



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
OFFICE TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEW YORKERS JOIN THE RACE TO ERASE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
ON MOTHER'S DAY**

The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence joins the New York Junior League and the New York Road Runners to host the Second Annual New York Junior League Mother's Day Race in Central Park: A Race to Erase Domestic Violence. This event aims to raise awareness on the warning signs of domestic violence and on what can be done to keep women and families safe. The Second Annual Mother's Day Race will take place on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14, and will include a Domestic Violence Awareness Pavilion with local domestic violence service providers distributing information about their organizations, services and programs. More than 5,000 participants are expected to attend the event. The event is title-sponsored by the NYJL; co-presented by LeSportsac and sponsored by Mercedes-Benz Tri-State Dealers, who will provide the all-new GL450 SUV as the official pace car of the 5K race.

"Domestic violence is a crime that occurs where everyone should be safe - in their home - and victims are betrayed by those who were expected to love them," said Commissioner Yolanda B. Jimenez of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence. "We are proud to partner with the New York Junior League and thank their volunteers for their tireless efforts to erase domestic violence and rebuild lives."

"It is up to all of us to address the issue of domestic abuse. If family is the foundation of society, then domestic violence weakens the heart of the community," said Cynthia A. Cathcart, President of the NYJL. "As co-workers, managers, friends and neighbors, we have a role to play in erasing domestic violence."

Domestic violence is a healthcare problem of epidemic proportions in the United States. Recent studies indicate that, in addition to the immediate trauma caused by abuse, domestic violence contributes to a number of chronic health problems including depression, alcohol and substance abuse, sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, and often limits the ability of women to manage other chronic illness such as diabetes and hypertension.

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The economic costs of intimate partner violence exceed \$5.8 billion each year; \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services. In New York City, police respond to an average of 600 domestic violence incidents each day, and the Domestic Violence Hotline receives an average of 400 calls per day. Each day, over 780 families are housed in domestic violence shelters in New York City. In light of these alarming statistics, efforts to increase awareness of warning signs, prevention and safety strategies for abuse victims are absolutely necessary to building a healthy community for women and children in New York City.

Mary Wittenberg, President and CEO of NYRR, observes, “As an organization dedicated to supporting health and fitness to people of all ages and abilities, New York Road Runners is extremely proud of its relationship with the New York Junior League.”

## EVENT OVERVIEW

General pre-race announcements begin at 7:30 a.m., and at 7:50 a.m. the NYJL President, City and State officials and other dignitaries kick-off the Run. Runners’ registration and sponsorship forms are available online at [www.nyrr.org](http://www.nyrr.org) and [www.nyjil.org](http://www.nyjil.org). Three separate events will take place on Mother’s Day.

- 1) The Co-Ed 5K, beginning at 8:00 a.m.;
- 2) The Women’s Half-Marathon, beginning at 9:00 a.m., open to women only;
- 3) Kids’ Races, beginning at 9:45 a.m., open to children ages 2 to 12.

The Awards Ceremony for the top overall finisher of the 5K is at 9:30 a.m., and the Awards Ceremony for the top finisher of the Half-Marathon is at 10:45 a.m. During the entire morning, tents in the Domestic Violence Awareness Pavilion will house domestic violence service providers, and the NYJL will provide information on its community programs including those relating to domestic violence.

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