**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE For more information, contact:**

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**2015 Registration Opens February 1**

***1,000 additional spaces added in ½ Marathon***

**(COLUMBUS, OH)** – The Nationwide Children’s Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon opens registration Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015 for this year’s Oct. 18th race.

This will be the 36th year for the 26.2 mile event; the ½ Marathon celebrates its 10-year anniversary in 2015.

“The Marathon and ½ Marathon have sold out eight straight years, each year more quickly; in 2014 we sold out the ½ Marathon in early August, and the Marathon just after Labor Day,” said Darris Blackford, Race Director. “This has become a nationally respected and anticipated running and walking event athletes don’t want to miss.”

Blackford said athletes can register online at [www.columbusmarathon.com](http://www.columbusmarathon.com). There will be 12,000 spots for the ½ Marathon, an increase of 1,000. The Marathon will continue to have 7,000 spots available.

Blackford said registration fees will remain the same for the fourth straight year. Early bird prices of $75 for the Marathon and $60 for the 1/2 Marathon are available for anyone who registers in the month of February, with additional prices listed below

* $85/$70 - March 1-31
* $95/$80 - April 1 to May 31
* $105/$90 - June 1-30
* $115/$100 - July 1-31
* $125/$110 - August 1 until sell-out or until online registration closes Oct. 17

The Marathon course limit is six hours or a 13:44/mile pace. The ½ marathon course limit is 3.5 hours or a 16:00/mile pace. Athletes can visit [www.columbusmarathon.com](http://www.columbusmarathon.com) for event information, including how to become a [Children’s Champion to raise money for Nationwide Children’s Hospital.](http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/childrens-champions-marathon)

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

The Nationwide Children’s Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon will be held on Sunday, Oct. 18, 2015 and will feature up to 19,000 athletes. The Marathon, now in its 36th year, is the largest marathon in Ohio and the 16th largest in the United States. The ½ Marathon is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2015 and is the largest ½ Marathon in Columbus. More than $3 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)

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