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Wawa Community Care Van Stops at Special Olympics Kentucky Polar Plunge in Louisville to Provide Free Hot Beverages

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

Wawa, PA – (February 22, 2025) As Wawa sets out to expand to Kentucky in 2025, the convenience retailer is supporting the community and will be at the Special Olympics Kentucky Louisville Polar Plunge **on Saturday, February 22, Main Event.** Wawa Community Care Van will be on-site distributing hot beverages and soft pretzels to provide comfort and warmth to athletes, volunteers and community members!

Wawa and The Wawa Foundation have a longstanding National Partnership with Special Olympics across the company's nine-state operating area. In 2025, Wawa and The Wawa Foundation will be supporting 17 Polar 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.

"We're committed to supporting our new friends and neighbors at Special Olympics Polar Plunges across our chain including Kentucky where we plan to open stores in 2025," 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

In 2025, Wawa plans to open nine (9) stores in Kentucky. Over the next 5-8 years, Wawa plans to build and open **5 to 8 stores per year in the Louisville and Lexington area, with plans to open up to 40 stores in the state.** To build each store, Wawa will invest more than \$7.5 million and employ, on average, 140 contractors and local partners. Once open, each store will employ an average of 35 associates, with Wawa expecting to create almost 1,500 long-term new jobs as a result of expansion in Kentucky.

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 \$182 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.