

## Special Olympics Wisconsin

### Madison Polar Plunge team has clear reason for freezin'

Every year, thousands of brave participants take the Polar Plunge to raise money for Special Olympics. The goal of this fund raiser hits close to home for one team of Madison Plungers, Chassity's Chill Seekers.

It's hard to miss the Chassity's Chill Seekers team at the Madison Polar Plunge. They are one of the largest teams and they Plunge wearing matching T-shirts that feature a picture of Special Olympics athlete, Chassity Ehr on the front.

Kathy Crossen started this plunge team four years ago to honor her daughter who trains and competes with Monona Grove Special Olympics.

"Special Olympics has been a part of our family for about four years now. Chassity is now 12 years old and it really has done wonders for her socially and physically," said Crossen. "I'm very proud to say we are in Special Olympics."

According to Crossen, the Plunge is her favorite fund raising event of the year because you don't have to train for it like a run or walk, it's just a quick dip in the lake and you're done.

"There is so much excitement before the Plunge...it's the best feeling. Now, in the water is a whole different feeling. The water is kind of breath taking," said Crossen. "Once you are out of the water, the natural high is unbelievable," she added.

Last year, the Madison Polar Plunge was cancelled due to extreme cold, but it was still a fund raising success for Special Olympics due to the efforts of many loyal Plungers like the members of Chassity's Chill Seekers.

The team has raised over \$33,000 through the Polar Plunge. Last year alone, Chassity's Chill Seekers had 52 team members and raised over \$17,000.

"I hope to have at least that many (team members) again this year, if not even more," said Crossen.

In order to be successful fund raisers, Chassity's Chill Seekers' team members remind friends and family members about how important participation in Special Olympics is to Chassity and other athletes with cognitive disabilities when asking for pledges.

"I make sure that everyone on my team has a picture of Chassity that they can attach to their pledge form and then a little write up about her and her participation in Special Olympics," said Crossen.

This year, the team hopes to raise \$20,000 in pledges. [Click here to go to the Chassity's Chill Seeker's Team Web page where you can pledge to a member of the team online.](#)

The Polar Plunge is Special Olympics Wisconsin's largest fund raiser where thousands of warm-hearted people raise pledges and dip into icy lakes and rivers. In February and March, there will be nine Plunges throughout the state. Thank you statewide Plunge sponsor Kwik Trip for supporting Special Olympics Wisconsin.



*Chassity Ehr*



[Click here for more information about the Plunge, to register online or to search for a Plunger to pledge to.](#)



*Chassity's Chill Seekers*

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