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## SANTA CLAUS SHUFFLE 5K Race and 1 Mile Fun Run

*Fun for the entire family!*

November 17, 2014 - Dust off your running shoes and get ready! The 20th Annual Santa Claus Shuffle 5K Race and 1 Mile Fun Run will take place Saturday, December 13, 2014 in Olde Towne Portsmouth, Virginia!

This family friendly, festive event is sure to boost your holiday spirits as you participate with many holiday-themed, costumed runners through the historic streets and along the seawall in scenic Olde Towne Portsmouth, VA. With complimentary refreshments, a variety of raffle prizes, a costume contest, and great awards for the 5K race, the Santa Claus Shuffle is fun for all ages!

“One of my favorite things about this race is that we get runners that come back year after year. I get emails or messages from previous participants, that I now call friends,” said Jeannie Martin, Executive Director of Tidewater Youth Services Foundation. This is her 15<sup>th</sup> year on the job as Race Director for the Santa Claus Shuffle. “Proceeds from the Santa Claus Shuffle really allow us to go further and do more to serve clients and their families. Program Directors can come to me with a request to help, and at the Foundation level, we are really able to make a difference”. And it’s not all work and no play! Jeannie is a crowd favorite at the race, and can often be spotted taking pictures with costumed runners and participants. “What I love about the race is that it is so festive and fun for the entire family!”

There are two events to the Santa Claus Shuffle – a 1 Mile Fun Run that starts at 8:30 am, and the 5K which starts at 9:00. Pre-register online by visiting [www.SantaClausShuffle.org](http://www.SantaClausShuffle.org) or register race day, beginning at 7:30 am. All staging events, including race day registration, packet pick-up, coat check, costume contest, refreshments, and awards take place at nTelos Pavilion, 16 Crawford Circle, Portsmouth, VA.

All proceeds from the Santa Claus Shuffle benefit the [Tidewater Youth Services Foundation](http://www.tysfoundation.org) and help at-risk and court involved youth gain the skills they need to become successful adults and productive members of the community. Sponsors, volunteers, and participants needed! Get involved and make a difference!

For more information and to register, visit [www.SantaClausShuffle.org](http://www.SantaClausShuffle.org).

### **History of the Santa Claus Shuffle**

Now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, the Santa Claus Shuffle is the signature fundraiser for Tidewater Youth Services Foundation. What began as a small event hosted at Norfolk Botanical Garden, the Santa Claus Shuffle has grown into a holiday favorite, boasting crowds of runners as large as 1700! The proceeds from the race account for up to twenty percent of Tidewater Youth Services Foundation's budget. In its largest year, the Santa Claus Shuffle raised over \$45,000, funds that went directly toward programs and services, including literacy assistance, life skills programs, basic needs for youth and families, group home improvements, and positive outings and activities. By supporting the Santa Claus Shuffle, participants help at-risk and court-involved youth gain valuable skills that will guide them toward a productive adulthood and help them reach their full potential!

### **About Tidewater Youth Services Foundation**

Tidewater Youth Services Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization, established in 1991 to support a public agency, Tidewater Youth Services Commission, in its work with at-risk and court-involved youth and their families. While Tidewater Youth Services Foundation helps our public partner in many ways, our stated mission is to prepare these youth for productive lives in their communities by improving academic skills, teaching appropriate social and life skills, and fostering involvement in positive activities. For more information on Tidewater Youth Services Foundation, visit [www.TYSFoundation.org](http://www.TYSFoundation.org).

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