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**CONTACT:** [public.relations@wawa.com](mailto:public.relations@wawa.com)

**Wawa Community Care Van Stops at Special Olympics PA Capital Area Plunge 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 8, 2025) As Wawa continues to expand in Central PA, the convenience retailer remains committed to supporting the community and will at the Special Olympics PA **Capital Area Polar Plunge on Saturday, February 8, Gifford Pinchot State Park**. Wawa Community Care Van will be on-site distributing hot beverages, soft pretzels, brownies and cookies 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 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.

"We're committed to supporting our new friends and neighbors at Special Olympics Polar Plunges across our chain including Central PA where we recently just opened our first stores," 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 Central PA**

Wawa joined the Central PA community in Fall of 2024 with its first location in Middletown, PA. In 2025, the convenience retailer projects to open 4-5 locations. Over the next 5 years, Wawa plans to have up to 40 stores in the market, opening approximately 5-7 a year to serve Central Pennsylvania as it continues to expand its footprint and reach new Pennsylvania communities along the Susquehanna River.

**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.