

# PRESS RELEASE

## For Immediate Release

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## Largest Field in Event History, Record Number of Participants Expected to Mark 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Chevron Houston Marathon

*2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Marathon to be held one day prior to race day*

**HOUSTON (Jul. 15, 2011)** – The Houston Marathon Committee is excited to celebrate its 40th anniversary running of the Houston Marathon six months from today on January 15, 2012. The 2012 event will mark the largest participant base in the event's history with a record 28,000 participants expected to hit the streets of Houston in the Chevron Houston Marathon, Aramco Houston Half Marathon and El Paso Corporation 5K.

This past January, the Chevron Houston Marathon had the largest number of marathon finishers in the event's history, and for the fifth consecutive year, a new course and state marathon record was set by either the men's or women's marathon champion. In addition, the Run for a Reason charity program generated a record \$2,086,000 benefiting 52 nonprofit organizations, surpassing \$12.4 million in charitable donations in the program's 17-year history.

"Our 40th anniversary event will be a celebration of growth, commitment, loyalty and dedication that our City, participants, sponsors, volunteers and committee members have shown to the race," said Steven Karpas, managing director of business development and marketing. "It is fitting that we built 40 words into our 40th anniversary finisher medal with each word serving to represent a connection to our great race."

A preview of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo can be found on the event website [ChevronHoustonMarathon.com](http://ChevronHoustonMarathon.com).

The anniversary weekend will kick off with the Houston Marathon Committee's hosting of the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Marathon on January 14, 2012, one day prior to race day. This will be the first time in U.S. Olympic Trials – Marathon history that a single city will host both the men's and women's Olympic Trials events in the same year.

The races will determine the runners who will represent the United States in the marathon at the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Houston is the fifth city to host the U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Marathon twice, also hosting the women's Trials in 1992, and only the second city to host the Trials for both genders.

Runners can still be a part of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary weekend through the Run for a Reason charity program. Limited marathon and half marathon charity entries are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Details about how to enroll can be found at [RunforaReasonHouston.org](http://RunforaReasonHouston.org).

### About the Houston Marathon Committee, Inc.

Established in 1972, the Houston Marathon Committee, Inc. (HMC), a Running USA Founding Member, annually organizes the nation's premier winter marathon, half-marathon, 5K and kids' fun run. In 2011, more than 30,000 runners participated in four race weekend events organized by 7,500 volunteers, creating Houston's largest single-day sporting event. In addition to hosting numerous world-renowned road races, including the USA Men's and Women's Half Marathon Championships since 2005 and 2007, respectively, and the 1992 U.S. Women's Olympic Marathon Trials, HMC will host the 2012 U.S. Men's and Women's Olympic Team Trials - Marathon on January 14, 2012.

For more information, visit [houstonmarathon.com](http://houstonmarathon.com) or call 713.957.3453.

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