

Race of Grace Newsletter Article and Bulletin Blurbs

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The Race of Grace is coming! April 25-27, 2008

Making a difference in the lives of the hungry, homeless, and under-insured through education, inspiration, many-a-donation, and perspiration.

The Race of Grace is a weekend-long event organized by the Raleigh District of the United Methodist Church. It includes a **golf tournament, bike race and 5K road race/walk** to bring focus to three important areas of need in our community on a rotating basis — lack of healthcare, homelessness and hunger. In 2008, our homeless brothers and sisters will benefit from the Race of Grace.

Our homes and the security they offer are something we often take for granted. Yet, for an estimated 3,300 people in our community, including over 700 children, having no place to call home is an everyday reality. The 2008 Race of Grace will help strengthen three agencies which serve those in our community who have lost their homes for a variety of reasons.

By running, walking, biking, teeing off, volunteering, or donating to the Race of Grace, you will make an impact on men, women and children who need our help to get back on their feet. Further, you will be part of one of the most unique, vibrant and growing recreation events in this area!

The 2008 Race recipients are Haven House, Safe Space of Franklin County and Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Haven House is the only agency in our area that exclusively shelters homeless children.

Safe Space is the only agency that works with the homeless victims of domestic violence in Franklin County.

Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network provides shelter for entire families in churches all over our district.

We hope to clear more than \$50,000 for these agencies this year. In addition, gently used shoes, clean blankets and new socks and underwear will be collected at all events on race weekend to go to homeless shelters and agencies that serve our community by seeking out the homeless and helping them with everyday needs.

Calling All Bakers! The Race of Grace 5K Walk/Run on Sunday, April 27th will award a homemade cake to each of the top runners. You can contribute by baking a cake to support the race.

The **Links of Grace Golf Tournament** will be a 4-Person Superball (Captain's Choice) event held Friday, April 25, at the Neuse Golf Club in Clayton. Shotgun starts are at 8:30 AM and 2:00 PM. Register early for a limited number of teams in each flight.

Also this year the **Tour de Grace Bike Ride** returns on Saturday, April 26. This 25- and 50-mile bike tour through beautiful Franklin County will begin at 9:00 AM at Louisburg College. This was such a popular event last year that we anticipate over 200 riders at this year's ride.

This year's **Race of Grace 5K Walk/Run** will begin at 4 PM on Sunday, April 27th at Edenton Street United Methodist Church in downtown Raleigh. Bands and fans will line the race route along Hillsborough Street, and age group winners will receive home-baked cakes and gift certificates from Raleigh Running Outfitters. This event will draw a predicted 900 runners in its fifth year.

Be on the lookout for more information, race entry forms, and opportunities to participate or donate! Contact (insert your name and contact info here) for registration forms for all three events or you may register online for the bike and 5K races at www.RaceofGrace.org. Don't miss out on this event!