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2015 3M Half Marathon to Benefit Girlstart

A record $50,000 is being contributed by the Austin technology leader

AUSTIN, Texas – Sept. 2, 2014 – The 2015 3M Half Marathon, one of the best half marathons in the nation this year according to Runner's World Magazine, announced today that they have named **Girlstart** as the beneficiary of the event, scheduled for Jan. 25, 2015. The 3M Half Marathon will contribute $50,000 to support Girlstart's programs in conjunction with the event. Through its comprehensive programming, Girlstart provides a year-round, intensive suite of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education programs for K-12 girls. Girlstart's core programs foster STEM skills development, an understanding of the importance of STEM as a way to solve the world's major problems, as well as an interest in STEM electives, majors, and careers.

"As we look to the future, we see that STEM education is the cornerstone of preparing young people for meaningful and rewarding careers, which in turn, help them succeed in school and life. Girlstart's emphasis on STEM education is a bridge to the future," said Russell Bridges, manager, 3Mgives.

A recent study by SEDL -- a nonprofit education research, development, and dissemination organization based in Austin, Texas -- found that Girlstart's After School program is the most robust STEM program for girls in the country. Girlstart After School is one of only two full-year, research- and standards-based STEM education programs for girls with the widest reach demographic reach. A report highlighting strong out-of-school time (OST) STEM programs across the nation, the **Afterschool Alliance** commended Girlstart's Project IT Girl program results:

- Eighty-seven percent of the program participants entered a four-year university, with 80 percent of them pursuing STEM majors and careers.
- Girlstart's programs were highlighted extensively in a recent Booz Allen Hamilton study, conducted on behalf of NASA's Summer of Innovation project. The study identified 50 best practices in providing out-of-school time STEM programming to at-risk 4th-9th grade students. Girlstart was one of 13 organizations in the U.S highlighted in the report and many of the best practices were informed by information shared by Girlstart.

"Being named as the beneficiary of the 3M Half Marathon is further evidence to 3M Company's commitment to STEM education and the Austin community," said Tamara Hudgins, executive director, Girlstart. Girlstart has a number of ways for the community to get involved in its mission to empower girls through STEM education. For more information on these opportunities for involvement, visit www.girlstart.org.

About Girlstart

Girlstart's programs address the nation's STEM crisis by building STEM skills at the same time we foster girls' interest in STEM electives, majors, and careers. Girlstart provides a year-round, intensive suite of STEM education programs for K-12 girls. Girlstart's core programs foster STEM skills development, an understanding of the importance of STEM as a way to solve the world's major problems, as well as an interest in STEM electives, majors, and careers:

- Girlstart After School
- Girlstart Summer Camp
- Girls in STEM Conference
- Community STEM Programming

About the 3M Half Marathon

For more than 20 years, the 3M Half Marathon in Austin, Texas, has provided runners with a traditionally downhill, fast course through northern and central Austin. Ranked as one of the best Half Marathons in the United States by Runner's World Magazine in 2014, the 3M Half Marathon boasts the fastest course in North America along some of the most scenic roads in Texas. Benefitting Girlstart, the 2015 event takes place on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015. For more information on the event, visit the race website, Facebook page or Twitter account .

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