



December 25, 2017

Hello!

First off, I wanted to say thank you for your commitment to our 4th Annual Christmas Day Run / Walk to benefit the House of Mercy Homeless Shelter. This event started in 2014 when runners passed through “Tent City, Sanctuary Village” and saw first hand the scope of homelessness in the community we call home. Six runners collected clothing and money that was delivered to the shelter that first year. We grew to around 12-15 in year two and to around 50 last year.

Though not an official race, and with no religious, political or individual store affiliations, this event has grown each year in the spirit of the season thanks simply to a bunch of wonderful people in our area. “We were running out of food, running out of clothing, running out of toys. And they came running to our rescue” said Sister Grace Miller, Founder of the House of Mercy, when asked about a previous year’s run.

Fleet Feet Sports Rochester has been a supporter since the beginning and will be accepting donations of clothing, non-perishable food items, new unopened toys and money at both of their Rochester locations again this year. Medved Running and Walking and Rochester Running Co. were added as donation drop-off locations last year and will again make their respective locations available for those wishing to drop off items for the shelter. With the cold Rochester winters, the shelter is always in need of socks, hats, gloves, scarves, boots and coats. I am excited to announce that AmVets Thrift Stores will be assisting us this year by donating any unsellable items that the shelter will be able to use.

Donations can be dropped off to any Fleet Feet, Medved or Rochester Running Co. locations between December 1st and December 24th or brought to the event on Christmas Day. Donations of new, unopened toys, however, MUST be dropped off BEFORE December 15th as they will be delivered to the shelter on December 16th 2017.

On December 16th, I will join Team RWB Rochester in delivering all collected toys to the House of Mercy so that they can get them to families in need before the holiday. The

shelter is expecting to feed dinner to roughly 150 individuals that evening, and I am super excited to announce that, Amiel's Subs & Roast Beef has graciously offered to provide dinner for them all – and Team RWB Rochester will join me in serving the meal.

The “main event,” our 4th Annual Christmas Day Run / Walk to benefit the House of Mercy, will take place on Christmas Day morning, December 25th 2017. We will meet at the Fleet Feet Sports Amory location (155 Culver Rd., Rochester NY 14620) at 9:00 am where Santa and his elves will consolidate all donations to be transported to the shelter. Those walking the 2.9 miles to the shelter will head out at 9:30 am with runners following at 10:00 am. Upon Santa's arrival everyone is encouraged to help unload donations for the shelter. As we do every year, we are in need of volunteers willing to help transport donations to the House of Mercy, and walkers and runners back to the Fleet Feet parking lot.

We should have our event created and posted at www.runsignup.com in the next day or so and will provide information as it becomes available.