



*We don't want to be a big race... Just your favorite small one.*

## Welcome to the Miracle Match Weekend!! Toughest in Texas, No Bull...

So how goes the hill training? The hay is in the barn, folks, so enjoy your Miracle Match Weekend and get ready to meet your new favorite race. When you cross the finish line, you will not only have done something worthwhile for your health and your ego (we know who you are), you will have also helped to raise funds for the "Be the Match Registry", operated by the National Marrow Donor Program, a nonprofit, life-saving organization. You will be able to join the Marrow Donor Registry at any point throughout the weekend if you are between the ages of 18-44 and in general good health (and we are betting you are), providing you the opportunity to give the greatest gift of all, a second chance at life for a desperately ill cancer or blood disorder patient. You have worked hard to get here. We want your race day experience to be a memorable one, and we are doing everything we can to make that happen!  
See you on the Bridge!

*Nancy & Debbie*

### Miracle Match Series Weekend Schedule

#### Friday, January 26th

4:00-7:00 p.m.

- Registration & packet pick up for all events  
Waco Convention Center, 100 Washington Ave.
- Health and Fitness Expo

#### Saturday, January 27th

6:30 a.m. Registration & packet pickup for the one mile, 5K & Miracle Match KIDS **only**.  
Registration & packet pickup for Sunday races will open at 10:00 a.m.

7:30 -11:00 a.m. Kids Festival, Indian Springs Park  
113 S. University, Waco

8:00 **One Mile & Kids Marathon Begin**

8:30 **5K Begins**

Pancake Breakfast - sponsored by  
McLennan County Sheriff's Association

9:45 5K Awards Ceremony

10:15 **Firetruck Pull**

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

- Registration & packet pick up
- Health and Fitness Expo

#### Sunday, January 28th

5:30 - First early start. You must register before you begin

6:00 - 7:15 a.m. Registration & packet pick up

6:30 - Second early start. You must register before you begin

7:30 a.m. **Ultramarathon, Marathon, Half Marathon, 10K & Relay begin**

7:45 a.m. Relay Shuttle begins making rounds

8:30 a.m. Be The Match Registration drive begins

9:00 a.m. 10K Awards Ceremony

10:00 a.m. Half Marathon Awards Ceremony

10:00 a.m. Texas Cookin' Cowboys begin serving  
Fajitas

12:30 a.m. Marathon Awards Ceremony

1:30 a.m. Ultramarathon Awards Ceremony  
(unless they are still out there cussing the race staff??)

4:00 p.m. Course Closes (after that, run at your own risk,  
but we will save you a medal and a beer)

### Early Start Times

We have early starts at 5:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. Sign up at Packet Pick Up. It is your responsibility to submit your bib number race morning to the Race Administrator, the Race Director, or the Timing Company **BEFORE YOU START**. If not, you may run the risk of harm from some dude dressed in a tutu who just PR'ed and placed for the first time ever. Please be aware that you are running/walking at your own risk beyond the course hours of 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## Thank you to our committee chairs for a great Miracle Match Weekend!

Nancy Goodnight, Race Director  
Debbie Mabry, Race Administrator & Registration  
Wade Durbin & Scott Prugh, Course Directors  
Michael Graham, Course Safety  
Cheri Hicks, Registration Co-Chair  
Mary Wolf, 5K Chair  
Michaelann Miller, 10K chair  
Kay Fromm, Relay Chair  
Rhiannon Settles, Miracle Match KIDS coordinator  
Kay Williams & Susie Crelia, Finish Line Chairs  
Donna Burgess, Volunteer Chair  
Matt Shane, Assistant to the Race Director  
Renee Van Treuren, MMM Webmaster  
Erik Romanov, Race Emcee  
Tanya Antonucci, Awards Chair  
Stephanie Jardot, Expo Coordinator  
Kerri Kretzmeyer, Rest Stop Chair  
Jon Marc Goodnight & Kyle Walton, Cookin' Cowboys

*Thank you!*



## What is the Phoenix Challenge?

You may notice runners sporting either a second bib that says “Phoenix Challenge,” or runners with a big “P” on the corner of their race bib. These runners are our Phoenix Runners who are running the 5K on Saturday, then rising up to run either the half marathon, full marathon or Ultra marathon on Sunday. These runners earn a special commemorative and (of course), more bling!

## Can't stay for the award presentation for your event?

We will be happy mail your very special medal to you should you place in any event (aren't small races great?) Medals will be mailed by email request only and there is a \$5 fee to cover postage and handling. To request to have your award medal mailed, email the us at [mira-blematch2017@yahoo.org](mailto:mira-blematch2017@yahoo.org). It will take us from 2 to 4 weeks, so please be patient.

## Our Mile Marker Honorees

Just one of the many things that sets our Miracle Match weekend apart from other racing events are our Mile Marker Honorees. Each mile of each race has been named in honor or memory of a marrow or stem cell donor, recipient, patient searching for a match or advocate. We invite you to read about these incredible people on the posters outside the expo.

