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Find a Miracle



Written by Courtney Cervantes

Find a Miracle at the Miracle Miles for Kids Race

What should you be doing the morning of Sunday, May 30, 2009? I'll give you a hint - it's not sleeping in until noon and it's not watching cartoons. I recommend you join the Family Care Network and their supporters for the 6th annual Miracle Miles for Kids 10K Walk/Run Race. Not only will you get a great workout (and an accurate finish time with the new addition of the IPICO Timing system), but you will also contribute to improving the lives of children in need. If that is not enough to convince you, listen to this. After crossing the finish line, you will be greeted with live music, lunch, vendors, activities for children, and an awards ceremony, not to mention a goody bag filled with fun items and a commemorative Miracle Miles t-shirt!

The Family Care Network, founded in 1987, is the largest private, nonprofit children and family services provider on the Central Coast. It serves to provide care and assistance to over 2,300 foster and high-needs children and families every year in the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties through 17 separate programs in five service divisions. They strive to strengthen families and hope to help children placed in foster care or in difficult family situations to adjust and grow.

Over the years, the Miracles Miles race has gained great success in contributing to their cause. According to Lauren Burleson, the community affairs coordinator for the Family Care Network, last year, 1,800 people from as far away as New York and North Carolina participated in the 10K/6.2mi race, up from 350 participants just five years ago. "This year," Lauren announces, "our goal is 2,342 [participants], one runner for each child served by the agency last year." She also recognizes that the race would not be possible without the over 200 volunteers and 140 vendors and sponsors that offer their time and help. In addition to participating, many kind-hearted individuals have made it a goal to raise \$100 in pledges, which in past years has added up to thousands of dollars, to further assist the organization. This money goes to those critical services and activities promoted by the Family Care Network that are not supported by their primary funding sources. "The way the community rallies at this event to help foster and high-needs children and families is truly inspiring," Lauren affirms.

The race begins at 8:30AM and the post-race celebration runs from 9AM to 12PM. Anyone and everyone is welcome to participate. Whether you're looking for a relaxing walk with friends or you are a serious athlete wanting to hit your personal record, this race is a wonderful way to spend your Saturday morning.

If you are interested in registering visit <http://mm4k.com/>. Or If you would like to learn more about the Family Care Network, check out <http://www.fcni.org/>.



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