

185 for Heroes

we run because they fought



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3rd Annual 185 for Heroes Donates Proceeds to Operation Second Chance

Finish Line Festival at Georgetown University on September 8, 2012

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY- The 3rd annual 185 for Heroes Finish Line Festival will take place on Saturday, September 8, 2012. The runners of the 3rd annual 185 mile, seven-day endurance event will finish on Copley Lawn at Georgetown University around 4:30pm, followed by their bicycle support team, honorary wounded veterans and Georgetown Running Club (GURC) members. All proceeds will benefit Operation Second Chance (OSC), a Maryland founded non-profit organization that supports wounded veterans.

The 185 for Heroes event begins in Cumberland, Maryland on Sunday, September 2. Each day of the run is dedicated to an honorary wounded veteran and their stories are read aloud to the team before they begin each day. It is a reminder of the cause and what they are running for. The final day is dedicated to all wounded veterans, a reflective ending to the 185 journey.

This year, 185 for Heroes are expanding efforts in fundraising and awareness by introducing the Stars Program and the Virtual Teams effort. Individuals can purchase 'stars' for past military veterans or presently serving military members in honor of their service and dedication to our country. Stars cost \$20, proceeds go directly to Operation Second Chance, and will be displayed on the 185 website, as well as in a reserved section on Copley Lawn on September 8. In addition, anyone can form a 'virtual team' and log 185 miles collectively in an effort to raise awareness and funds for the cause. Team 185 hopes to raise at least \$15,000 this year for OSC. Please visit our 'Form a Team' page for more information; <http://www.185forheroes.org/form-a-team.html>.

History of 185 for Heroes

In the winter of 2009-2010, Ashley Ackenhausen and her brother Clay Anderson, decided to take on an endurance challenge together. They decided to pursue the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Trail (C&O). The 185-mile trail, beginning in Cumberland Maryland and ending in Washington DC, provided the challenging scene for a seven-day run. The idea came to them that they should run it as a charitable event and the first charity that came to mind was the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), since both Ashley and Clay have seen the work that the WWP has provided for their fellow servicemen and women, during their services in the U.S. Navy.

On September 11th, 2010, Ashley and Clay crossed the finish line on Copley Lawn at Georgetown University, marking the end of their seven-day, 185 mile run. The audience watched as the 185 team paid tribute to the seven honorary wounded veterans and their families. By the end of the journey, the 185 team managed to raise just under \$7,000 for the WWP.

The success of the run fueled the idea to turn 185 For Heroes into an annual event. Don and Chris Snook stepped up to the running challenge allowing for a 2nd Annual 185 for Heroes. On September 10th, 2011, the brother-brother team crossed the same finish line on Copley Lawn, marking the end of yet another successful year. The team was able to raise a grand total of \$22,000 for the WWP while at the same time, paying tribute to the seven honorary wounded veterans of the year's event. Runners are signed up until 2014 to accept the 185 mile challenge.

Please visit www.185forheroes.org for more information and to donate.