

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 7, 2010

Contact: Meg Derrer, Marketing & PR Director, (616) 242-0474, meg.derrer@maryfreebed.com.

GUILD CONTINUES TO SUPPORT WHEELCHAIR AND HANDCYCLE DIVISIONS

Over \$33,000 will be provided in sponsorship money!

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. — On Saturday, May 8 the 33rd annual Fifth Third River Bank Run will take place in Grand Rapids, MI. Since 1989, the Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital Guild has been the proud sponsor of the 25K Wheelchair Division. This year we celebrate 21 years of sponsorship of the River Bank Run! This is the 5th year of the popular Handcycle Division. The River Bank Run is the only 25K race in the country to boast both Wheelchair and Handcycle Divisions.

“Mary Free Bed is excited to be offering an increase in monies allocated to racer travel and hotel stipends to further support racers who travel more than 150 miles,” says Kelly Merz, Spinal Cord Injury Program recreational therapist at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital and race committee member, Fifth Third River Bank Run. The prize payouts in the Wheelchair and Handcycle Divisions will remain the same as the 2009 race.

For the second year in a row, the Grand Rapids Wheelchair Sports Association will also support the race by offering prize recognition to the first former Mary Free Bed inpatient or current outpatient that finishes the race. The 2009 winner was Travis Peruski.

History of record breaking times:

Division	Year	Name	Time
Masters	2001	Butch Marin	58:01
Para	2002	Krige Schabort	51:30
Quad	2007	Santiago Sanz	1:02:53
Female	1995	Jean Driscoll	1:02:33

This year, Mary Free Bed will have a link on www.53riverbankrun.com, highlighting their commitment to race sponsorship under *Upcoming Events*. This gives new racers the opportunity to research the 25K race and receive specific race information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Kelly Merz, CTRS
Spinal Cord Injury Program Recreational Therapist
616.356.1861, kelly.merz@maryfreebed.com

###

More about Mary Free Bed:

Founded more than 100 years ago, Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital is an 80-bed, not-for-profit, acute rehabilitation center. Its mission is to restore hope and freedom through rehabilitation to people with disabilities. Mary Free Bed offers comprehensive inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation for children and adults using an interdisciplinary approach. Also available are numerous specialty programs designed to increase the quality of life and independence of people with disabilities. For more information about Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, please visit www.maryfreebed.com or call (800) 528-8989.