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## **Columbus Marathon Extends Its Support For Benefiting Charity Nationwide Children's Hospital**

***\$13 million in support generated since Partnership began in 2012;  
Millions of dollars raised through athlete fundraising, Board donation***

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – The 12-year partnership between the Columbus Marathon, Nationwide Children's Hospital and Nationwide has resulted in more than \$13 million in donations and sponsor support for the non-profit health facility.

Of this total, millions of dollars have come through fundraising efforts by athletes taking part in the 26.2-mile and 13.1-mile races. Additionally, the Columbus Marathon Board of Trustees has donated \$1.4 million from race proceeds, including a \$115,000 donation resulting from the 2023 race. When the partnership was launched in 2012 the Board set a goal of donating at least \$100,000 per year.

"It is an honor and privilege to partner with such an important community asset and provide financial support to helping children and families here in Columbus and from around the world," said Eric Motter, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. "The support provided by our athletes, business and community partners and volunteers enables us to put on this great event each year. In return, we remain committed to our partnership with Nationwide and the Hospital by making an annual donation."

"For more than 130 years, grass roots, community philanthropy has enabled our mission of caring for every child, for every reason," said Steve Testa, President, Nationwide Children's Hospital Foundation. "The board and organizers of the Columbus Marathon & 1/2 Marathon have exceeded their own planned contribution for 2023, an impressive and much-appreciated gift on top of their significant efforts in putting on 'America's Most Meaningful Marathon' each year. They make it possible for athletes, fundraisers, and supporters to generate funds so our hospital can treat every child, for every reason. The collective efforts of the board, the organizers, the runners and walkers, the fundraisers, and thousands of people help children in innumerable ways."

Darris Blackford, Race Director, said the outlook is bright for continuing the success of the partnership as the race grows in popularity and continues the rebound it has enjoyed since emerging from the throes of the pandemic.

NATIONWIDE  
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COLUMBUS  
MARATHON

“We sold out our Marathon & ½ Marathon fields in 2023. While our registration for 2024 just opened this week, we already are seeing signs that people are looking forward to October,” Blackford said. “We attract runners and walkers seeking health and wellness and the physical challenge of training for and completing 26.2 or 13.1 miles, as well as those who wish to mesh this with supporting the Hospital. There’s good reason we call this event, ‘America’s Most Meaningful Marathon & 1/2 Marathon.’”

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

The 44<sup>th</sup> Columbus Marathon will be held Sunday, October 20; this year marks the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the ½ Marathon. For more information, visit [www.columbusmarathon.com](http://www.columbusmarathon.com).

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