



For Immediate Release

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Jack H. Marston II Melanoma Research Fund
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GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS. The 4th annual “This Run’s For Jack” 5K Walk/Run to fight melanoma will be held Sunday, October 14th, at Ackerman Park in Glen Ellyn, IL.

Since its inception in 2004, the Jack H. Marston II Melanoma Research Fund has raised over \$300,000 for research, education and awareness. In the spring of 2007, Sharon Marston, president of the fund, presented a check for \$100,000 to Lutheran General Hospital for research into this deadly form of skin cancer, melanoma.

This Run’s For Jack

Cost is by individual or family donation, and runners may register online at www.jacksfund.org. All proceeds from the race go toward research and programs to prevent, treat, and eventually find a cure for melanoma.

Free training is offered through the Glen Ellyn Runners Club (www.glenellynrunners.org). Post race activities include skin checks, massages, music, refreshments, awards, and more. For more information or to volunteer, go to www.jacksfund.org or call 708-205-5692.

Jack H. Marston II Melanoma Research Fund

Background:

On July 12, 2004, Jack H. Marston II died of melanoma at the age of 47. An accomplished athlete and four-time Chicago Marathon participant, Jack was a devoted family man and a dedicated coach to hundreds of area children. The Jack H. Marston II Melanoma Research Fund (“Jack’s Fund”) was established following his death to raise funds to fight this devastating disease. Jack’s Fund is committed to reflecting Jack's values of determination, tenacity, compassion and competitive spirit, and to realizing its vision in his memory.

The Vision and Mission: Jack’s Fund organizes all its efforts toward the accomplishment of its vision and mission:

“We envision a world where every adult and child is aware of the risks of melanoma and takes preventative measures; where those who suffer from melanoma receive comfort and healing; and ultimately, where every case of melanoma will be completely curable.”

Our mission is to realize this vision by raising funds and providing programs to raise awareness, fund research, and promote healing.

Melanoma Facts: Melanoma is a very serious form of skin cancer and is the leading cause of skin cancer-related deaths. The main cause of melanoma is believed to be spending too much time in the sun, which results in exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation. The risk of developing melanoma is increasing, and most frighteningly, the cases of melanoma amongst young children are on the rise. Other facts about melanoma:

- Melanoma is epidemic. It is rising faster than any other cancer and projected to affect one person in 50 by 2010 (currently it affects 1 in 75). In 1935, the disease struck only one in 1,500.
- This year, 51,400 Americans will be diagnosed and 7,800 will die from the disease.
- One person dies every hour from melanoma.
- Melanoma is the most common cancer in women ages 25-29 and second only to breast cancer in women 30-34.
- Even though sunburn at any age causes melanoma, eighty percent of sun damage happens before age 18.
- Melanoma costs over \$800 million dollars to treat annually.

Representative Accomplishments to Date:

- Since October, 2004, three 5K Walk/Run events and a silent auction fundraiser have been held, raising over \$175,000 toward research and programming to fight melanoma.
- In 2005, Jack's Fund became an official charity of the LaSalle Chicago Marathon and a team of marathon runners, "Jack's Team", ran in his honor, raising over \$10,000 themselves! In 2006, the marathon team grew to 21 runners who raised over \$40,000!
- Two 4-year \$1000 renewable scholarships have been awarded to seniors from Glenbard West High School who have exemplified Jack Marston's "Game On" attitude through community service, scholarship, and sportsmanship.
- The Jack H Marston II Healing Garden at the new Cancer Care Center at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, IL, opened in 2007.
- Jack's Fund recently donated \$100,000 toward melanoma research to Advocate Lutheran Hospital.
- Jack's Fund has received the endorsement of past Marathon winner, Deena Kastor, herself a melanoma survivor.
- Jack's Fund has participated in school and community health fairs, distributed sunscreen through park districts, and promoted healthy sun habits through a variety of community programs since its inception.
- Expansion of "Jack's Team" marathon affiliations to the Boston and New York Marathons in 2008.

Angles of Interest to the Local Community:

- The start of Jack's Fund as a grass roots effort to fight melanoma that has grown through the dedication and hard work of numerous volunteers and local sponsors into an organization that has caught regional and even national attention.
- Participation of Jennifer Marston and friends from the University of Dayton on Jack's Team for the LaSalle Chicago Marathon.
- Profiles of the scholarship winners, Brian Hyosaka (2006) and Duncan Lawson (2007).
- Melanoma awareness campaigns and preventative measures anyone can take
- A profile of the healing garden and the impact it has had on area melanoma patients receiving treatment at Advocate Lutheran Hospital.
- Area children's efforts to raise additional funds for the cause.
- Women learning the ropes of nonprofit organization as they conduct daily operations and plan strategically for the future of Jack's Fund.

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