



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Oct. 12, 2016

CONTACTS: Media Relations
Nationwide Children's Hospital
(614) 355-0495

Sarah Irvin Clark
Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon
(614) 296-4057

Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon **Announce 2016 Patient Champions Mile Themes**

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – The Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon is pleased to announce the mile themes for its field of "Patient Champions" who will represent 24 of the 26.2 miles on this year's course. The other two miles along the Marathon route will be deemed the "Encore Mile" and "Angel Mile" and many miles will be sponsored by a corporate or community organization. The full list of Patient Champions, their mile themes and mile assignments are below.

The marathon Patient Champions represent every child treated at Nationwide Children's, with more than 1.2 million patient visits each year. They have shared their stories to inspire the athletes and will cheer for them along every mile of the course.

The Encore Mile will feature Patient Champions who were honored along the race route the previous four years. The Angel Mile is dedicated to the angels of Nationwide Children's who have already run their race. The Angel Mile will be lined with banners and represented by families honoring the lives of their children while cheering on participants.

Marathon and ½ Marathon participants are encouraged to serve as "Children's Champions" and raise donations on behalf of Nationwide Children's. In the past four years, between participants' fundraising efforts, corporate and community sponsorships and matches by the Marathon board, more than \$4.5 million has been raised for Nationwide Children's. To register to become a Children's Champion, please visit nationwidechildrens.org/marathon

Partners that have committed to sponsoring a Miracle Mile along the 2016 Marathon route include: Platinum Sponsors Abercrombie & Fitch, L Brands, Nationwide and *The Columbus Dispatch*; Gold Sponsor Cardinal Health; and Silver Sponsors Alliance Data, Big Lots, CampusParc, Clif Bar, EAS Sports Nutrition, Fifth Third Bank, Germain Automotive Partnership, Kohl's Department Stores, Kroger, Leaderpromos.com, Panera, PNC, Subway, The Superior Group, Vaughn Industries, and WBNS-10 TV.

Corporate or community organizations interested in becoming a partner in this year's event may contact Morgen Spohn with Nationwide Children's Hospital Foundation at (614) 355-5419. To read

more about the Patient Champions' stories and to support Nationwide Children's, visit NationwideChildrens.org/marathon-patient-champions

The 37th Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon will be held on Sunday, October 16, 2016 and will have a capacity of 6,000 full marathoners and 12,000 participants in the ½ Marathon. The Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon is the 17th largest marathon in the United States and one of the top marathons to qualify runners for the Boston Marathon. For more information, visit www.columbusmarathon.com.

The 2016 Patient Champions:

- Mile 1: Breanna McGrady, 14, Crohns induced Pseudotumor Myositis, Clyde, OH 43410
Theme: Breanna's Battle Knock Out
- Mile 2: Tristen Cooper, 9, Multiple Diagnoses, Marietta, OH 45750
Theme: Just Keep Truckin' & Never Give Up
- Mile 3: Riley Muller, 11, Mucopolysaccharidosis Type II (MPS II), Marysville, OH 43040
Theme: Sonic the HedgeHog
- Mile 4: Gracelynn Dutton, 3, Spina Bifida, Delaware, OH 43015
Theme: Minnie Mouse
- Mile 5: Alex Steckman, 21, Aortic Stenosis, and Coarctation of the Aorta, Westerville, OH 43081 – Theme: Strength
- Mile 6: Lyla Horsley, 9, Asthma, Portsmouth, OH 45662
Theme: Unicorns & Rainbows
- Mile 7: Grant Loechler, 4, 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome, Columbus, OH 43221
Theme: The Amazing Spider Grant & His Super Friends
- Mile 8: Millie Johnson, 5, Arthrogryposis, Distal Type I, Upper Arlington, OH 43220
Theme: Frozen: Anna/Elsa
- Mile 9: Louis Wood, Traumatic Brain Injury, 16 Granville, OH 43023
Theme: Music
- Mile 10: Jessica Acton, 15, Hypokalemic Periodic Paralysis, Dola, OH 45835
Theme: The Warrior Within
- Mile 11: Angel Mile
- Mile 12: Jude Hummer, 10, Addison's Disease, ALD, Columbus, OH 43214
Theme: Jude's Jump Shot
- Mile 13: Joel Buyer, 8, Cerebral Palsy, Washington Court House, OH 43160
Theme: Music
- Mile 14: Laila Albanese, 4, Astrocytoma of Spinal Cord, Chillicothe, OH 45601
Theme: Disney
- Mile 15: Mason Dum, 15, Type 1 Diabetes, Stoutsville, OH 43154
Theme: MARVELous Super Heroes
- Mile 16: Aaron Welch, 9, Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome, Epilepsy and Cerebral Palsy, Chillicothe, OH 45601 – Theme: Ohio State
- Mile 17: Benjamin Harberts, 4, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Pataskala, OH 43062
Theme: Clickety-Clack Trains
- Mile 18: Encore Mile
- Mile 19: Melanie Wheeler, 13, Myxopapillary Ependymoma, Galion, OH 44833

Theme: Lilo & Stitch

- Mile 20: Jacob Carlino, 18, Ewing's Sarcoma, Powell, OH 43065
Theme: Jake's One Man Band
- Mile 21: Evan Durant, 6, Double Outlet Right Ventricle with Transposition of the Great Arteries, Zanesville, OH 43701 – Theme: How to Train Your Dragon
- Mile 22: Layla Graham, 6, Batten's Disease, Columbus, OH 43212
Theme: Bobcats Against Batten
- Mile 23: Alyssa Turner, 19, Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis, Westerville, OH 43801
Theme: Hollywood
- Mile 24: Killian Madrid, 6, Severe Prematurity, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
Theme: Incredible Hulk
- Mile 25: Ella Wintringer, 8, Colonic Neuropathy, Orchard Park, N.Y. 14127
Theme: cinderELLA's Motility Mile
- Mile 26: Arjun Satyapriya, 5, Progressive Sensorineuronal Hearing Loss, Powell, OH 43065
Theme – The Fast & The Furious

About Nationwide Children's Hospital

Named to the Top 10 Honor Roll on *U.S. News & World Report's* 2016-17 list of "America's Best Children's Hospitals," Nationwide Children's Hospital is one of America's largest not-for-profit freestanding pediatric healthcare systems providing wellness, preventive, diagnostic, treatment and rehabilitative care for infants, children and adolescents, as well as adult patients with congenital disease. Nationwide Children's has a staff of more than 11,000 providing state-of-the-art pediatric care during more than 1.2 million patient visits annually. As home to the Department of Pediatrics of The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Nationwide Children's physicians train the next generation of pediatricians and pediatric specialists. The Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital is one of the Top 10 National Institutes of Health-funded freestanding pediatric research facilities. Nationwide Children's remains true to the original mission since its founding in 1892 of providing care regardless of a family's ability to pay. More information is available at NationwideChildrens.org.