

**MEDIA ADVISORY \*\*\* MEDIA ADVISORY \*\*\* MEDIA ADVISORY  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Marathon Events and Media Opportunities for Race Weekend**

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- WHAT:** The 2023 Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon
- WHERE:** The Start/Finish Area at North Bank Park, 311 W. Long Street  
Columbus Marathon Health & Fitness Expo, Hall D, Greater Columbus Convention Center
- WHEN:** Monday, Oct. 9 to Sunday, Oct. 15
- CONTACT:** Sarah Irvin Clark – 614.296.4057 or Stephanie Steel – 330.691.0017
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The 2023 Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon will feature an estimated 12,000 runners and walkers on Sunday, Oct. 15. Nationwide Children's Hospital is the title beneficiary of the marathon for the 12<sup>th</sup> year, and 24 miles of the race are represented by patients of Nationwide Children's. These patients and their families will be cheering on participants and serving as a visual reminder of how the marathon is helping ill and injured children—no matter their ability to pay. The other two miles along the race route are the "Encore Mile" at mile 10 (featuring patients who were honored along the race route the previous 10 years) and the "Angel Mile" at mile 11 (dedicated to the angels of Nationwide Children's who have passed away).

**Events on tap for media and photo opportunities:**

- **Monday, Oct. 9 to Wednesday, Oct. 11 – North Bank Park**
  - Children's Champion tent construction begins (Monday and Tuesday)
  - Gear Tent construction and AV equipment installed at start line (Wednesday)
- **Thursday, Oct. 12 to Friday, Oct. 13 – North Bank Park**
  - Start/finish line set up takes place
- **Friday, Oct. 13**
  - **Noon to 7 p.m.:** The Health & Fitness Expo opens in the **Greater Columbus Convention Center, Hall D**, with athlete packet pickup, Columbus Marathon store, vendor booths and shopping
- **Saturday, Oct. 14**
  - **9 a.m. to 6 p.m.:** The Health & Fitness Expo opens for its second day (**GCCC, Hall D**)
  - **11 a.m.:** Jesse Owens 5K and 1 mile start (**North Bank Park**)
  - **12:30 p.m.:** Highlights Kids' Run start (**North Bank Park**)
- **Sunday, Oct. 15 – Race Day!**
  - **7:25 a.m.** Wheelchair start
  - **7:30 a.m.** Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon Start

*Photo opportunities:*

  - Thousands of athletes at the Start/Finish line in North Bank Park including more than 100 elite athletes who are competing for the prize purse;

- Fireworks at the start of both waves;
- 24 of the miles are dedicated to patients of Nationwide Children's Hospital. The [Marathon Mile Champions](#) will be on the course on race day to cheer on the participants. Additionally, there will be an "Encore Mile" featuring Marathon Mile Champions from the 2012 to 2022 events; and an "Angel Mile" to honor and celebrate the angels of Nationwide Children's Hospital who have passed away;
- Hundreds of Children's Champions are running and walking to raise money for Nationwide Children's Hospital;
- More than 60 bands and other entertainment along the course;
- Finish line with runner food, PR Gong and Columbus Marathon Store
- Finish line closes at 2:30 p.m.

#### **About The Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon**

The Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon has raised more than \$12 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 43<sup>rd</sup> time in 2023; this year will mark the 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the ½ Marathon and the second for both the Jesse Owens 5K and 1 Mile races. For more information, visit [www.columbusmarathon.com](http://www.columbusmarathon.com).

#### **FUN FACTS about the 43<sup>rd</sup> Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & 17<sup>th</sup> ½ Marathon**

##### **THE PEOPLE**

- 24 Marathon Mile Champions who have shared their stories to inspire
- Over 1,100 volunteers that make this marathon possible
- More than 12,000 athletes who come from 47 states, D.C. and 13 countries.
- More than 60 bands, DJs and entertainers add extra cheer
- 25-member marathon team and 9-member marathon board of directors have put in approximately 10,000 hours of planning
- 30 Striding Slider (presented by White Castle) pace team leaders
- Approximately 100,000 spectators cheer on athletes on Race Day
- More than 400 Children's Champions raise money for Nationwide Children's Hospital through the event
- 101 participants will be celebrating their birthday race weekend

##### **THE SUPPLIES**

- 100,000 White Castle cups of water to quench thirst
- 100,000-plus cups of Lemon-Lime Gatorade when water just doesn't cut it
- 8,000 bananas; 6,000 apples; 16,000 bottles of water; 10,000 peanut butter sandwich cracker 6-packs; 10,000 packets of string cheese; 10,000 cartons of chocolate milk; 10,000 bagels; 10,000 Frito-Lay chips and 10,000 yummy frozen treats and popsicles
- 500-plus portable bathrooms for relief
- 3,000 Clif Shot energy gels to refuel (strawberry, citrus and mocha flavored)

### THE COURSE

- 1 Angel Mile to honor, remember and celebrate the angels of Nationwide Children's who have already finished their race
- 1 Encore Mile, for the 400+ patients who lined the 2012 – 2022 Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & 1/2 Marathon course
- 201,600-watt sound system to rev up runners at the Start Line
- 27 permits throughout five different police jurisdictions to close 26.2 miles of roads
- Thousands of pounds of discarded clothes donated to Goodwill Columbus

### THE CAUSE

- Nationwide Children's Hospital has more than 1.7 million patient visits annually and stays true to its mission of providing care regardless of the family's ability to pay.
- Last year, it provided more than \$259 million in charity care and community benefit services and welcomed patients from all 50 U.S. states and 45 foreign countries.
- As a result of the partnership between the Columbus Marathon and Nationwide Children's Hospital, more than \$12 million has been raised to support the work of Nationwide Children's Hospital.
- Once again listed on U.S News & World Report's Best Children's Hospital Honor Roll, a distinction awarded to only 10 children's centers nationwide.
- Nationwide Children's Hospital is America's second largest children's hospital and has America's highest number of NICU beds, inpatient surgeries, clinic, urgent care, diagnostic therapy, and outpatient visits.