYMPICS PENNSYLVANIA AS
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

(Norristown, PA, September 22, 2020) – Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) recently honored Thomas Hurst, an Area M Local Program volunteer, during its Virtual Leadership Awards on Wednesday, September 16, 2020.

Each year, this award is presented to a SOPA Volunteer who in the previous program year demonstrated exceptional commitment to Special Olympics. The nominee upholds the mission and philosophy of Special Olympics and demonstrates considerable time and effort to make an outstanding contribution to the local program.

Hurst is an all-around volunteer who serves as the soccer coordinator, coach and DJ for all of Area M’s dances, social gatherings and the Polar Plunge. Hurst has made many outstanding contributions to the Area M local program but his attitude is what truly sets him apart. He celebrates and appreciates every accomplishment that his athletes make – no matter how small. Additionally, he challenges the athletes to do their best and to be open to learning new things.

Hurst’s love for Special Olympics shines through everything he does on and off of the field. Because of his work as a DJ, he knows hundreds of athletes by name, greets each of them, and always brings a smile to their faces.

In the words of a fellow volunteer, “Tommy Hurst is one of those volunteers you wish your program had fifty of. He is like the energizer bunny, he never stops!”

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 in 22 Olympic-type sports to more than 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities. For more information on how the movement inspires greatness, visit our Web site at www.specialolympicspa.org.

###