

## A Dolphin's Promise

**D**olphins have always been man's best friend in the water, and a special organization of Virginia Beach stands to prove that dolphins can be rescuers on land as well as at sea. A Dolphin's Promise is a non-profit organization working in partnership with the city of Virginia Beach to bring hundreds of life size dolphin sculptures to our beautiful shores and neighborhoods. With their goal of one million dollars, ninety percent of all proceeds will go into cancer research at the Lance Armstrong Foundation. The remaining ten percent will go into protecting marine life at the Virginia Aquarium as a tribute to dolphins and the unique role they serve in Virginia Beach to fight cancer.


As you enjoy our city, be sure to take notice of the brightly colored 9 foot dolphins playfully located



throughout Virginia Beach. The funds are donated by local citizens, groups, organizations and corporations alike. Each one is individually decorated by local artists who give of their time and talent for this wor-

thy cause. One of my personal favorites is "Top Hat" conceived by Andy Vakos in honor of his family's long history at the beach. You will recognize Top Hat immediately with his dignified top hat, bow tie, and goatee reminiscent of an era gone by. Once located at 29th and Atlantic, Top Hat was a jumping night club at the oceanfront during the 1940's and known for headline acts such as Fats Domino, Roy Orbison, Chubby Checker and Joey D and the Starlighters.

I invite you to find your personal favorite. Perhaps it is the Lance Armstrong dolphin by Cindy Graf, or the Katrina Dolphin sponsored by The Virginia Beach Foundation and created by local artist Rick Romano. There are dozens to choose from so take your time, enjoy them and remember all that our dolphins represent. It is a promise by their sponsors, artists and by our city to do all we can to fight cancer.

For more information on how you can become part of A Dolphins Promise please visit [www.adolphinspromise.com](http://www.adolphinspromise.com). 



*Michelle Matthews*