



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sarah Dee, Director of Events
816.389.4191

Oak Grove police officer raises funds for fallen officers and their families while running in uniform October 19

KANSAS CITY, MO (October 10, 2013) – A Police officer encompasses strength, safety, pride and duty - but what if it could embody something more, like representing fallen officers and their families? A nine-year veteran on the Oak Grove Police Department, Detective Keegan Hughes does just that.

Hughes shows support to fallen officers and their families by participating in running events in full police uniform on behalf of The Surviving Spouse and Family Endowment Fund (S.A.F.E.).

“This is my first year raising money for S.A.F.E.,” said Hughes. “I found out about S.A.F.E because our local Fraternal Order of Police Chapter and most in the Metro supported them.”

S.A.F.E. was created in Detroit in 1952 after the fatal shooting of a young Detroit Police officer. William M. Packer, a friend of the Police Commissioner encouraged 100 people to donate to a fund for the fallen officer. Pack and the Commissioner then met the officer’s wife to review her finances and to not only pay off their bills, but to create an education account for their unborn child.

Hughes’ inspiration for running to raise money for S.A.F.E. first came in October of 2012 when he watched the Ironman World Championships (Ironman is a 140.3 mile triathlon) on television and saw fireman Rob Verhelst, aka “Fireman Rob” walk across the finish line in full firefighter gear. His second inspiration came on December 16, 2012 when Topeka Police Officer Jeff Atherly and Corporal David Gogian were killed in the line of duty.

“At that point I knew what I needed to do,” said Hughes. “It was time to combine my passion for triathlons with my desire to honor fallen officers and to support the families of fallen officers by raising donations for S.A.F.E.”

The eagerness for Hughes to become a police officer came in 1999 when he attended college at Western Missouri State University. Shortly after, in 2002, he went on to attend school at the Blue River Community College Police Academy. He felt intrigued about helping people in the community and trying to right the world of the wrong. [Click here to read the rest of the story on the Waddell & Reed Kansas City Marathon website under Stories from the Sole.](#)

Volunteers needed – Over 1,800 volunteers help with the success of the Waddell & Reed Kansas City Marathon with Ivy Funds. Volunteers are needed for various volunteer job opportunities including packet pickup and registration, course monitors, finish line food area, recycling team and more. Individuals who register to volunteer will receive a long-sleeve event T-shirt along with free food and drinks at the Finish Line Festival as well as free entries into prize raffles. For more information about volunteering including our group grant program for nonprofit organizations, contact the volunteer coordinator at volunteer@kcmarathon.org or go to the website at KCMarathon.org.

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.

###