

Getting Ready to Run

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Lights of Life sets half-marathon Sept. 20

By JON LANCE News-Telegram Photographer photographer@ssecho.com Brian and Leesa Toliver, Lights of Life Gala co-chairs, announces the Lights of Life campaign will host the first United States Track and Field certified half-marathon in Sulphur Springs. The event is scheduled for Sept. 20 at 8 a.m. at Sulphur Springs Celebration Plaza to raise money for the Hopkins County Memorial Clinic. Holly Ragan has volunteered this year to be the chair for the event. Ragan has orchestrated several 5k races in Sulphur Springs including the annual Turkey Trot in Hopkins County. “We want to encourage businesses to enter as a team,” said Ragan. “They can wear their company t-shirts and show their company team spirit.” Participants can expect to receive a tech t-shirt and medal after the race. Awards will be given for best overall individual times in all age categories. Partner entry awards and group entry awards will also be given after the completion of the race. “Our primary goal is get local runners involved with the campaign and possibly bring out of town runners to Sulphur Springs to enjoy Celebration Plaza, eat at our restaurants and stay in our hotels,” said Jackie Thornton, LOL foundation Director. The Friday before the half marathon several restaurants on the square, including Muddy Jakes, Lou Viney and Bayou Jacks will be offering runners special carbohydrate intensive food from 6 to 9 p.m. to prepare participants for the race the next morning. On race day, Plain and Fancy Sandwich Shoppe, Coffee on the Square and Muddy Jakes will be open for breakfast. Individual interested in the event can sign up for the half marathon at

<http://rctregister.com>.

The registration fee is \$75 per person, \$80 for a two man tag-team (6.5 miles per person) or \$100 for a four man relay (3.2 miles per person). All proceeds from the race will benefit the Hopkins County Memorial Hospital. Once this years goal is reached, the LOL campaign will purchase flex coils for a MRI machine, three additional telemedicine machines and a new EMS first response vehicle. All additional funds will be given to leaving the legacy endowment fund.