



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Two Course Records Set, Closest Marathon Finish in Race History Highlight 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon** *Three Americans qualified for US Olympic Trials*

**(COLUMBUS, OH – Oct. 20, 2019)** – Both the male and female Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus ½ Marathon course records were broken today, along with a photo-finish in the Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon.

“We knew the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary was going to be special, but to have two course records fall in the ½ marathon *and* the full marathon be decided by two-one-hundreds of a second – well, that was special,” said Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon Race Director Darris Blackford. “I am also proud to say we have raised nearly \$10 million for Nationwide Children's Hospital in our eight years of the partnership. We are thrilled to support the life-saving work of Nationwide Children's Hospital.”

Following were highlights of the day:

- \$1.3 million **and counting** was raised for Nationwide Children's Hospital during the 2019 event; for a total of nearly \$10 million raised since the partnership with the hospital started in 2012;
- Three Americans qualified for the U.S. Olympic Trials, including two females in the marathon (beating the 2:45 qualifying time) and the third-place male marathon finisher (beating the 2:19 qualifying time);
- A field of approximately 15,000 participated from 45 states and 13 countries;
- 24 Nationwide Children's Hospital Patient Champions and their families were along 24 miles; one mile was the Angel Mile and was dedicated to the angels of Nationwide Children's who have already run their race; and one mile was the Encore Mile for the nearly 200 Patient Champions from previous races.

### **TOP FINISHERS**

*\*Course record*

*\*\*Qualified for the US Olympic Trials*

#### Marathon Male

- Sammy Rotich, Kenya 2:15:05
- Elijah Rugut, Kenya 2:15:05:02
- Jason Witt, Columbus, OH 2:18:22\*\*



#### Marathon Female

- Fayne Gudato, New York, NY 2:34:29
- Viola Bor, Toledo, OH 2:35:50
- Maria Scavuzzo, Oxford, OH 2:37:52\*
- Clara Santucci, Lawrence, PA 2:41:19\*

#### ½ Marathon Male

- James Ngandu, Kenya 1:02:14\* (also was 2018 ½ Marathon champ)
- Dominic Korir, Kenya 1:02:17
- E.K. Kurui, Grand Prairie, TX 1:03:20

#### ½ Marathon Female

- Vicoty Chepngeno, Kenya 1:10:27\*
- Sarah Horbol, Westlake, OH 1:17:42
- Sarah Biehl, Hilliard, OH 1:18:52

#### ½ Marathon Wheelchair Male

- Joey Gibbs, Ocala, FL 1:01:57

#### ½ Marathon Wheelchair Female

- Sarah Werner, Columbus, OH 1:34:06

#### Marathon – Wheelchair Male

- Steven Smith, Plover, WI 1:49:43

### **FUN FACTS ABOUT THE 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLUMBUS MARATHON**

#### **THE PEOPLE**

- 24 Miracle Mile Patient Champions who have shared their stories to inspire
- 3,000 volunteers making this marathon possible
- Approximately 15,000 athletes come from 45 states (we are only missing representation from Alaska, Delaware, Nevada, New Mexico, and South Dakota)
- Nearly 100 bands and entertainers add extra cheer
- 25-member marathon team and 11-member marathon board of directors that have put in approximately 10,000 hours of planning
- Approximately 60,000 people attend the Health & Fitness Expo on Friday, Oct. 18 and Saturday, Oct. 19



- Approximately 100,000 spectators cheer on athletes on Race Day
- Participants in the ½ Marathon range in age from 12 years of age (we have 9 registered) to 89 years of age; participants in the full range in age from 16 years old to 77 years old.
- Participants in the full marathon hail from USA, Brazil, Canada, China, Ecuador, Germany, Kenya, Peru, Thailand and the UK. Participants in the ½ marathon hail from the USA, Australia, India and the Netherlands.
- 116 elite athletes are entered in the full and the ½ marathon – 54 women and 62 men.
- Nearly 1,000 Children’s Champions raise money for Nationwide Children’s Hospital through the event
- 42 participants are running the race on their birthday!

#### **THE SUPPLIES**

- 100,000-plus White Castle cups of water to quench thirst
- 100,000-plus cups of Lemon-Lime Gatorade when water just doesn’t cut it
- 14,000 bananas, 8,000 apples, 22,500 bottles of water, 12,000 peanut butter sandwich cracker 6-packs, 12,000 packets of string cheese, 18,000 Zone Perfect bars, 12,000 Haribo Halloween gummies, 13,000 cartons of Smith’s Chocolate Milk, 12,000 bagels, 12,000 goldfish crackers, 12,000 Frito-Lay chips
- 500-plus portable bathrooms for relief
- 20,000-plus Clif Shot energy gels to refuel (chocolate, vanilla, raspberry and citrus flavored!)
- 96 portable generators to power the course

#### **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 patients who lined the 2012 – 2018 Nationwide Children’s Hospital Columbus Marathon & 1/2 Marathon course
- 20,000 feet of fencing (nearly 4 miles) along various parts of the course
- 201,600-watt sound system to rev up runners at the Start Line
- 24 White Castle “Striding Slyders” and New Albany Walking Club pace team members
- 27 permits throughout five different police jurisdictions to close down 26.2 miles of roads
- More than 8,000 lbs. of discarded clothes donated to Goodwill Columbus

#### **THE CAUSE**

- Nationwide Children’s Hospital has more than 1.2 million patient visits annually and stays true to its mission of providing care regardless of the family’s ability to pay.



- As a result of the partnership between the Columbus Marathon and Nationwide Children's Hospital launched in 2012, more than \$8.5 million has been raised to support the life-saving work of Nationwide Children's Hospital (we could hit \$10 million this year!).

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

The Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon is now in its 40<sup>th</sup> year. In its 14<sup>th</sup> year, the ½ Marathon is the largest in Columbus. Nearly \$10 million has been raised for Nationwide Children's Hospital since it became the title beneficiary of the event in 2012. For more information, visit [www.columbusmarathon.com](http://www.columbusmarathon.com).

For more information on today's race and full race results, visit [www.columbusmarathon.com](http://www.columbusmarathon.com).

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