

RACE OF GRACE 2008

Making a difference in the lives of homeless people through education, inspiration, donations, and perspiration.

Links of Grace Golf Tourney

Friday, April 25th – Shotgun starts at 8:30 AM and 2:00 PM
Neuse Golf Club, Just off US 70, Clayton

Tour de Grace – 25- & 50-Mile Bike Ride

Saturday, April 26th – 9:00 AM
Louisburg College, Louisburg

Race of Grace 5K Run/Walk

Sunday, April 27th – 4:00 PM
Edenton Street United Methodist Church, Downtown Raleigh
Rain or shine!

2008 Race of Grace Recipients:

Haven House
Safe Space of Franklin County
Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network

RACE OF GRACE LOCAL CHURCH ROLE

Link your church to information through your church **newsletter, bulletin, worship announcements, and posters**. Copies of this information may be found in your Race of Grace packet and online at **www.RaceOfGrace.org**. Click on "**Coordinator Info**" to access this information.

Provide an **information table** for Race of Grace golf, bike & 5K Walk/Run registration and information, and to receive donations. This is especially important during the month of April.

Promote the golf tourney, bike tour and 5K Walk/Run! Contact information:

- **Links of Grace Golf Tournament** on Friday, April 25. Contact Randy Maynard at saumcpastor@bellsouth.net with any questions about this event.
- **Tour de Grace Bike Race** on Saturday, April 26. Contact Jay Jensen at jay.jensen@us.schneider-electric.com with any questions.
- **Race of Grace 5K Run / Walk** on Sunday, April 27. Contact Susan Graebe at sngraebe@aol.com. Remind folks *over and over again* you don't have to run. Walk or run, it's lots of fun!!

HOW TO PROMOTE THE RACE

Contact anyone who can help you promote Race of Grace events (pastor, missions committee, administrative assistants, church staff). Brainstorm ways to communicate with your congregation. Submit bulletin blurbs and articles for your newsletter and webpage during March and April. Suggested samples are included in this packet and may be found at www.RaceofGrace.org. Click on “**Coordinator Info**” to access this information.

Below are some ideas to promote these events. Please consider what will work best in your congregation. **You do NOT need to do all of these things.** These are just ideas and some will work better than others in your congregation. You are the expert! Use your best judgment to choose how you will organize your approach.

MARCH/APRIL

- Contact people in your church who have participated in the Race of Grace in past years and form a team to promote all three events. Get together and brainstorm how to do this. (If you cannot find anyone who has participated in the past, contact Anne Harrison at anneh@nc.rr.com. She can try to locate names for you in our database from last year.) Create a mini-packet for your team members including such items as registration forms, posters and tips for creating an online fundraising page.
- Check with the administrative staff at your church and find out:
 - Newsletter submission deadline
 - Bulletin announcement deadline and size or frequency limits (if any)
 - If permission is necessary to have an information table in your fellowship area (request dates in April).
 - If you can reserve church buses/vans for group transportation to events.
- Submit articles for your newsletter.
- Submit an article (and pictures if you have any from previous years) to your church webpage.
- If you know people who are runners, walkers, golfers or bikers, contact them and ask them to participate. If you know people who are passionate about helping our homeless brothers and sisters, ask them to join in. Anyone who is involved in WIHN, Haven House or Safe Space will be especially interested in helping out. If your church is a WIHN host church, contact your WIHN team and ask them to get involved and to encourage participation among their volunteers.
- Put Race of Grace dates on your church calendar and ask the church staff to promote these events in their ministries (i.e. youth, bible study groups, Sunday school classes, fellowship groups, choirs).
- Contact your missions’ team or pastor to see if your church can become a Race of Grace sponsor. You can do this for as little as \$250.
- Consider appointing a leader for golfing, biking and the 5K walk/run to organize your church’s participants on race weekend. (This is especially helpful for the events that you will not be participating in.) If you can find someone who has been involved with the Race of Grace events in the past, they will be great at answering questions and spreading enthusiasm.
- T-shirts – consider creating your church’s own Race of Grace t-shirts and selling them in the weeks before the race. Ask everyone who purchases a t-shirt to wear it at church events, on Sundays and in the community as much as possible. This is a great advertising tool!
- Put up Race of Grace posters in prominent places in your church. Put registration brochures in a nearby spot if possible.
- Speak with your pastor about either you or he/she highlighting the Race of Grace in church on Sundays. (Ask him/her to participate!)

- See if you can do a Race of Grace bulletin board somewhere in your church. We can send you pictures if you don't have any!
- Remember when you ask people to help that there are many ways to participate – Golf, bike, run, walk, volunteer or make a donation to someone who can! Everyone can be involved on at least one of these levels.
- Calling all bakers!! One of the unique and fun aspects of the 5K Run/Walk is that home-baked cakes are awarded as prizes for the top runners. Guess what?? We need **a lot** of cakes – 78 to be exact! Ask your best bakers to create a masterpiece for the Race of Grace 5K event on Sunday. (Please note: We need only home-baked cakes – no donuts, cookies, pies or store bought items please.) Contact Pastor Johnnie Wright to confirm the number of cakes your congregation can provide: Westover UMC at 851-4431 or westover300@bellsouth.net.
- Emphasize to your congregation that they can fundraise among their family, friends, neighbors and co-workers – even if they don't live nearby. Participants can set up their own Race of Grace fundraising webpage at www.RaceofGrace.org including pictures, information and fundraising goals. You can e-mail the link to your webpage to everyone you know and they can donate online with a credit card.
- Submit blurbs or insert for your church bulletin – see samples included in this packet. Try to have either blurbs or the insert in your bulletin each Sunday beginning Easter Sunday, March 23.
- Send reminder notes about the events by e-mail if you have church contacts, an e-mail distribution list or a church-wide list-serve.
- Donations of gently used shoes, clean blankets and new socks and underwear will be taken at each event to be given to homeless shelters and agencies. Encourage your congregation to bring these items with them to their event.
- Set up a table in your fellowship area each Sunday in April to register participants, accept donations, sell t-shirts, answer questions and generally promote the race. Make a sign or banner to hang on the front of your table. Some suggested items for your table:
 - Registration forms for 5K Walk/Run, Bike event and Golf event
 - “How to Create an Online Fund-Raising Page” Tip Guide
 - A donor sign-up list and envelope (for the donations)
 - Tax-deductible donation receipts
 - A map to each event (5K Walk/Run, Bike and Golf)
 - Posters for people to post in the community
 - The booklet or handout describing the 3 recipient agencies (Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network, Haven House, and Safe Space)
 - T-Shirts (if you decide to sell T-shirts to promote the Race)
 - A cash box to store cash and checks received for the T-shirts (starting with \$20 so you can make change!)
 - Information on group transportation and/or carpooling to each event.

Get Ready! Links of Grace Golf Tournament on **Friday, April 25.**

Get Ready! Tour de Grace Bike Tour on **Saturday, April 26.**

Get Ready! Race of Grace 5K Walk / Run on **Sunday, April 27.**

Commission all Race of Grace volunteers and participants during the April 20 and 27 worship services. (If you sell t-shirts, ask everyone to wear them around the church, in the community and on the days of the events!)