## Miracle Match Course Records & Milestones

### October 2004 - Inaugural Year

Race Director: Jenny Grooms  
Overall M&F– Paul Frost (2:54)  
& Kelly Gilliland (3:34)

### October 2005

Race Directors: Laresa Trusty & Debbie Mabry  
Overall M&F – Ken Hall (2:46)  
& Kelly Gilliland (3:14)

### October 2006

Race Director: Debbie Mabry

### Inaugural year for half marathon;

Overall M&F– Hamlin Jones (3:12)  
& Elvira Alanis (3:36)

### October 2007

Race Director: Debbie Mabry

### Inaugural year for Miracle Match KIDS

Overall M&F–Todd Reynolds (2:50)  
& Kelly Weaver (3:32)

### October 2008

Race Director: Debbie Mabry

### 1st honorary race chair – Patrick Mancuso

Overall M&F– Juan Vielma (2:49)  
& Erin Quinn (3:42)

### March 2009

Race Director: Nancy Goodnight  
Honorary Race Chair – Kay Dunlap  
Overall M&F–Chuck Engle (2:51)  
& Monica Huff (3:29)

### January 2010

Race Director Nancy Goodnight  
Honorary Race Chair – Susan Wehmeyer  
Overall M&F–James Cheruiyot (2:34:28)  
& Debbie James (3:09)

### January 2011

Race Director Nancy Goodnight  
Honorary Race Chair – Alan Carothers  
Overall M&F– Felix Marube (2:39)  
& Debbie James (3:33)

### January 2012

Race Director Nancy Goodnight  
Honorary Race Chair – Ray Johnston  
Overall M&F– Lamech Mokono (2:34)  
& Gail Illich (3:11)

### January 2013

Race Director Nancy Goodnight  
Honorary Race Chair – Emily Iazzetti  
**Inaugural year for 10K & Fire Truck Pull**  
Overall M&F– Rowdy Hurst (3:00)  
& Gail Illich (3:18)

### January 2014

Race Director Nancy Goodnight  
Honorary Race Chair – Dillon Gasper  
Overall M&F– Micah Tirop (2:41)  
& Maria Martinez (3:16)

### January 2015

Race Director Nancy Goodnight

### Inaugural year for Ultra Marathon

Honorary Race Chair – Makenzie Motl  
Overall M&F– Mark Goldstein (3:06)  
& Krystal Moos (3:29)

### January 2016

Race Director Nancy Goodnight  
Honorary Race Chair – Susan Wehmeyer  
Overall M&F– Grant Steiglitz (3:00)  
& Jeanna Lucas (3:23)

### January 2017

Race Director Nancy Goodnight  
Honorary Race Chair – Jeanie Johnson  
Overall M&F–James Pierce (2:57)  
& Dolores Valencia (3:17)

### January 2018

Race Director Nancy Goodnight  
Honorary Race Chair – Gabi Ornelas  
Overall M&F

## THANK YOU to our 2018 Sponsors!

Waco Professional Firefighters Assn 478

McLennan County Sheriffs Association

Waco Running Company

The Heart of Texas Visitors & Convention Center

Waco Orthopedic

Alliance Bank

Providence Healthcare Network

HEB

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

SMG

### In-Kind and Special Thanks to:

Bushes Chicken

Miller Lite

Equipment Depot

Coca Cola

Oak Farms

Sykora Family

Tailwind

Superior

N Line

Dasani

George's Bar

Master Food

TMS

Texas Beef Council

Cameron Park Zoo

Glazers Distributing

Virkim

KWTX

Coors Light

Brazos Valley Equipment

## Finisher Food:

**Saturday races** - snacks available at the finish line including orange juice and milk donated by Oak Farms and bottled water from Dasani. There is also a pancake breakfast provided by the Sykora's of the Catholic Church in West. Donations will be accepted to cover costs; everything else goes to Be the Match.

### Sunday - Party on the Bridge:

All participants can expect a party on the bridge with brisket fajitas sponsored by the Texas Beef Council. Our award winning Cookin' Cowboys will start cooking at 10:00. In addition, Mars Snackfoods, Inc. is providing candy, to satisfy your sweet tooth. Water and Sodas will be provided by Coca Cola Bottling to keep you hydrated and caffeinated! Lunch is donated for our runners only. However if 'athletic supporters' want to partake, they can make a suggested donation of \$15 or more to help cover our costs and increase the amount of funds raised for Be the Match.

### Beer & Wine:

Sauza Tequilas, The Motor Shop, Miller Lite, Coors Light, and Glazer Distributing have graciously provided our 'adult' (we use that term loosely) athletes with beer and wine to celebrate the finish line. You must be 21 years of age or older to consume. Please know security will be on site to control consumption and age limits; be prepared to show proof of age, no matter how old you look after all those hills. Thank you in advance for your cooperation; Party On!

## YOU CAN TRACK YOUR RUNNER THROUGH RACEJOY!!

Racejoy is a mobile app for live runner tracking and cheers. If you carry your phone with you during the race, you can receive GPS alerts at mile points, people can track your cute little blue dot along the course and send you fun cheers or – lucky you – heckles.

We will also have the live tracking on TV screens at the start/finish line allowing for even better stalking of your loved ones, your competitors, your frienemies. Last year we charged for this benefit, but this year KWTX has graciously sponsored it, making it free to athletes and spectators alike.

