



**Special Olympics**

Virginia

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**POLAR PLUNGE**



Feb. 1, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Brrrrrrring It On!

### ***18<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Plunge benefiting Special Olympics Virginia Feb. 5-6*** **Chesapeake Woman Diagnosed with Cancer Makes it Her Goal to Attend**

Christina Filbotte of Chesapeake started chemotherapy Feb. 1. This Saturday, she'll be on the sidelines cheering for her team – the Cajun Chaos Krewe – during the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Plunge® Winter Festival, Feb. 5-6 on the Virginia Beach oceanfront.

“I asked the doctor when I was diagnosed if I could plunge, but it’s not in the cards this year,” said Filbotte, who already has raised \$435 for the fundraiser and will be decked out in a Mardi Gras-themed costume. “Last year was my first time plunging and it was so much fun. Next year, I hope to make it into the water!”

Filbotte will join thousands of others who'll be cheering on more than 3,200 thrill-seekers – including Virginia Beach Mayor Will Sessoms – who are expected to brave the chilly Atlantic Ocean wearing nothing but swimsuits and zany costumes at this year's Polar Plunge. And all truly are “freezin’ for a reason” – proceeds from the Plunge benefit Special Olympics Virginia.

This year's Polar Plunge, presented by WTKR News Channel 3, The FOX 106.9, FM 99, Wawa and Virginia Natural Gas, kicks off at 10 a.m., with the **Plunge scheduled for 2:30 p.m.** Other highlights – aside from the Plunge! – include the first Pee Wee Plunge (kids 12 and under will plunge into a kiddie pool sprinkled with ice at 12:30 p.m.), food, live music by Plastic Eddie, plunger costume contests, an amazing Polar Plunge sand sculpture, ice carving demonstrations and more.

Also new this year is the **Friday Night Plunge Party, Feb. 5. from 6-10 p.m. on the beach at 7<sup>th</sup> Street.** Presented by Dos Equis, the celebration will feature cornhole tournaments and music by local favorite, Butter. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in advance – call 877.874.7462 – or at the door.

Since 1993, more than 26,000 plungers have raised more than \$4.7 million for Special Olympics Virginia. The inaugural Polar Plunge took place in 1993 at the Clarion Hotel, featuring 34 plungers who raised nearly \$8,000. Last year, more than 3,200 people plunged, raising more than \$800,000 for Special Olympics

Virginia, a year-round international program of sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

This year, help Special Olympics Virginia reach its \$1 million fundraising goal and sign up or donate today. Or, join thousands of others as they cheer from the sidelines and enjoy the day's activities. Anyone can register for the Plunge up until Plunge time on Feb. 6; participants must raise a minimum of \$100 to plunge. To find out more details about the event, visit [www.polarplunge.com](http://www.polarplunge.com).

The Polar Plunge will take place rain, snow or shine, as long as surf conditions permit and we don't experience extremely cold temperatures, both as determined by the Plunge Safety Team. Stay tuned to the Polar Plunge Web site for the latest details.

**Media are invited to attend this year's Plunge. Please contact Holly Claytor at 804.370.7916 or [hclaytor@specialolympicsva.org](mailto:hclaytor@specialolympicsva.org) if you plan to attend. Media parking is available on a limited basis in the gravel lot behind the Quality Inn Festival Center (entrance at 8<sup>th</sup> & Atlantic). Please have your media credentials on hand to enter the lot. For a media pass on arrival, please call Holly Claytor at 804.370.7916.**

For more information on Special Olympics Virginia, visit [www.specialolympicsva.org](http://www.specialolympicsva.org).

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*Special Olympics is a year-round international program of sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. By using sport as a vehicle for social change, Special Olympics Virginia strives to create opportunities for meaningful interaction and self discovery for everyone. The organization's goal is to open the heart and mind of every Virginian to the value and ability of persons with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics Virginia Inc. is the state program of Special Olympics Incorporated.*