



PRESS RELEASE  
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### 70 PEOPLE JOIN TEAM DOORWAYS FOR GO! MARATHON WEEKEND

*SEVERAL RUNNERS HAVE VERY PERSONAL REASONS FOR JOINING THE RUN: ENDING HIV AND HOMELESSNESS*  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** – On Saturday, April 11 and Sunday April 12, 2015, DOORWAYS will be among the 27 nonprofits across Saint Louis to be selected as an Official Charity for the GO! For a Cause program from GO! St. Louis Marathon & Family Fitness Weekend. TEAM DOORWAYS is made up of 70 people who have agreed to run or walk either the 5k, half marathon, marathon relay, or marathon. Each team member agreed to fundraise a minimum donation level of \$100 to donate to DOORWAYS’ efforts to end homelessness and HIV. Ten of the runners are clients of DOORWAYS; the rest are volunteers, supporters, staff, and Board members. One runner was so moved by the mission that she is coming from Dallas to join the team and is bringing a friend. This is DOORWAYS first year to be selected by Go! in this highly competitive program.

“It is so heartwarming to see this groundswell of support for our work,” Opal M. Jones, President and CEO said. “When I heard that one client - who could not get out of bed when she joined our program - was running the half marathon, well, I rejoiced to know her health was that improved! And I knew I was going to have to join the race myself!”

As of April 3, 2015, the team had already raised more than \$12,000 for DOORWAYS. The top fundraiser on the team is Ron Jagels, who says he plans on giving the medal he receives for crossing the finish line to one of DOORWAYS’ clients. “When I heard about this 42 year old man who is now on hospice, I knew he was running a harder race than me. He deserves to know we are rooting for him and we care about him. This race was never about a medal for me, but about the mission,” Jagels said.

The Chase Park Plaza, an anonymous donor, and the Board Chair, Diane Gershman Levine, each contributed incentives to the team to do their very best: a staycation at the hotel, top quality workout clothes, and Diamond seats for an upcoming Cardinals game. “People didn’t join for the prizes. They joined because of what’s in their heart,” Todd Garten, TEAM DOORWAYS Leader explained. “But it certainly helped keep participants motivated!”

To donate to support the team, please visit <https://www.crowdrise.com/DoorwaysGO2015>.

To cheer for the team, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/DoorwaysAIDSHousing/events> for details.

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To learn more about the GO! For a Cause program, please visit <http://gostlouis.org/community/go-for-a-cause/>.

#### About DOORWAYS

DOORWAYS is an interfaith non-profit organization that provides housing and related supportive services to improve quality of life and health outcomes for people affected by HIV/AIDS. Through direct service delivery and the efforts of identified program partners, DOORWAYS' programs and services annually benefit 1,000 households living with HIV/AIDS in the 15-county St. Louis metropolitan area, 62 under-served counties in outstate Missouri, and another 55 under-served counties in outstate Illinois. In Saint Louis, to volunteer or to donate, please visit [www.doorwayshousing.org](http://www.doorwayshousing.org).

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