



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Registration is open for Heat the Streets Run & Walk for Warmth, set for March 7

For many, one unexpected financial setback can make the difference when it comes to being able to afford their utility payments. These families and individuals may have to choose between buying groceries or prescriptions, or keeping the lights and heat on in their homes.

The Heat the Streets Run & Walk for Warmth, now in its 13th year, raises money for those struggling to pay their utility bills. Registration is open for the event, set for Saturday, March 7, 2020. The race will start and finish at Stinson Park in Aksarben Village, 67th & Center St., in Omaha. The run starts at 9 a.m., followed immediately by the walk.

By participating in the timed 5K race or family-friendly one-mile walk, participants are raising much-needed funding and awareness. The course is flat and fast, good for competitive and non-competitive runners, with a one-mile route available for walkers, as well.

Online registration is open now at www.heatthestreetsomaha.org. The cost to participate follows.

- For registration by Jan. 31,
5K runners: \$25
One-mile walkers: \$15
- For registration between Feb. 1 and March 4,
5K runners: \$35
One-mile walkers: \$25
- For registration on the day of the event:
5K runners: \$45
One-mile walkers: \$35

Last year, the event raised \$81,000. This year, organizers Omaha Public Power District and Metropolitan Utilities District have set a higher goal of \$100,000.

Anne McGuire, chair of the OPPD Board of Directors, and her husband, Dr. Michael McGuire, are serving as co-chairs for the event.

“We set the fundraising bar higher because we are expanding our coverage this year to more rural and metro communities within OPPD’s and M.U.D.’s service territories,” Ms. McGuire said. “We know that many of our customers are facing economic hardships, and we want to help lessen their burdens.”

Children 12 and under may participate in the walk for free, with a registered adult.

“We encourage participants to bring children to help support the cause,” McGuire added. “This is a family-friendly event with lots of great vendors.”

For those unable to attend but still interested in supporting the event, there is an option to register as a virtual runner. Day-of registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. Volunteer opportunities will also be available, with sign-ups starting soon.

In addition to co-sponsors OPPD and M.U.D., Lozier Foundation is a proud presenting sponsor of this event.

For a full list of sponsors and event information, or to register, visit heatthestreetsomaha.org. You can also follow Heat the Streets on Facebook at facebook.com/heatthestreetsomaha.

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Distribution of funding

The funds raised by Heat the Streets in 2020 will be distributed by the Common Fund of the Heartland, a 501(c) 3 tax-deductible organization. Common Fund administers funds through 11 agencies: Christian Outreach Program Elkhorn, Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties, Eastern Nebraska Community Action Partnership, Family Housing Advisory Services, Heartland Family Service, Heart Ministry Center, The Salvation Army, Together Inc., Southeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership, Northeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership, and United Way 211.

OPPD’s Mission:

Provide affordable, reliable and environmentally sensitive energy services to our customers

M.U.D.’s Mission:

Provide safe, reliable and cost-effective natural gas and water services to our community