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2016 GAZELLE GIRL HALF MARATHON & 5K REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

One of the largest women's only races in michigan opens registration to the fourth annual event

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN – Gazelle Sports has announced that online registration for the 2016 Gazelle Girl Half Marathon & 5k is now open at gazellegirlhalfmarathon.com. The fourth annual event will take place on Sunday, April 17, starting and finishing at Calder Plaza in downtown Grand Rapids.

"More than 3,000 women participated in the 2015 Gazelle Girl, raising more than \$90,000 for the affiliated charities," said Ken Sung, co-owner of Gazelle Sports. "The Gazelle Girl committee is working to finalize plans that will continue the event's tradition of fostering relationships, engaging the community and encouraging health and wellness, while celebrating the remarkable achievements of our participants!"

Returning as Gazelle Girl Charity Partners are Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women, Kent County Girls on the Run and the YWCA West Central Michigan. A fourth charity partner will be announced in November. Event proceeds are divided between the affiliated charities, and Gazelle Girl participants, volunteers and sponsors are introduced to the missions of the organizations through networking events.

Gazelle Sports is excited to announce new leadership in the Gazelle Girl planning committee. Cara Zerbel and Kristen Aidif were named co-event directors for 2016.

"The Gazelle Girl committee is looking forward to the experience, enthusiasm and leadership of both Cara and Kristen going into 2016," said Sung. "They will work as a team to engage women both locally and regionally in the Gazelle Girl Half Marathon & 5K, assisting them in accomplishing their fitness goals in a framework of support, accountability and friendship."

Zerbel is currently assistant store manager for Gazelle Sports Grand Rapids and oversees community outreach initiatives including events, strategic partnerships and training programs. Aidif, of Grand Rapids Event Management, recently wrapped up a 23-year tenure with the Fifth Third River Bank Run to work with other organizations in an event management and brand positioning capacity.

As a part of the Gazelle Girl experience, Gazelle Sports invites participants to join their Gazelle Girl MeetUps. These meetups celebrate and embrace the inspiration seen in all women from various parts of life. From social networking at a fundraising luncheon to practicing down dog at a yoga studio, Gazelle Girls can get together and share their stories.

Gazelle Girl participants can take advantage of the first Gazelle Girl MeetUp at the Gazelle Girl aid station at the Metro Health Grand Rapids Marathon on Sunday, October 18 from 6:30 - 10:30 am. Those interested in this unique volunteer and networking opportunity can register on a first come first served basis at www.runsignup.com/GGMeetUp1.

About the Event

The Gazelle Girl Half Marathon & 5k began in 2013 as the first women's only half marathon event in Michigan and remains one of the largest events of its kind in the state. Organized by Gazelle Sports, Gazelle Girl connects women through movement, achievement, celebration, friendship and fun. Proceeds from the event will benefit Kent County Girls on the Run, Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women (GROW), the YWCA of West Central Michigan and a fourth charity to be named later this year. All beneficiaries are dedicated to empowering women of all ages. For more information on and online registration for the Gazelle Girl Half Marathon & 5k visit <http://gazellegirlhalfmarathon.com/>.

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