



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For the second time, local police officer to run in uniform at the Waddell & Reed Kansas City Marathon

KANSAS CITY, MO (September 8, 2014) – Detective Keegan Hughes, of the Blue Springs Police Department, will run the Waddell & Reed Kansas City Marathon for the second year in a row in full uniform to support fallen officers and their families on behalf of The Surviving Spouse and Family Endowment Fund (S.A.F.E.). This year, he has added CampLife as an organization he will be supporting.

“Last year I thought I had ran my last marathon, but after being inspired by #TeamBlue and those stepping out of their comfort zone to join me, my mission will continue on October 18,” said Hughes.

This year #TeamBlue will join Hughes at the start line on October 18. #TeamBlue is a group of family, friends, fellow police officers and strangers who have decided to help Hughes spread the word about S.A.F.E. and CampLife and they also want to make a positive change in their lives and get healthy. Currently #TeamBlue has 16 people registered for the 5K with most of them running a 5K for the first time; seven registered for the half marathon with two running the distance for the first time and four will complete the full marathon distance.

S.A.F.E. was created in Detroit in 1952 after the fatal shooting of a young Detroit Police officer. William M. Packer, a friend of the Police Commissioner encouraged 100 people to donate to a fund for the fallen officer. Packer and the Commissioner then met the officer’s wife to review her finances and to not only pay off their bills, but to create an education account for their unborn child.

CampLife provides a hero camp experience for the families of fallen military, police and firefighters. CampLife uses 93% of donations to run the camps and 7% to cover items like office supplies. They are staffed 100% by volunteers including the camp president, legal and web design.

Hughes’ inspiration for running to raise money for S.A.F.E. first came in October of 2012 when he watched the Ironman World Championships (Ironman is a 140.3 mile triathlon) on television and saw fireman Rob Verhelst, aka “Fireman Rob” walk across the finish line in full firefighter gear. His second inspiration came on December 16, 2012 when Topeka Police Officer Jeff Atherly and Corporal David Gogian were killed in the line of duty.

Since the 2013 Waddell & Reed Kansas City Marathon, Hughes has raised over \$5,000 through his website PolicemanKeegan.com. This year, Hughes has completed the Kansas Ironman 70.3 and the Revolution 3 Triathlon series Age Group National Championship race in Knoxville, TN. He will be competing in the Revolution 3 Florida 70.3 in November.

About The Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation

The Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation benefits the Kansas City region through sports by creating, attracting and managing major sporting events for Kansas City. And, promote the lifetime benefits of sports for youth through educational initiatives, tournaments and clinics.

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