

Fargo Marathon donation hits record total

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By: **Jeff Kolpack**, INFORUM

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Mark Knutson, the executive director of Go Far Events that manages the marathon, presented checks totaling \$62,000 from Fargo Marathon Inc. and said total charitable giving as a result of the event exceeded \$122,000 this year.

“It grows almost parallel to what happens with participation in the events,” he said. “It’s a good feeling.”

The biggest recipients on Thursday were the Merticare Children’s Hospital and Children’s Museum at Yunker Farm, which each received \$15,000. The Dakota Medical Foundation-Impact Foundation received \$13,366 while the YMCA of Cass and Clay Counties, Innovis Hospital Neo-Natal Care and Shriners Children’s Hospital each were awarded between \$3,500 and \$4,000.

Also, Knutson said about \$55,000 was generated for the American Cancer Society and the marathon raised almost \$4,500 through an active giving program.

A post-marathon flood relief party held the Saturday night of the marathon at the Fargodome netted \$13,000 that was awarded to the Impact Foundation to support flood relief.

In an attempt to relieve runner congestion, the 5K will be switched to Friday night. It started at about the same time as the marathon and half marathon the first five years, but last year’s 5K had over 4,000 runners.

“It’s taxing on everybody,” Knutson said.

Knutson said the marathon will offer a “Go Far Challenge” to runners who do the 5K on Friday and either the half marathon or marathon on Saturday with the prize being a medal “above and beyond a finisher’s medal.”

Or, participants can do the 5K on Friday and volunteer for traffic control on Saturday and receive a \$10 Scheels gift card. “Every year we have problems with traffic control,” Knutson said.