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For Immediate Release

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Run For Recovery Reaching New Heights

Annual 5k Run/Walk & 10k Run Raising Awareness, Branching Out

6th Annual Event On Record Pace, Will Add Efforts to Help Children Overcome Leukemia
Run/Walk In Memory of Dexter Man Killed in 2004 by DWI on His Way Home From Work

WATERTOWN (September 3, 2014) – The Watertown Urban Mission’s Run for Recovery is on pace for its most successful event in six years, raising awareness about the dangers of Driving While Intoxicated and raising money to help individuals rise above addiction.

“Each year the number of walkers and runners has grown and we are very grateful to all of our sponsors and participants,” said Erika Flint, executive director. “This event is a fun, family event for people of all fitness levels. We put a lot of effort into making this event a good time and we want everyone to not only come back next year, but also remember the consequences of driving while impaired or intoxicated.”

Sponsored again by Alpine Fence, the 6th Annual Run for Recovery on Saturday will again start at the Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds Agricultural Building, where walkers and runners will return to share in the same great post event celebration and meal. This year’s event is in memory of Mark Antonelli of Dexter, who was killed by a drunk driver in 2004. Mark was a correctional officer on his way home from Butler Correctional Facility in Red Creek to see his wife, Tracie, and two children just before Christmas. He was just 35 years old. Tracie has shared her story of loss in the hope of saving others from enduring the same tragedy.

Registration levels are on pace to exceed last year’s nearly 450 participants. This is the second year with the new course, which received great reviews last year, in part because of its limited inclines and the space given to walkers for a safe, equal and parallel course along Route 12E toward Brownville. Registered runners for the 5k or 10k will again have their time professionally tracked by Yellow Jacket Racing.

Participants can check in or register as early as 6:30 a.m. on the morning of the event. Same day registration will be \$25 per person or \$140 per team, with 10 percent off for military and students. Registrations are still being accepted until Friday at noon by the Mission at the pre-registration price of \$20 per participant, or \$110 per team of six, with 10 percent off for students and military.

NEW THIS YEAR: SWABBING STATION

New in 2014 will be a booth for runners, walkers, spectators, and volunteers to also be a part of saving lives by registering as a potential blood donor in the fight to save children from leukemia.

“The more people who register, the better the chances are the children fighting this dangerous blood cancer will live,” said Jeri L. Gray, a volunteer with Delete Blood Cancer whose cousin Chase Foley, whose 3rd birthday is on Friday, recently found a match and is recovering with the hope of leading a full life. “This is a great opportunity for people to both support recovery and make another commitment with a gift to save a life.”

News from Your Watertown Urban Mission (continued)

Volunteers will be on hand to take a simple DNA swab to increase the number of potential donors available for children with leukemia. Potential donors must be willing to donate bone marrow or stem cells if they are determined to be a match for a child.

The mission of Delete Blood Cancer (DKMS) is to build a critical mass of suitable bone marrow and stem cell donors, because no life should be lost due to an inability to find a donor match. Today, the organization is part of the world's largest bone marrow donor center. It has registered more than 4 million potential donors and facilitated more than 40,000 transplants around the world. DKMS leads the fight against blood cancer by working with families, communities and organizations to recruit donors and provide more patients with second chances at life. For more information or to register as a bone marrow donor, please visit DeleteBloodCancer.org.

In addition to the Delete Blood Cancer booth, other vendors will be on hand to promote their businesses dealing with fitness and health. An awards ceremony will follow with free food, a silent auction, face painting, a DJ and more. Awards will be given to the top walker, the top team time, and the three top male and female runners in seven age categories.

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