

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BALTIMORE BREWERIES, VOLUNTEERS CLEAN TRASH AND RAISE GLASSES FOR CLEAN WATER**

BALTIMORE, Maryland, September 26, 2019 – More than 175 volunteers spent last Saturday cleaning up trash and raising their glasses for clean water and craft beer.

Cheers to Clean Water -- presented by Trash Free Maryland in partnership with [Blue Water Baltimore](#) in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup-- brings together communities and local breweries to pick up litter across Baltimore City. This year's event was the second annual, and there are hopes to grow it beyond Baltimore in future years.

Unlike most trash cleanups, Cheers to Clean Water encourages people to tackle trash pollution by tapping into their appreciation for local, craft beer.

"If we want great beer, we need clean water. That's the main idea we want our volunteers to leave with," said Jennifer Aiosa at Blue Water Baltimore. "By partnering with local breweries, we're able to showcase that our economy, communities, and pint glasses depend on keeping our waterways clean."

Volunteers found some unique trash oddities at this year's event including Christmas decorations, jewelry, TVs, tires, and even an unsigned check for \$75. This year the event removed INSERT INFO ON BAGS/WEIGHT HERE. In 2018, more than 4,500 pounds of trash and recyclables, 1,687 pieces of foam, and 600 plastic bags were collected. Trash Free Maryland staff are finalizing the counts on plastic bags and foam pieces collected at this year's event.

"The data we collected last year bolstered our advocacy efforts to successfully ban foam food service containers in Maryland, as well as our ongoing work on the bag bill currently introduced in Baltimore City," said Ashley Van Stone, Executive Director of Trash Free Maryland. "Both effective and fun, Cheers to Clean Water allows us to connect with residents on the ground and empower them to think differently about litter prevention."

Cheers to Clean Water 2019 was made possible with support from MOM's Organic Market, Baltimore City's Department of Public Works, and the Baltimore Community ToolBank. To learn more, visit [www.bluewaterbaltimore.org](http://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org) and [www.trashfreemaryland.org](http://www.trashfreemaryland.org).

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**ABOUT BLUE WATER BALTIMORE:** *Blue Water Baltimore is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to clean water and strong communities. Through science, advocacy, and community service, Blue Water Baltimore works to protect and restore the quality of Baltimore's waterways. To learn more, visit [www.bluewaterbaltimore.org](http://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org).*

**ABOUT TRASH FREE MARYLAND:** *Founded in 2010, Trash Free Maryland is the leading advocate for public policies and initiatives to reduce trash pollution in the state. We work toward a state of Maryland that is free of trash, debris, and litter, where communities, public spaces, and waterways are safe, healthy, and support economic viability. Learn more at [www.trashfreemaryland.org](http://www.trashfreemaryland.org).*



*Pictured: More than 175 volunteers participated in this year's Cheers to Clean Water event, including District 46 Delegate Brooke Lierman (left). (Credit: Marissa Zuckerman / Blue Water Baltimore)*



*Pictured: An unclaimed check for \$75 was found trashed along Jones Falls near Waverly Brewing Company.*