



Run for Peace at Home

P.O. Box 32802 • Charlotte, NC 28232 • 704.367.2799

Proceeds to benefit the UFS Domestic Violence Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 10, 2010

United Family Services Contact:

Elizabeth Connor

Phone: 704.367.2799

e-mail: econnor@ufscft.org

Run for Peace at Home Contact:

Zac Reilly, President

Phone: 704.582.9420

e-mail: zac.reilly@charlottepeaceathome.com

Run for Peace to Raise Awareness and Funds for Victims of Domestic Violence

Help Charlotte-Mecklenburg stop the cycle of domestic violence by participating in the 2010 Charlotte Run/Walk for Peace at Home on Saturday, May 1 at the McAlpine Creek Greenway.

This annual event has been a part of the Charlotte community for nearly 15 years, and this year marks the fourth consecutive year that it has taken place on the 5K trail at McAlpine. Proceeds from Charlotte Run for Peace will directly benefit United Family Services' Domestic Violence Program and its Shelter for Battered Women.

Experts estimate that one in four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. Last year, North Carolina lost 63 lives due to domestic violence related deaths.

"Without community support, domestic violence and sexual assault would continue to be criminal acts that happen behind closed doors," said Amanda Wilson, UFS Co-Director of the Domestic Violence Service Area. "When people come together and speak out against violence against women and children, barriers are torn down and victims are provided hope and opportunities to live quality lives free from torment and oppression."

Wilson said the agency launched a \$10 million capital campaign last fall to build a larger battered women's shelter in Charlotte. The new, 80-bed shelter will replace the existing 29-bed Shelter for Battered Women, the only one in Mecklenburg County.

Similar to a cross-country competition, men and women start at separate times at the Run for Peace – 8:00am and 8:30am, respectively. This unique format has been met with positive reactions from participants, because it allows men the opportunity to cheer on women as they cross the finish line, and vice versa.

www.charlottepeaceathome.com

"Our goal is to keep the integrity of a competitive 5K event, while adding in subtle reminders of why we're all there," said Zac Reilly, president of Charlotte Run for Peace. "Women, men, and children all join together at the end."

Over 400 people participated in the 2009 run/walk and assisted in a donation of \$10,000 for the cause. Event organizers hope to have 500-600 participants this year.

Individuals or groups interested in participating in the Charlotte Run for Peace may register online at www.charlottepeaceathome.com. Additional questions may be answered by phone at: 704.367.2799 or by email at: run@charlottepeaceathome.com.

Charlotte Run for Peace has been sponsored in the past by various businesses including Omega Sports, Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, and Brenneman Thompson Properties. Business sponsorships are still available. For more details on sponsoring the event, please contact the organizers by phone at: 704.582.9420 or by email at: zac.reilly@charlottepeaceathome.com.

History of the Run for Peace at Home

The Run for Peace has been a part of the Charlotte community for nearly 15 years. Founded by Tim Reilly, it began as a 10-mile race winding through the curves and hills of South Park. The Run for Peace later became a marathon and connected the campuses of Davidson College and Queens College. As the reputation of the event evolved, the Run for Peace hosted Charlotte's premier marathon event that journeyed to Uptown Charlotte. Today, participants take their skills off-road and onto the trail. While the landscapes and distances of the race have changed, the road ahead has always been clear: "Peace begins at home." For more information on the Charlotte Run for Peace at Home visit www.charlottepeaceathome.com.

United Family Services

Founded in 1909, the United Family Services (UFS) has evolved with the needs of the local community. Today, the organization is devoted to improving the quality of life of thousands of families in the Charlotte area to restore basic levels of security, self-sufficiency, and belonging through quality services including counseling & education, crisis intervention & advocacy, domestic violence services, child advocacy services, and economic independence programs. For more information on UFS visit www.unitedfamilyservices.com.

###

Photos available upon request.

Contact Zac Reilly at 704.582.9420 or zac.reilly@charlottepeaceathome.com.