



## SPECIAL OLYMPICS DELAWARE NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

January 28, 2019

### **28th annual Polar Bear Plunge sponsored by Wawa to benefit Special Olympics Delaware**

Event Date: **Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019** (with Plunge activities also taking place Feb. 2)

Event Time: **1:00 p.m.**

Location: Rehoboth Beach, Del.

REHOBOTH BEACH — Sunday, February 3, at 1:00 p.m. is the date and time for one of Delaware's largest fundraising events - the **Special Olympics Delaware Lewes Polar Bear Plunge, presented by Wawa.**

The Plunge, celebrating its 28th year, began in 1992 when 78 plungers raised \$7,000. Last year, 3,383 Bears raised more than \$875,000. Since its inception, the plunge has raised more than \$11 million.

"Our polar bears continue to support this fabulous event year after year," said Ann Grunert, Executive Director of Special Olympics Delaware. "And they also continue to recruit their friends to join them. This event truly is family-friendly, and the perfect way to give back to the community and support such a worthy cause."

Wawa is the presenting sponsor for the 13th consecutive year. In addition to their support at the event, leading up to and for a few weeks afterward, Wawa "change coins" in stores benefit Special Olympics Delaware.

"All of us at Wawa are proud to support the inspiring athletes of Special Olympics and honor the heroes who have and will continue to change the game," said Wawa Sr. Director of Store Operations for Delaware, Adam Schall. "We've been partnering with Special Olympics for more than a decade and it's exciting to be a part of their annual Polar Plunge and to support all participants with free coffee and hot chocolate during the event. We are also proud to have a team of almost 100 Wawa Associates plunging to show their support of Special Olympics and we invite everyone to join them at the event this weekend!"

At the Plunge on Sunday, thousands of Bears will take the chilly dip into the Atlantic Ocean, raising money for Special Olympics Delaware's year-round program of sports training, athletic competition and related programs for over 4,200 children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Saturday activities include a **Sand sculpting** demonstration (11 a.m. – 3 p.m. on beach south of Rehoboth Ave.); a **Fire & Ice event** featuring ice cream and wing samples at the Rehoboth Beach Fire Department (12 - 2 p.m. or while supplies last); a **5k Run to the Plunge** (1 p.m.); and a **Restaurant Chili Tasting** contest (2:30 - 5 p.m.). In addition, restaurants and retailers throughout the Rehoboth Beach area provide registered "Bears" with special discounts.

More information on the Plunge and all weekend events can be found at [www.plungeDE.org](http://www.plungeDE.org).

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For More Information:

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The mission of Special Olympics Delaware is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for 4,200 children and adults with intellectual disabilities, 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.

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