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PHILADELPHIA MARATHON NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR MAYOR'S HIGH FIVE AWARD

Mayor Michael A. Nutter to honor outstanding competitor who crosses the 'starting' line.

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 7th

PHILADELPHIA (October 28, 2011) – Philadelphia Marathon participants have become accustomed to seeing Mayor Michael A. Nutter at the race starting line, high-fiving enthusiastic runners as they set out on the 26.2-mile course. This year, the second annual Mayor's High Five Award will recognize a participant whose journey to the start line at the Philadelphia Marathon on Sunday, November 20, is as much a victory as crossing the finish.

"The High Five Award will add to the race excitement by honoring the training and hard work it takes for participants to get to the competition," said Mayor Nutter. "That might mean overcoming obstacles, making plans and setting goals, running for a loved one, raising money for charity, or some other accomplishment. In the nominating process, we are looking forward to hearing participants' compelling and courageous stories that motivated them to join the race."

Nominations for the Mayor's High Five Award should be 500 words or less and submitted to HighFiveAward@gmail.com, now through 11:59 p.m. EST on Monday, November 7, 2011. More information is available on the Philadelphia Marathon website at www.philadelphiamarathon.com, and all nominations will be reviewed by the Mayor's High Five Award Committee. Mayor Nutter will announce the recipient of the High Five Award at the press conference that opens Race Weekend, to be held on Friday, November 18, 2011, and the recipient will be featured in the *2011 Philadelphia Marathon Race Weekend Guide*. The Mayor will also acknowledge the 2011 Mayor's High Five Award recipient at the Philadelphia Marathon starting line on the morning of Sunday, November 20. The Philadelphia Marathon begins at 7:00 a.m. at 22nd Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

Anyone can nominate a 2011 Philadelphia Marathon participant who is registered for the full marathon, and participants are permitted to nominate themselves.

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"In the spirit of the High Five Award, we hope that five minutes before the start of the Philadelphia Marathon, runners will join us with raised hands, celebrating their accomplishments, too," Mayor Nutter said. "I'll be there at the starting line to cheer on the runners with high-fives of support."

The first-ever Mayor's High Five Award was given to runner Kathleen Wrigley, from Fargo, North Dakota, in 2010. Kathleen Wrigley, originally from Philadelphia and a mother of three, suffered from two brain aneurysms, the most recent in 2009. Kathleen underwent an invasive surgery that saved her life, but left her without half of her vision. Kathleen was legally blind and unable to do many of the simple tasks she once took for granted, relying on the help of others to drive to the grocery store and take her kids to school. Slowly, Kathleen worked to regain her independence and from the beginning, her goal was to be able to run again. Last year, with the help of a guide, she ran the Philadelphia Marathon to raise awareness about brain aneurysms and early detection, as well as in honor and memory of her brother Danny Boyle, a fallen Philadelphia police officer.

The City of Philadelphia, Running's Best Host City, will welcome 27,000 registrants across all races and more than 60,000 spectators at the **2011 Philadelphia Marathon Race Weekend**. In addition to the Philadelphia Marathon on Sunday, November 20, Race Weekend features three other races – the Half Marathon also on Sunday, as well as the Rothman Institute 8K and the Arctic Ease Kids Fun Run on Saturday, November 19. Other activities to welcome participants, families, friends, spectators, businesses and residents include a free two-day Health & Fitness Expo; a free course map, Fan Pass complete with retail discounts and promotions, and more than 20 spectator cheer zones. Participants pass many of Philadelphia's famous attractions on the swift and scenic USATF-certified course, which is a Boston qualifier. Take the first step to experiencing 26.2 miles of fun, beauty, history and excitement by visiting www.philadelphiamarathon.com.



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