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Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon Opens Registration Feb. 1

Organizers announce new 5K and 1 Mile races on Marathon weekend, milestone charitable support level for Hospital reached

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)— The Nationwide Children’s Hospital Columbus Marathon Board of Trustees will add 5K and 1 Mile races on the Saturday of Marathon Weekend. The Nationwide Children’s Hospital Columbus Marathon & 1/2 Marathon will take place on Sunday, Oct. 16; registration for all events opens Tuesday, Feb. 1.

The Board also announced it has made a donation of \$50,000 from 2021 event proceeds to continue its decade-long string of support for Nationwide Children’s Hospital. Since it became the charitable beneficiary of the Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon in 2012, more than \$11 million has been generated through fundraising, sponsorship and donations, including more than \$1.2 million from the Marathon Board.

“As a Board, we are extremely pleased to be able to continue our substantial financial support of Nationwide Children’s Hospital and the world-class treatment provided to children and families in Ohio and around the world,” said Dan Leite, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. “We all realize the extremely difficult times the pandemic has brought, but this ongoing effort in support of the Hospital is a direct reflection of the commitment of our Board, our event’s participants and vendors and the incredible partnership the Marathon has with Nationwide and NCH.”

Moving into 2022, event organizers are upbeat about continuing this charitable support, as well as moving the event in a new direction by adding the 5K and 1 Mile events, said Darris Blackford, Race Director of the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon.

“The 5K and 1 Mile races will encourage even more people to come out and participate,” Blackford said. “These races provide a great opportunity for families and friends to take part in race weekend and for new runners and walkers to experience the thrill of the start line without committing to going the full distance. We feel confident that when these folks get a taste of the atmosphere and energy of these races, they’ll be back for more!”

Both the 5K, a timed race, and the 1 Mile fun run/walk, will honor the legacy of Ohio State and Olympic running great Jesse Owens. Details of the arrangement, being coordinated in cooperation with the Jesse Owens Foundation, are still being finalized; the parties previously worked together on an event known as the Jesse Owens Jog, a 2.62-mile fun run/walk focused on African-American health and wellness. The “JOG” was held from 2015 to 2019; it was part of the overall Marathon & ½ Marathon’s weekend cancellation in 2020, and was not held in 2021.

The logo for the Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon. It features a blue rectangular box at the top containing the text "NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL" in white, serif, all-caps font. Below this box, the word "COLUMBUS" is written in a large, orange, sans-serif font, with a white outline of the state of Ohio and a white star inside the letter 'O'. Below "COLUMBUS", the word "MARATHON" is written in a large, black, sans-serif font.

NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLUMBUS MARATHON

More info on the races on Saturday, Oct. 15:

- The 5K will take place at 11 a.m. and will begin at the official marathon start line (North Bank Park at 311 W. Long St.) and will take participants on a scenic tour of the Scioto riverfront before they cross marathon finish line. It will be a timed event for runners and walkers age 12 and older. Finishers will get a special hat and race medal.
- The 1 Mile run/walk will take place at 12:30 p.m. and will be an untimed, family friendly event open to anyone age six and older. Finishers will get a special hat and race medal.
- Highlights For Children will return as the sponsor of the annual “Highlights’ Kid’s Run” held in cooperation with the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department. New this year, the Kid’s Run will be free to all children ages 11 and under. The Kid’s Run will take place at 1:30 p.m., and all participants will receive a custom finisher ribbon and refreshments. Registration for this event will be open June 1.

COVID-19 protocols followed in the 2021 event will remain at this point for all events. All athletes, volunteers, event personnel and vendors in “active athlete areas” including the Health & Fitness Expo, Start/Finish areas and Fluid Stations will be required to show proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as defined by the Centers for Disease Control or present results of a negative COVID-19 test taken within recommended CDC timelines prior to participation in the event.

About Nationwide Children’s Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon:

The Nationwide Children’s Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon has raised more than \$11 million for Nationwide Children's Hospital since it became the title beneficiary of the event in 2012. The Columbus Marathon will be held for the 42nd time in 2022; this year will mark the 16th edition of the ½ Marathon and the first for both the 5K and 1 Mile races. For more information, visit www.columbusmarathon.com.

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