



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Keith Fenton, Chief Development Officer
(770) 932-4887 · keith.fenton@annandale.org

IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Walkers and Runners To Go The Extra Mile For People with Developmental Disabilities and Traumatic Brain Injuries

Annandale Village Set To Host Inaugural Extra Mile 5k Walk/Run

September 15, 2014 – On **Saturday, November 8th** at Town Center Park in Suwanee, Georgia, hundreds of walkers and runners will join together in the spirit of caring and giving to make a powerful difference in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injuries by participating in the ***Extra Mile 5k Walk/Run*** to benefit Annandale Village.

With the number of individuals diagnosed with a developmental disability growing at an alarming rate, the *Extra Mile 5k Walk/Run* is designed to impassion and give hope to people living with and affected by an intellectual disability, autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and those that have experienced a traumatic brain injury. Hundreds of families, friends, businesses, schools and community organizations are expected to lace up their sneakers to turn hope into reality as the funds that will be raised by the participants and sponsors will support a comprehensive range of programs and services to allow individuals with developmental disabilities to lead lives that reflect quality, value, self-worth, and achievement.

Many will walk or run in honor, in celebration, or in memory of a loved one. Many others will participate out of a simple concern for individuals and families impacted by some form of developmental disability. For Mike Dillard, he and his family and friends will be walking in honor of his sister, Dottie, a 4-year resident of Annandale Village. “Not only will we be walking in honor of my sister, we will be walking to rally around and support all people with disabilities”, said Dillard. “The strongest, most powerful tool we have to ensure people with disabilities are not forgotten is community awareness. I can’t think of a better, more meaningful way to make every step count than by taking part in the *Extra Mile 5k Walk/Run*.”

It is estimated that there are between 3.2 and 4.5 million individuals with sensory, mental, physical, or other developmental disabilities that impair their ability to effectively care for themselves. However, accessing appropriate services is an ongoing challenge due to an array of disparities seen in the health, rehabilitation, and social service arenas. “The *Extra Mile 5k Walk/Run* brings an enhanced capacity to inspire and involve all people in supporting life-changing programs and services for people with developmental disabilities,” said Keith Fenton, Chief Development & Marketing Officer of Annandale Village.

Once across the finish line of the 5k Walk/Run, walkers and runners will not be quite complete with their 3.1 mile journey. In a symbolic and inspiring moment, walkers and runners will be paired with a member of the community who will be directly impacted by their awareness and fundraising efforts for a celebratory victory lap. They will go the “extra mile” together.

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Saturday, November 8, 2014 (RAIN OR SHINE)

Time: Sign-in/Registration: 8:00 AM

Opening Ceremony: 9:00 AM

Run/Walk Starts: 9:30 AM

Location: Suwanee Town Center Park
330 Town Center Avenue
Suwanee, GA 30024

Course Information: The 5K course is USATF certified is a Peachtree Road Race qualifying event. For runners, CHIP Timing & Results will be provided by Smart Athletics. Results will be posted online immediately after race at www.extramileclub.com

Event Registration: To register or for more information, please call (770) 932-4885 or visit www.extramileclub.org or www.annandale.org.

ABOUT ANNANDALE VILLAGE

Annandale Village is an award-winning nonprofit organization dedicated solely to serving adults with developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injuries. Characteristically, individuals served at Annandale Village are 18 years of age or older with a primary diagnosis of an intellectual disability, autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, other developmental disability, or have experienced a traumatic brain injury. Annandale Village is the only nonprofit in the state of Georgia to offer residential living and training alternatives that provide a continuum of service and care for adults with developmental disabilities. The mission of Annandale Village is to provide progressive life assistance to adults with developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injuries so that they can maximize their abilities and maintain their independence in the least restrictive environment.

###