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EDINBURGH FORTHSIDE HALF MARATHON ANNOUNCES OFFICIAL CHARITIES

Organisers of the Edinburgh Forthside Half Marathon and Family Fun Run have announced the five official nominated charities which will benefit from the event.

The Sick Kids Friends Foundation, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Marie Curie Cancer Care, St Columba's Hospice and Radio Forth Help a Child Appeal will each be directly associated with the Half Marathon which takes place at Ocean Terminal on Sunday April 1st.

As a gesture from both the sponsors, Edinburgh Forthside, and the organisers, Ethical Athletics, these nominated charities will each receive guaranteed places for runners who wish to raise funds at the event which is expected to attract around 5,000 runners.

John Martindale from the organisers said, "In return, the charities have agreed to assist us with promotional activity and help out on the course at the event. It's a good arrangement. As organisers, we'll have an enthusiastic team of volunteers supporting their own runners.

"Runners can, of course, support any other charity for which they might wish to raise funds. We see this arrangement working well – and we'll certainly look at increasing the number of nominated charities in 2008."

The Half Marathon has quickly established itself as a major fixture in the city's sporting calendar. Already the demand for places is running way ahead of last year and runners wishing to take part and raise money for charity should visit the event's website www.edinburgh-forthside-half.co.uk to access their contact details and enter online. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, February 28.

Judi Matheson, Fundraising Manager at St Columba's Hospice, said, "I am delighted that we are one of the nominated charities. The people of Edinburgh and Leith are so very generous to the Hospice, and their support allows our patients and their families "to make every minute count".

Isla Dewar, Senior Fundraising Manager for RNLI Scotland, said, "The RNLI is delighted to be on board with the second Edinburgh Forthside Half Marathon and Family Fun Run events. A great package of support is available to runners who choose to fundraise for the charity, which has been saving lives at sea on and around the Forth estuary since 1860."

Rachel Athey, Marie Curie Cancer Care Scottish Events Manager, said, "We are delighted to be a nominated charity for the Forthside Half Marathon, and would welcome all runners to join our daffodil team and raise funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care. Your local Marie Curie Hospice, Edinburgh, actively promotes quality of life for people with cancer and provides support for their families, completely free. By joining our daffodil team and taking part in the Edinburgh Forthside Half Marathon, you can help to make sure that Marie Curie Cancer Care's care and expertise reaches everyone that needs it."

Lesley Fraser-Taylor, Radio Forth's Help A Child Appeal Charity Co-ordinator, said, "Being a nominated charity for the second Edinburgh Forthside Half Marathon and family fun run is wonderful. The money our runners raise will make a big difference to the lives of children

with special needs in Edinburgh, the Lothians & Fife. This is a lovely example of local folk and businesses helping local children."

Carolyn Thornton, Corporate & Community Fundraiser, said "Whether you are taking part in the Half Marathon or the Family Run, we want you to be a proud part of this year's event by completing the distance and helping raise funds to make a child's stay in hospital as comfortable as possible and to ensure that we can continue to make the Sick Kids even better. I am delighted that we are one of the nominated charities!"

ENDS

Issued by The Big Partnership on behalf of Forth Ports PLC and Event Organisers Ethical Athletics Ltd.

**For more information please contact
Katy Gilzean, 0131 558 3111, katy@bigpartnership.co.uk**

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Edinburgh Forthside is the umbrella brand for three key regeneration projects at Granton, Harbour, Western Harbour and Leith Docks being led by Forth Ports PLC.
2. Visit www.edinburgh-forthside-half.co.uk to enter online and for more information.
3. Entry forms can also be requested via the Half Marathon 24 hour information hotline on 0871 220 2006.
4. The Edinburgh Forthside Half Marathon will take place on Sunday April 1, starting from Ocean Terminal at 9am and the Family fun run will start at 9.10am from the same location.
5. St Columba's Hospice aims to improve the quality of life for patients with progressive, far advanced disease and to provide support for their families, without any charge.
6. The RNLI is a charity that provides a 24-hour lifesaving service around the UK and Republic of Ireland.
7. The Sick Kids Friends Foundation was set up in 1992 to support the work of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh.
8. Marie Curie Cancer Care provides high quality nursing, totally free, to give terminally ill people the choice of dying at home supported by their families.
9. Radio Forth Help A Child Appeal raises money for special children across Edinburgh. Since its inception 25 years ago, the charity has raised over £1.75 million.