Town of Brookhaven Hosts Third Annual "Polar Plunge" at Cedar Beach to Benefit Special Olympics

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Pictured left to right are Councilwoman Jane Bonner; Special Olympic Athlete Matthew Schuster; Diana Colonna, Special Olympics Regional Director; and Supervisor Edward P. Romaine.

Councilwoman Jane Bonner with Special Olympic Athlete Matthew Schuster before taking the "plunge."

Farmingville, NY - On December 17th, the Town of Brookhaven and the Special Olympics of New York hosted the third annual "Polar Plunge: Freezin' for a Reason" at Cedar Beach in Mount Sinai. Over 500 participants, including Councilwoman Jane Bonner, and other Town employees braved the ice cold water of the Long Island sound to collectively raise over $65,000 for the Special Olympics. Ryan Attard, a Town of Brookhaven employee, was one of the top fundraisers, collecting over $2,000 in pledges. The team that raised the most money was the Sayville High School Athletes Helping Athletes Club, collecting over $5,000.

Supervisor Ed Romaine commented "I was very inspired by the large turnout at this year's Polar Plunge. While the water was very cold, there were a lot of warm hearts who were there to make a difference in the lives of so many Special Olympics athletes. Thanks to everyone who organized this event and especially the people who took the plunge."

"This was the third time I've braved the cold waters at Cedar Beach for the Polar Plunge and each time proves to be even more rewarding,' said Councilwoman Bonner. "This extraordinary event is proof that our community is always willing to help make dreams come true for the Special Olympics athletes. I commend the Special Olympics of New York, all the volunteers and my fellow plungers for another job well done."

Photos show "plungers" running into the chilly waters of the Long Island Sound and the rush back to the beach.

Special Olympics New York, Long Island Region has 4,000 athletes training and competing year-round in 22 Olympics-style sports. The athletes and their families or caregivers are never charged to participate. It costs $400 to support training and competition for one athlete for one sports season. For more information about the Special Olympics New York, go to www.specialolympicsny.org

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