

Thompson Island's 17th Annual 4K Trail Run Raises \$425,000 to Support Youth Programs

2,000 runners from 103 Boston-area companies participated in the two-day fundraising event

October 5, 2017 – BOSTON – On September 27 and 28, 2,000 runners from the Boston area's top companies went out to the Boston Harbor Islands to participate in the 17th annual Thompson Island 4K Trail Run. The event raised \$425,000 to support Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center, a Boston nonprofit that uses hands-on field science and character development to help close the opportunity gap for Boston middle school students. The 2016 event raised \$340,000.

"It's incredible to think that when we first held this race 17 years ago, just a few hundred runners participated," said Thompson Island President and CEO Arthur Pearson. "The event's growing popularity is a testament both to the unique venue as well as the strong philanthropic tradition that exists among Boston corporations. We're truly grateful for the generous support they give to our youth programs all year long - from fielding teams for our 4K race to sponsoring our gala to volunteering to maintain our island classroom."

The race expanded to two days in 2016 to accommodate all of the companies that wanted to participate. Even so, this year's race sold out with 1,000 runners participating each day.

There were 103 corporate sponsors, up from 75 last year, with New Balance and BNY Mellon serving as Presenting Sponsors with \$25,000 donations. Other top sponsors include Boston Harbor Cruises, Harpoon, JDL Corporate Interiors, Reebok, Standish, State Street, and Turner Construction. Sponsors donate a minimum of \$1,000, and the higher the level of sponsorship, the more employees a company can field for its team – from 10 runners for the \$1,000 sponsors to 80 runners for the \$25,000 sponsors.

All sponsorship dollars and individual donations support Thompson Island's youth programs that are free for Boston Public School students. This year Tom Niles, a long-time Thompson Island supporter and friend, matched individual donations 1:1 up to \$50,000, which helped raise more than \$117,000, surpassing the \$100,000 goal.

The route takes runners through 204 acres of meadows, salt marshes and forest trails, as well as Thompson Island's dormitories and classrooms, including the oldest building on the Boston Harbor Islands. Bill Rogers, four-time Boston Marathon winner and former American record holder in the marathon, presented medals to the race's top finishers. Runners enjoyed a post-race barbeque donated by US Foods and plenty of Harpoon beer. Boston Harbor Cruises provided ferry service to and from the island.

The 2018 Thompson Island 4k Trail Run will take place on Wednesday, September 26 and Thursday, September 27.

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