



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Contact**

Tara Perkins, Director of Public Relations, PostScript, Inc.  
444 South Union Street, Burlington, VT 05401  
802.863.2568, ext. 13 / [tara@postscriptinc.com](mailto:tara@postscriptinc.com)

### **Merchants Bank: Go Take a Jump in the Lake!**

**SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT** –Thomas S. Leavitt, Senior Vice President of Retail Banking for Merchants Bank announced Merchants Bank’s successful sponsorship of and staff participation in the 2005 Penguin Plunge. This was the sixth year of sponsorship and the fourth year of staff participation for Merchants Bank.

Approximately 15 Merchants Bank employees and their family members were expected to participate in the Plunge; on the actual Plunge day, this figure materialized into a 27-member team, which helped to raise \$7,655 in addition to the original \$10,000 pledged sponsorship. That’s a total of \$ 17, 655 raised to benefit Special Olympics Vermont!

**Go, team!!**



This year’s Penguin Plunge, which supports Special Olympics with an icy 34 degree jump in Lake Champlain, saw 767 “Penguins” (brave souls with warm hearts) take the icy dip at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Penguin Plunge for Special Olympics Vermont on February 12<sup>th</sup> at Waterfront Park in Burlington. The Penguin Plunge was part of Burlington’s 13<sup>th</sup> annual 2005 Winter Festival. The Penguin Plunge set two new records: highest amount of money raised and most participants ever to take the Plunge. The total amount raised by the event was \$260,000, all of which will benefit Special Olympics Vermont.

**Look for the Merchants Bank Penguins next year!**

For more information, please call (802)-863-5222 ext. 106 or visit [www.vtso.org](http://www.vtso.org). You may also contact the Burlington Parks and Recreation Department by calling 802-864-0123 or visiting [www.enjoyburlington.com](http://www.enjoyburlington.com).

The continuing mission of Merchants Bank is to provide Vermonters with a true community bank. It fulfills this commitment through a branch-based system that includes 35 bank offices throughout Vermont, employees dedicated to quality customer service and the LYNX family of products: Free Checking for Life<sup>®</sup>, MoneyL YNX<sup>®</sup> Money Market Account, TimeLYNX<sup>®</sup> Certificate of Deposit, HomeLYNX<sup>®</sup> Home Equity Line of Credit, RealLYNX<sup>®</sup> Residential Mortgages, CommerceLYNX<sup>®</sup> Business Banking Services, eLYNX<sup>®</sup> Online Banking and PhoneLYNX<sup>SM</sup> Automated Phone Banking. For more information about Merchants Bank visit the website at [www.mbvt.com](http://www.mbvt.com). Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.