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Annual Town of Palm Beach United Way Turkey Trot provides Thanksgiving meals to 6,288 Palm Beach County residents

For Release – Thursday, November 28, 2024

Contact: Aleese Kopf, 561-655-1919; aleesekopf@palmbeachunitedway.org

PALM BEACH, FL – More than 1,600 people started their Thanksgiving morning early by participating in the 16th Annual Town of Palm Beach United Way Turkey Trot race at Bradley Park. Proceeds from the 5K race, which began at 8:00 AM, provided meals for 6,288 children and adults.

Joseph Berrafati, 25, of Boston, was the first to cross the finish line and first overall male finisher with a time of 16 minutes and 59 seconds. **Taylor O’Hara**, 29, of West Palm Beach, placed first overall for females finishing in 19 minutes and 46 seconds. Berrafati and O’Hara each received a trophy. The top two men and women finishers in 10 age divisions also won trophies. All participants who crossed the finish line received a signature Turkey Trot medal.

The sold-out event also featured a Kids Drumstick Dash, raffle drawing, children’s activities, music and refreshments.

“The Palm Beach Turkey Trot has now become part of a timeless Thanksgiving tradition for families in our area,” said **Francesca Coniglio Finck**, who co-chairs the event with her husband, **William Finck**, and sister **Gabrielle Coniglio Fricker** and husband **Scott Fricker**. “Starting our day with thousands of smiling people celebrating their blessings while supporting the community, is the most amazing experience.”

Added Gabrielle Coniglio Fricker: “This year, we share with all of the race participants an extra heartfelt thank you. Your contribution and care for our community allows so many to enjoy this holiday season with joy. We are immensely grateful for your kindness.”

The Turkey Trot would not be possible without the support of 74 corporate sponsors and in kind donors. This year’s race is underwritten by Premier Sponsors **Livingston Builders, Inc.** and **Schwartz & Kavekos P.A.** and Title Sponsors **Douglas Elliman Real Estate | Lisa Wilkinson + Cara Coniglio McClure**, **Findlay Galleries** and **Palm Beach Police & Fire Foundation**. **Bruce Gendelman Insurance**, **Christian Angle Real Estate**, **Crest Air**, **Hedrick Brothers**, **Pumphouse Coffee Roasters**, and **Wendy Martinez Legacy Project** are supporting the race as Platinum Sponsors. Gold sponsors are **Barron International Group**, **Beebe Law**, **Boast**, **Café L’Europe**, **Caraccio Pools**, **Centerpoint Construction**, **College Admissions Counseling Group**, **Flagler Technologies**, **Hotel Planner**, and **Surovek Gallery**.

Race proceeds allowed the Town of Palm Beach United Way to grant funds totaling \$72,660 to 27 nonprofit agencies so they could provide a total of 6,288 meals for their clients. Some agencies hosted in-person events and others prepared to-go meals.

Alpert Jewish Family Service provides over 300 Thanksgiving Kosher food bags to families in need.

“The generous funding from the Town of Palm Beach United Way Turkey Trot helped us purchase Kosher products for our Thanksgiving food bags,” said Kelley Whiter, Chief Development Officer of Alpert Jewish Family Service. “The rising food costs over the last two years have significantly increased the already high cost of Kosher food. At the same time, we have seen a rapid increase in the number of clients – especially families with children and vulnerable seniors – seeking our food insecurity services.”

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