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Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce welcomes Metro Silver Line and kicks off the holiday season helping families of child trafficking

TYSONS, VA, November 4, 2013 --- Hundreds of metropolitan DC area businesses and residents gather to welcome the new Metro Silver Line to the Tysons area and band together to kick off this holiday season at the most unique race/walk event – **Stuff the Sleigh 5K Run / 1 Mile Run/Walk** on Sunday, November 24th from 9:00am – 11:00am at the entrance to 7925 Jones Branch Drive in Tysons, VA.

Schedule of events include:

- 9:00am – Official welcome of the Metro Silver Line by the Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce
- 9:15am – Competitive 1 mile race/walk
- 9:45am – Competitive 5 K race
- 10:15am – 11:00am – Awards, prizes and closing comments

After 5 years of construction, the first phase of the new Metro Silver Line extension is near completion and testing is underway. The Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce, along with area community and business dignitaries and special guests, is poised to provide a formal welcome of the new line to the Northern Virginia community.

“Construction of all of the new Silver Line, including four stations in Tysons Corner and one in Reston, is nearing completion,” says Marcia McAllister, spokesperson for Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority’s Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project. “The four stations in Tysons will tie the Tysons community together via rail and encouragement creation of neighborhoods around each of those stations – McLean, Tysons Corner, Greensboro Spring Hill. In addition, new Fairfax Connector bus routes including a circulator, will improve access to and from stations, residents and businesses.”

The Silver Line will run between Wiehle Ave-Reston East station, through Tysons Corner, East Falls Church, Arlington, Downtown DC, and on to Largo Town Center in Prince George’s County, Md. Trains will run every 6 minutes during rush hours and every 12 to 20 minutes at other times. For complete details, visit www.silverlinemetro.com.

McAllister and other rail project team members, the Metropolitan Washington Area Transit Authority, will be on hand as special guests of the Tysons Chamber to kick off the event and accept a formal welcome to the area.

“We thought a formal welcome to the new Metro Silver Line was timely as we kick off the holiday season. What better way to welcome them to our community than to feature them at the Stuff the Sleigh

event and make a strong statement that we all care about our community, especially our children this holiday season,” says Lisa Huffman, President of Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce. “Holding the event right in our community to welcome the new Silver Line and benefit kids here at home is the perfect way to give back during the holiday season focused on giving.”

Benefiting local human trafficking charity Abolish Child Trafficking Now (ACT-NOW), **Stuff the Sleigh** increases the growing spotlight on the worldwide \$12 billion child trafficking industry affecting more than 2 million children worldwide; the FBI recovered 100+ child victims in the DC area just this year. [www.actnowdc.org]

“Child trafficking is becoming more prevalent here at home in the DC area, with accessibility of social media and online venues making it harder to track the movement of predators and sales,” says Promod Sharma, Founder and Chairman of ACT-NOW.”

On Saturday, October 12, Virginia governor Robert McDonnell convened a summit meeting in Richmond of all 50 U.S. governors to confront the child trafficking issue. He called it “a horrific crime” and asked his fellow governors “to turn a laser focus on this growing problem, just as we focused on gangs 10 years ago.”

The fully on-road USATF certified 5K course runs along Jones Branch Drive and Westpark Drive in Tysons, VA.

All entrants are asked to donate a holiday gift to the “Sleigh” to benefit families of ACT-NOW. T-shirts, refreshments and a chance to win thousands of dollars in awards and prizes will highlight the event.

“Everyone is invited to attend and welcome the new Metro Silver Line to the area. Please register for the 5K run / 1 mile run/walk event and make a difference this holiday season. Santa will be present at this family friendly event to visit with the children,” said Lisa Huffman.

Sponsorships are available and volunteers are needed. Please visit www.StuffTheSleigh5K-DC.com or email info@pae-metrodc.com.

Stuff the Sleigh 5K Run / 1 Mile Run/Walk is the perfect opportunity for community participants, volunteers and sponsors to get into the holiday spirit to welcome the new Metro Silver Line to the area and help end child trafficking here in our community.

About Plan Ahead Events

As a full service meeting and event management company, Plan Ahead Events conceptualizes and implements meetings and events of all sizes and calibers. We maintain national strategic relationships and an extensive knowledge base that allow us the resources to execute meetings and events at any level. Our understanding of customer service and commitment give us a significant advantage above the rest. We are very flexible with the services that we offer and can offer our complete list of services in coordinating your meeting or event, or we can offer our services on an individual basis, depending on your needs. For information, call 240-439-4358 or visit www.pae-metrodc.com.

About Abolish Child Trafficking Now Inc. (ACT-NOW)

ACT-NOW is a U.S. based humanitarian initiative that works to prevent the trafficking of children which forces the most innocent members of our society into sexual, domestic, sweatshop or field labor. As we

became increasingly aware of the level of child trafficking right here in the Washington metropolitan region, we decided to direct our charitable efforts to this region. **ACT-NOW** is focused on ending child trafficking right here in Washington DC and worldwide through prevention, protection and rehabilitation. Our goal is to end child trafficking across the world. We rely on public and private partnerships to sustain our efforts. For more information, call 571-723-4319 or visit www.actnowdc.org.

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