



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Each year Waddell & Reed Kansas City Marathon with Ivy Funds helps several charities

KANSAS CITY, MO (June 18, 2014) – Each year the Kansas City Sports Commission partners with several charities as beneficiaries of the Waddell & Reed Kansas City Marathon with Ivy Funds. Over the past ten years, funds raised through the event have helped contribute more than \$110,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). Participants have the opportunity to help raise additional funds for LLS as they train. They can fundraise on their own, as part of a fundraising team or as part of Team in Training with LLS.

“The Waddell & Reed Kansas City Marathon is a positive community event,” said Sarah Dee, Events Director. “We are proud of the charitable partnerships we have developed in the Greater Kansas City community.”

In 2013, Operation BBQ Relief joined the marathon as the official barbeque beneficiary. Operation BBQ Relief was founded when competition barbecue teams from eight states came together after the Joplin tornado in 2011 to help feed the community. As a nonprofit completely staffed by volunteers, Operation BBQ Relief continues to respond to natural disaster emergencies across the US. On race day, Operation BBQ Relief serves barbeque sandwiches to the participants as they share their story and accept donations in their tip jar.

Children’s Mercy Hospitals & Clinics has played a big role in planning the Kids Marathon since it’s inception in 2009. The Weight Management team from Children’s Mercy Hospitals & Clinics works hard leading up to the day of the marathon, educating families on the importance of being active through a Training Guide with helpful tips for a safe and fun training experience. Children from Kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> grade can register as an individual or participate in a running group. Schools are encouraged to create running groups to make it easier and fun for kids to train.

To learn more about the charities supported by the Waddell & Reed Kansas City Marathon or to learn more about the marathon itself, [click here](#).

### **About The Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation**

The Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation benefits the Kansas City region through sports by creating, attracting and managing major sporting events for Kansas City. And, promote the lifetime benefits of sports for youth through educational initiatives, tournaments and clinics.

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