



Hospital Sisters
MISSION OUTREACH
A healing presence for the life of the world

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Courtney Adams
Public Relations & Development Manager
Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach
217.525.8843 x181
cadams@mission-outreach.org

**HOSPITAL SISTERS MISSION OUTREACH NAMED OFFICIAL CHARITY OF
ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL HALF MARATHON**

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., November 28, 2012—Beginning in 2013, Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach will be the official charity of the International Lincoln Presidential Half Marathon.

Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach, which is celebrating 10 years of humanitarian service this month, provides medical supplies and equipment to organizations in developing nations. Since 2002, it has saved 6 million pounds of medical supplies and equipment from landfills by working in concert with 50 hospitals and 18 clinics throughout Illinois and Wisconsin, including both St. John's Hospital and Memorial Medical Center in Springfield.

Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach has sent these life-saving supplies and equipment to over 200 medical missions in 73 countries. Earlier this month, the organization shipped its 300th container (40 foot equivalent). Proceeds from the half marathon will be used to help underwrite the cost of shipping medical supplies around the world.

“Throughout our 10-year history, Mission Outreach has consistently worked to positively impact the health and wellness of people all around the world by partnering with local hospitals and mission partners in places like Haiti, Kenya and the Ukraine,” said Georgia Winson, the executive director for Mission Outreach. “Partnering with the International Abraham Lincoln Presidential Half Marathon is a natural link, and we are thrilled to be named as their official charity as we celebrate 10 years of ministry.”

The 49th annual 13.1 mile race will take place on Saturday, April 6, 2013. The route of the half marathon winds through Springfield, past some of the nation's most significant Lincoln historic sites.

“We're excited to partner with Mission Outreach and support such a great cause. As our half marathon continues to grow and attract runners from not only across the U.S. but also from

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overseas, this partnership allows race participants to make a positive difference in lives of others from around the world,” said Brian Reardon, race director. “Training for a half marathon is a great investment in one’s personal health. Training for and running the International Lincoln Presidential Half Marathon is now also a great investment in global health.”

The Prairie Heart Institute at St. John’s Hospital will host the race for the final time in 2013 and registration will be capped at 1865 participants. In 2014, the race’s 50th anniversary, the Hilton Hotel in downtown Springfield will serve as race headquarters and the site of the race Expo. The larger venue will allow for more participants. The 2014 course will remain largely the same, with the only change being that participants will start and finish in front of the Old State Capitol.

Both the International Lincoln Presidential Half Marathon and Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach have grown significantly in recent years. During the past decade, Mission Outreach moved from a garage on the property of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis to a 23,000 square foot warehouse built in Springfield in 2006, and a 17,000 square foot warehouse in Bedford Park, Illinois, which opened in 2009. The half marathon has grown from about 600 participants in 2006 (prior to the course moving to downtown Springfield in 2007), to nearly 1,600 last year.

ABOUT HOSPITAL SISTERS MISSION OUTREACH

Since 2002, Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach has responded to the sick, poor and needy of the world through a medical surplus recovery and redistribution program. This life-saving work, accomplished by matching surplus medical supplies and equipment from organizations in the United States with the needs of healthcare providers in the developing world, has affected individuals in more than 70 countries. Mission Outreach strives to be effective environmental stewards while being a healing presence for the life of the world. Mission Outreach is a ministry of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis. For more information about the ongoing work of Mission Outreach, please visit www.mission-outreach.org or www.facebook.com/hsmissionoutreach.

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL HALF MARATHON

The International Lincoln Presidential Half Marathon is a USATF certified half marathon and the only race of its kind where participants can immerse themselves in Lincoln history and enjoy a scenic run past Lincoln’s home, his law office, the Old State Capitol where he delivered his “House Divided” speech, and his final resting place in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Learn more at www.runabe.com.

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