



Missed the registration deadline for the 2010 Bank of America Chicago Marathon? No sweat. Join Friends of Prentice at the Chicago Marathon to accomplish your running goals while supporting women's health at all stages of life.

MICHELLE TECSON has deep ties to Northwestern Memorial's Prentice Women's Hospital. After all, she delivered her baby girl there in March. She also has regular mammograms there, since she lost her mother to breast cancer 20 years ago. Now that she has a daughter of her own, she decided the best way to support the hospital is to run the 2010 Bank of America Chicago Marathon, with proceeds going to Friends of Prentice.

This marks the first year Friends of Prentice is a Participating Charity of the Bank of America Chicago Marathon, according to Kristin Clark, Friends of Prentice Chicago Marathon manager. Friends of Prentice is the first and only Northwestern Memorial Hospital philanthropic organization associated with the October 10 race that begins in Grant Park and weaves through 26 Chicago neighborhoods. Funds raised by Friends of Prentice will support initiatives at Prentice Women's Hospital.

"Running the marathon is a great way for me to give back to the hospital to keep its programs strong," reflects Michelle, a 34-year-old first-time mother and attorney who lives in the South Loop. "My husband and I attended pregnancy and newborn classes at Prentice. The hospital and its staff helped me through a difficult delivery and I want to run so other women can benefit from their great care and research."

Money raised through the race will go toward clinical, research and education initiatives that support women of all ages. Since 1986, Friends of Prentice has contributed nearly \$15 million to Northwestern Memorial's Prentice Women's Hospital.

"We're thrilled to be part of the 2010 Bank of America Chicago Marathon," says Trina Gordon McCallister, Friends of Prentice board president, who's running the marathon, her first ever. "Our board is passionately dedicated to raising funds critical to women's health across all stages of life."

Friends of Prentice's main source of funds has been its annual black-tie gala held each June at Navy Pier, attended by more than 800 business, community and civic leaders. "The Chicago Marathon takes us to

another level of fundraising capability and outreach within the Chicago community to those whose lives have been touched by Prentice," says Gordon McCallister.

Michelle was encouraged to run the marathon by her physician, Julie Levitt, MD, an OB/GYN at the Women's Group of Northwestern. When Michelle woke following her emergency C-section delivery, her first words were, "Am I still going to be able to run the marathon this fall?"

Dr. Levitt will run the marathon, too. "The last marathon I ran was in 2004 before having kids," she says. "I've never done any charity running before and when I heard that Friends of Prentice had become a recognized charity for the marathon, I thought it was the perfect opportunity to do something for the hospital."

"One of Prentice Women's Hospital's strengths is it cares for all women," continues Dr. Levitt. "Maternity and obstetrics is a large part of what they do, but that's not all. Friends of Prentice funds so many wonderful projects in so many areas of research. It doesn't leave anyone behind."

To register for the now sold-out race and join the Run for Prentice team, runners are asked to raise \$950 in addition to the marathon entry fee. Participants already registered for the race but looking for a rewarding cause to support can still sign up to Run for Prentice and agree to raise a minimum of \$500 to \$1,000. Non-running supporters also can further the mission of Friends of Prentice by making a direct contribution on the organization's Web site or by creating a fundraising team with family and friends.

Those who raise \$2,000 will receive a pair of Somnio custom running shoes and a shoe fitting; participants raising \$3,500 will be entered into a raffle for a race day press pass to give to a friend or family member on race day; and those runners raising \$5,000 will receive two tickets to the Friends of Prentice Gala, valued at \$500 apiece. ■

For registration and information on Run for Prentice and Friends of Prentice, visit www.friendsofprentice.org. Also visit the Bank of America Chicago Marathon Web site, www.ChicagoMarathon.com, for more race information.