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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

7th Annual 26.2 with DONNA A Huge Success Despite Weather

Jacksonville, Fla. (February 25, 2014) — 26.2 with DONNA welcomed close to 10,000 registered runners and walkers from all 50 states and 14 countries to the 7th Annual 26.2 with DONNA marathon events held Saturday and Sunday, February 22-23, 2014 on Florida's First Coast.

Events

On Saturday, the 5K & Family Fun Run presented by Black Knight Financial Services had a record high number of 2,000 participants in downtown Jacksonville. On Sunday, the Marathon, Half Marathon and Team Relay events started on time with no traffic delays and temperatures at a mild 51 degrees. On the course through the four beach communities, race participants were greeted by cheering spectators who offered refreshments and waved noise makers and signs, live music, and streets decorated with pink balloons.

Weather

Race day progressed smoothly until severe weather moved in. Around 10:00 a.m., the Event Alert System, a series of color-coded signs that signal course conditions on race day, changed from Low (Green) to Moderate (Yellow). Around noon, it was updated to High (Red). At this time, buses were dispatched to the course, ready and waiting to transport participants if conditions worsened. Volunteers were evacuated from the top of the Intracoastal Waterway Bridge. At 1:00 p.m. lightning struck within five miles of the race venue, the Extreme (Black) status was called, and race officials closed the race. Several hundred participants still on the course were transported by bus to Mayo Clinic. Upon arriving, the remaining participants were presented with Finisher Medals and dry clothes in Mayo's Cannaday building.

"It's unfortunate that not everyone was able to cross the finish line, but the safety of our participants and volunteers is our number one priority. The Event Alert System was created so that we can quickly respond to weather and other emergency situations as they happen. We are happy to say no one was injured during the inclement weather and EVERYONE who started this race is a FINISHER in our eyes," said Donna Deegan, founder of 26.2 with DONNA.

Despite a premature finish, most runners were appreciative that race organizers took the necessary precautions. "I ran 20 miles and got pulled, but I'm safe and hope to do it again next year. No negative thoughts in my mind! Loved every inch of it," said runner Kathy Eichner.

Race Results

Men's Marathon Winner is Eyob Wlodegeorgis of Ethiopia (2:19:43). Women's Marathon Winner is Meseret Basa of Ethiopia (2:41:25). Marathon Winner-Survivor is Kirsten Teany of Clermont, Fla. (3:36:05). Masters Men's Marathon Winner is Andrew Musuva (2:41:24). Masters Women's Marathon Winner is Kim Pawelek-Brantley (2:53:27). Local Men's Marathon Winner is Christopher Mutai (2:35:37). Local Women's Marathon Winner is Jamie Joseph (3:15:55). Half Marathon Winner is Jordi Sole of Miami, Fla. (1:21:04).

Fundraising Update

26.2 with DONNA will release the total amount raised after the close of fundraising on March 31, 2014. Projected race proceeds and raised funds are expected to pass \$800,000, bringing the total funds raised to date above \$4 million.

About 26.2 with DONNA

The 26.2 with DONNA mission is to passionately produce world-class events to raise funds in order to FINISH breast cancer. Seventy percent of all race proceeds go to the Mayo Clinic for bench top cancer research. Thirty percent of all race proceeds go to The Donna Foundation to help breast cancer patients with critical financial needs. For more information, visit www.breastcancermarathon.com.

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VISUAL: Starting line at 7th Annual 26.2 with DONNA. Photo by David Gano.