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Wawa Community Care Van Makes Stops at Special Olympics Plunges in Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana to Provide Support and Free Hot Beverages Just a Few Months Before Opening its First Stores

Wawa associate volunteers will be cheering on plungers and providing a taste of its signature hot beverages and soft pretzels

Wawa, PA – (January 21, 2025) As Wawa gets closer to opening its first stores in Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana this Spring and Summer, the convenience retailer is excited to extend support to its National Partner Special Olympics at regional Polar Plunges with associates volunteering and distributing free hot coffee and hot chocolate to athletes, families and the community.

Wawa and The Wawa Foundation have a longstanding National Partnership with Special Olympics across its nine-state operating area. In 2025, Wawa and The Wawa Foundation will be supporting 17 plunges across its chain with direct grants totaling \$70,000 and distributing thousands of free beverages. The Wawa Community Care Van will make its first stops in the Midwest to support the Plunges and encourage everyone to toast Special Olympics' athletes with a freshly brewed cup of coffee or hot beverage at the event.

Wawa Community Care Van Tour Schedule:

- **First Stop:** [Special Olympics Cincinnati Plunge](#)
Saturday, January 25, The Banks, 150 E Freedom Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202
- **Second Stop:** [Lexington Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Kentucky](#)
Saturday, February 8, 3030 Lake crest Circle, Lexington, KY 40513
- **Third Stop:** [Louisville Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Kentucky](#)
Saturday, February 22, Main Event, 12500 Sycamore Station Place, Louisville, KY 40299
- **Fourth Stop:** [Special Olympics Indiana Polar Plunge](#)
Saturday, March 1, Eagle Creek Park, 7840 W. 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46254

"Even before we open our first stores in Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana, we're committed to supporting our new friends and neighbors at Special Olympics Polar Plunges in communities we'll soon call home," said Liz Simeone, President, The Wawa Foundation. "Not only do we proudly support Polar Plunges, Wawa and The Wawa Foundation are committed to Special Olympics with direct financial grants and in-store fundraising campaigns annually."

Wawa Expansion Plans in Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana

Wawa is expanding to Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana and will begin opening stores this Spring and Summer in all three states. In 2025, Wawa will open dozens of stores before the end of the year, launching long-term expansion and commitment to thousands of new jobs and strong community partnerships. To build each store, Wawa will invest more than \$7.5 million and employ, on average, 140 contractors and local partners.

About The Wawa Foundation's Commitment to Special Olympics

Since 2014, Wawa and The Wawa Foundation have contributed more than \$10 million to Special Olympics chapters serving the states Wawa operates in through direct financial grants and in-store fundraising. In addition, Wawa supports dozens of Polar Plunges and Special Olympics events with volunteers and through in-kind donations including serving hot beverages from the Wawa Community Care Van.



About The Wawa Foundation

The Wawa Foundation is an extension of Wawa's commitment to making the world a better place by fulfilling customers' lives every day. The Wawa Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation founded by Wawa, Inc. to support the company's charitable giving and philanthropic activities – and ultimately to help build happier, stronger communities. The Wawa Foundation focuses its support on organizations committed to health, hunger and everyday heroes through local, regional and national grants and in-kind donations. Since 2014, Wawa and The Wawa Foundation have donated more than \$165 million to causes supporting health, hunger and the heroes who serve our communities every day.

About Wawa, Inc.

Wawa, Inc., a privately held company, began in 1803 as an iron foundry in New Jersey. Toward the end of the 19th Century, owner George Wood took an interest in dairy farming and the family began a small processing plant in Wawa, PA in 1902. The milk business was a huge success, due to its quality, cleanliness and "certified" process. As home delivery of milk declined in the early 1960s, Grahame Wood, George's grandson, opened the first Wawa Food Market in 1964 in Pennsylvania as an outlet for dairy products. Today, Wawa is your all day, every day stop for freshly prepared foods, beverages, coffee, fuel services and surcharge-free ATMs. Wawa stores are located in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Florida, North Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, and Washington, D.C. with over 1,100 locations to date. The stores offer a large fresh foodservice selection, including Wawa brands such as custom prepared hoagies, freshly brewed coffee, hot breakfast sandwiches, hand-crafted specialty beverages, a dinner menu including burgers and pizza, an assortment of soups, sides and snacks. Forbes.com Ranks Wawa as #22 of America's Largest Private Companies, #1 in Convenience Category for America's Best Customer Service by Newsweek, one of Forbes 2023 America's Best Employers for Women and New College Grads.