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### Event Advance Story

NEW HAVEN, CT -- Students, staff, and the community of Southern Connecticut State University will come together on Sunday, Oct. 19, to participate in Team Impacts' virtual 5k fundraiser, a nonprofit organization that matches children with life-altering diagnoses and chronic illnesses with NCAA athletic teams across the country.

At Southern, several teams have become part of Team Impact's mission. Men's Basketball and Men's Swim and Dive have an active match, while Men's football and Soccer have recently graduated from their two-year pairings.

Leading this year's virtual event is Sarah Johnson, a Southern graduate student and Team Impact fellow since the Spring of 2023. Johnson has worked to strengthen Team Impact's mission and presence on campus and in the surrounding community.

"Normally, the All In 5k is a virtual event where participants complete the race on their own," Johnson said. "This year, I had the idea to host a community walk or run, so that we can foster a positive community outlook."

Johnson's goal is to raise \$1,000 and increase awareness about Team Impact among students, faculty, and local families who may have a child eligible to be matched with a college team.

“I have always been passionate about helping others through acts of service, whether volunteering for races, going into the field of social work, as well as becoming part of Team Impact,” shared Johnson.

Through Johnson’s work with Team Impact, she’s seen firsthand how much these connections can transform both the children and college athletes involved.

“I’ve had so many great opportunities through this organization, and I’ve met some amazing kids who have some pretty scary medical concerns that have been direct embodiments of resilience and such bright shining lights,” said Johnson.

Through her leadership and Team Impact’s overall mission, this year’s All in 5k aims to do more than raise money. It’s about bringing the Southern community together in support of children and families facing serious illnesses. The event, set for Saturday, Oct. 19, will welcome participants to walk, bike, or run in person, while others may show their support by donating to the cause online.