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**The Finish Line is Just the Beginning: More than 2,000 Girls Run the Takeda WonderGirl 5K,
Learning Lessons of Self-Respect, Inspiration along the Way**

Local race brings together 8-12 year olds, teachers, friends and running community

CHICAGO, (June 6, 2008) – Girls on the Run®-Chicago announces that on June 7 more than 2,000 eight-to 12-year-old girls will run their first 5K with friends, parents, mentors and many members of the Chicagoland community at the Takeda WonderGirl 5K Fun Run, beginning at Montrose Harbor Beach House at 9 a.m. This bi-annual run raises money for Girls on the Run®-Chicago, a not-for-profit organization that uses running to educate and inspire girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living.

“After participating in the WonderGirl 5K, these girls know that they have the power to accomplish anything they put their minds to,” said Kelly O’Brien, Girls on the Run®-Chicago executive director. “It is amazing to see the families and friends from neighborhoods all across Chicagoland celebrating this achievement together as they cross the finish line.”

The Takeda WonderGirl is the capstone of the girls’ spring after-school program during which they spent 12 weeks learning about topics relevant to girls today, including health, inspiration and friendship. All finishers will receive a WonderGirl medal and proceeds go to expanding the programs across the Chicagoland area.

“Girls on the Run, I could hardly run five laps around the school’s field,” said Grace Vargas, 4th grader, Hawthorne Scholastic Academy. “My goal this year is to be able to run at least half of the Wondergirl 5K, and walk the other half. Through Girls on the Run I have learned so many important lessons, but the most important thing it has taught me is to have confidence in myself and to never give up.”

This year's run will be a part of a morning full of fun activities. The Bally Total Fitness Performance Team will do the event warm up and the American Girl Place Ambassadors will lead runners in the National Anthem. The Windy City Rollers will lead the runners out on the course. Post-race entertainment includes face painting, tiara decorating, great food, games and giveaways along with visits from Chicago sports team mascots and Kellogg's Tony the Tiger.

The course starts and ends at Montrose Harbor Beach House, located at 4400 N. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago. Free parking is available in the Montrose Harbor Avenue parking lots east of Lake Shore Drive.

Event sponsors include Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America, Magellan Development Group L.L.C., American Girl Place, Fleet Feet Sports, Dominick's Finer Foods, Aloha Document Services, New Balance, Goody, Kellogg's Frosted Flakes, and many other fabulous supporters.

About Girls on the Run-Chicago

Girls On The Run®-Chicago uses the power of running to change the way girls see themselves and their opportunities. The nonprofit after school program is hosted by more than 100 Chicago area schools. The interactive curriculum builds self esteem and improves physical and emotional health by combining life skills lessons with training for a 5K (3.1 mile) run/walk , the WonderGirl 5K

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