



Run for a Reason Party Kicks Off Countdown to 2009 Chevron Houston Marathon

\$1,250,000 check to be presented to marathon charities

HOUSTON, TX (Oct. 20, 2008) – The road to the start line of the 2009 Chevron Houston Marathon, Aramco Houston Half Marathon, EP5K and ABB Team Challenge, scheduled for January 18, begins with the annual Run for a Reason Kickoff Party on October 23.

The Party is slated from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Park, in the Picnic Loop area south of Memorial Drive with thousands of area runners expected to attend.

Runners can learn how to make their run count through “Run for a Reason,” the Chevron Houston Marathon’s successful charity program. Over the past 13 years, marathon, half marathon and 5K participants have raised close to \$7 million for local charities through pledges and donations. Nonprofit organizations designated as official charities for the 2009 race will staff information booths at the event to provide runners with details about their organizations’ missions and give participants a chance to sign up for their programs.

A highlight of the party will be the \$1,250,000 check presentation from the Run for a Reason program to the 40 official charities associated with the 2008 races. The check presentation is scheduled for 5 p.m.

A record 18,000 participants have registered to race in the 37th running of the Chevron Houston Marathon and Aramco Houston Half Marathon. The annual road races reached their combined field limit of 18,000 runners, an increase of 1,000 participants over the cap for the 2008 race, almost six and a half months before the January 18, 2009 race date.

The Chevron Houston Marathon, a Running USA founding member, is the nation’s premier winter marathon, annually attracting participants from all 50 U.S. states and several foreign countries. In 2008, more than 20,000 runners took part in four marathon weekend events (marathon, half marathon, 5K run and children’s run). The Chevron Houston Marathon offers the only closed marathon course in Texas and is ranked among the top five in the nation by the *Ultimate Guide to Marathons* for fastest course, organization and crowd support. More than 5,000 volunteers organize the race, which is Houston’s largest single-day sporting event.

For more information, visit www.chevronhoustonmarathon.com or call 713-957-3453.

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