Download RaceJoy and start exploring  
<http://www.Racejoy.com/download.html>

## Make TODAY the day you save a life!

Come by the Be The Match booth this weekend and find out how YOU can save a life just as many of our Mile Marker Honorees have done. If you are between the ages of 18 - 44, a simple swab of your cheek will put you on the registry TODAY.

**Already on the registry?** Come by our booth and let our staff double check your status on the registry. Finding a donor quickly can make all of the difference for a patient needing a transplant.



## To our Spectators.....

We love our athletic supporters! Almost all roads will have at least one lane open - the only exception is Austin Avenue, which will be completely closed to traffic beginning at 7:00 a.m. Cameron Park will also be closed to traffic beginning at 7:00 a.m. Most other roads have one lane open so this is a very spectator friendly race. We ask that all spectators waiting on the bridge for "their" runner stay on the side walkways of the bridge, not in the middle, so the runners have a clear shot to the finish line!

## A few reminders:

**\* Race Location & Parking** - All races begin and end in Indian Springs Park, 113 S. University Parks, downtown Waco, Texas, 76701. It's an easy walk from the downtown hotels to the starting line. If you drive, you can park at the corner of Franklin and University Parks, as well as in the Convention Center and Hilton lots.

**\* Thank our Volunteers!** Please remember to thank our volunteers, especially if they are dressed like angels or wearing belly dancing costumes in 23 degree weather!! Give a special thanks to our firefighters on the course—many have been up all night coning and chalking the course for your safety!

**\*Timing:** – All events except the one mile and Miracle Match KIDS run are timed with a disposable chip timer on your bib. Make sure to keep your bib on and pinned to the FRONT. Please check the information on the label on your bib. If it is incorrect, please see registration BEFORE the beginning of your race event.

**\* Bag Drop:** Available Sunday only in a marked area by registration. Please mark your bag clearly with your last name. We are not responsible for any item left in the bag drop, so do not leave valuables there.

**\* Pancake Breakfast:** The Sykora's from the Catholic Church in West will be serving up pancakes after our running events on Saturday (donations are VERY appreciated.)

**\* Relay Stations:** You are strongly encouraged to provide your own transportation to the relay stations. We do, however, have the Quality Care nursing home van (that's funny) available to transport relay participants to and from the start line to each exchange station that will start it's runs at 7:45 a.m. from the corner of University Parks and Franklin Avenue. Just know you may have to wait a few minutes as it makes the rounds.

**\* Medical:** Many of our firefighters are registered EMTs. We also have an ambulance on hand courtesy of the East Texas EMS. All rest stops have emergency contact numbers – please alert the volunteers if you or another runner are in need of aid. The day is looking to be unfortunately a wee bit warm. Plan accordingly – drink early and often, consume salt.

**\* Headphones:** Yes, we allow them, but only if you have some Jay Z and Pitbull on your playlist. Seriously, we love running to our music too; we just ask that you be smart and considerate to your fellow athletes.

**\* Rest Stations:** 5K course - Rest stop at mile 1.5  
Ultra, Full Marathon, 10K, and Relays - Rest stations every mile to mile and a half starting at mile 1.5.

**\* Restrooms:** for the Ultra, Full and Relay Marathons will be located at mile 2, 5, 7, 11, 13, 15, 18.5, 23, 26 and 28. Restrooms for the Half Marathon will be located at mile 2, 5, 7 & 10.

**\* Electrolyte Gels:** Available on the Full and Ultra course at miles 18, mile 21, and mile 25 and 27.

**\* Mile Markers** - Please take a moment during your run to note the very special mile markers this year. Each mile of the race has been dedicated to a marrow or stem cell donor, recipient, or a patient waiting to find a matched donor. We hope as you run your race, you will think about the true “Miracle Match” represented by each of those individuals.

**\* Social Media:** Yes, you know it's you... share on our FB page, Instagram, and use our custom snapchat filter on Race Day. It's YOUR MOMENT. Share it!

## Finisher and Award Bling!

**Saturday Events Awards** - The Miracle Match KIDS finishers will receive their completion medal when they cross the bridge (must have MMK bib.) The 5K will have medals for age group winners.

### Sunday Event's Finisher and Award Medals

Our unique finisher medals and award medals for the Sunday events have once again been handmade by Waco fire fighter and stem cell donor, Tim Anderson. Awards will be given following the completion of the event.

### Ultra, Full, & Half Marathon Finisher's Bling

Upon crossing the finish line, full and ultra-marathoners can expect to receive the fabulous Miracle Match Marathon finisher thermos and half marathoners can expect the fabulous technical shirt. For those half marathoners who registered by January 1st, your size has been reserved for you. After that, first come, first serve on sizes, so run fast, Forrest, or hire a tailor.

### Phoenix Runners and Jacob's Ladder participants:

Pick up your Phoenix finisher medal, Phoenix commemorative and your Jacob's Ladder commemorative ladder at the award tent when you cross the bridge.

**Reminder - roads are not closed to traffic along the majority of the route; be aware of your surroundings. Don't be 'that guy'...**