



PRESS RELEASE

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Medals4Mettle Presenting 130 Medals at Camp COCO

Medals4Mettle (M4M) Central Illinois will present 130 medals to campers attending Camp COCO on July 16, 2010. M4M Central Illinois facilitates the gifting of marathon finisher's medals from marathoners to individuals who have demonstrated similar mettle or courage.

The non-profit organization, Medals4Mettle (M4M) announces it will present 130 marathon finisher medals to campers attending Camp COCO on July 16, 2010. The 25th annual Camp COCO will host 130-plus campers with cancer and other blood disorders during its one-week session July 12 through 16. A project of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, the camp will be held at the Timber Pointe Outdoor Conference Center on Lake Bloomington. The campers from central Illinois receive special attention from a number of SIU's pediatric staff members, who spend the week providing medical care and spending time with their patients and some of their patient's siblings. Others who provide care and assistance are health professionals who treat some of the campers at the St. Jude's Affiliate in Peoria and community volunteers from Springfield.

"The campers get a second chance at the childhood they have lost during the camp's week of activities, giving them a time to just have fun. The hard work of volunteers and the contributors make this possible," said Dr. Gregory P. Brandt, SIU associate professor of pediatrics and camp medical director. Brandt, director of SIU's pediatric hematology/ oncology division, works with his team and staff from St. John's Children's Hospital plus others from St. Jude's to provide medical support to the camp.

M4M's mission is to celebrate and reward the individual and collective courage of all human beings by facilitating the gifting of marathon, half marathon, ultra and triathlon finishers' medals from runners to children and adults dealing with chronic or debilitating illnesses and have demonstrated similar mettle, or courage in bravely facing these challenges. Then M4M nationwide network of physicians and volunteers awards these medals to those who might not be able to run a race, but are in a race of their own to continue to live their life.

"We (M4M) are very excited to be part of Camp COCO's closing ceremony this year," said Scott Dahl, 21-time marathon finisher and M4M Central Illinois coordinator.

M4M donation boxes are available at the Springfield Running Center, Running Central (Peoria) and Body N' Sole (Savoy-Champaign). Medals can also be mailed to:

Medals4Mettle
Attn: Scott Dahl
148 Hawthorne Place
Williamsville, IL 62693

Major support for M4M Central Illinois is provided by Mid America Advertising. For additional information or to get involved, visit www.medals4mettle.org or contact Scott Dahl at sdahl@medals4mettle.org.