



GARDEN SPOT VILLAGE MARATHON

March 9, 2010

Wow! The response to this year's race has been exceptional. Thank you to everyone who has registered and will be running with us. Our intent for the Garden Spot Village Marathon event has several characteristics: first it is a fund raiser for our Benevolent Fund. Garden Spot Village provides over \$1 million of uncompensated healthcare every year so the proceeds benefit people who can not afford their healthcare. Second, to provide a high quality event. Excellence is one of our core values and it ties directly into our mission "to enrich people's lives" and we extend it to everything we do. The reason we closed registration is to maintain quality and excellence.

Last year was our first year and we had 385 runners. From a planning perspective, considering we added the ½ marathon we anticipated 750 runners this year. We never expected 1,000! When we realized registrations were going to surpass 750 we decided to reconsider that number and accept 850 plus we immediately put a note on the website about the maximum number. Registrations continued to exceed our expectations and after significant discussion we decided to accept registrations up to 1,000. As of today 3/9/2010 we hit 1,000. This is much bigger than we had anticipated which is way cool however maintaining quality and excellence is of critical importance. Just to give you an idea of the behind the scenes impact we need to order, transport and handle over 1,000 gallons of water!

The team at Garden Spot Village and the volunteers are the best so we'll have plenty of support out there for you. Volunteers will be wearing bright tie-dyed shirts. The one thing that is on all our minds is parking. We discovered last year that there were 2 to 3 times the number of cars as runners (if you do the math that's a lot of cars) because so many people come out to support you and cheer you on! And that is great it adds to the excitement of the day (side note: we'll have cow bells for sale on race day) and the more spectators the better. We are diligently working on parking plans. If the ground is solid and it has not rained before the event there will be plenty of parking. If weather prevents parking in the grass there are several churches with large parking lots within walking distance so that is Plan B. You won't have to worry about finding a place to park there will be plenty of volunteers to provide directions and assistance. Please, please, please give yourself plenty of time to park and get to registration. Race packs will be available at 6:30 a.m. and the race will start promptly at 8:00 a.m. All three categories will start at the same time: marathon, ½ marathon and relay. If you have the opportunity to car pool it will be greatly appreciated.

April 10, 2010 things will be even more exciting than usual at Garden Spot Village!

Run On!
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