



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEAVER CHALLENGE AIMS TO RAISE FUNDS TO FINISH BREAST CANCER

Local Contributors Continue Their Fundraising Match for DONNA Marathon Weekend

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Nov. 24, 2015) – Jacksonville philanthropists Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver announced the renewal of the annual Weaver Challenge to raise money for 26.2 with DONNA, the National Marathon to Finish Breast Cancer. The annual challenge serves as a call to action for race fundraisers through a \$100,000 match for \$200,000 raised. DONNA Marathon Weekend will be held Feb. 12-14, 2016.

The continuation of the Weaver Challenge for the 2016 marathon marks the fifth year of this unique gift. Since it was first issued in 2012, the Weaver Challenge has encouraged those individuals who serve as fundraisers for the annual race through a matching of funds. The Weavers have donated \$400,000 to 26.2 with DONNA, which in turn has generated more than \$1.2 million for this important effort since the inception of the program.

All money procured by fundraisers and the Weavers is allocated to developing and maintaining the Mayo Clinic Breast Cancer Translational Genomics Program. These funds make it possible for the laboratory team not only to conduct state-of-the-art breast cancer research, including the widely publicized Triple Negative Breast Cancer Vaccine Trials, but also provide genomics support for studies in all cancers. Funds also support The Donna Foundation, providing financial assistance for the critical needs of more than 8,500 women and men living with breast cancer.

“Finishing breast cancer will take the effort of all of us, and Wayne and I hope that this challenge will motivate even more support for this critical work,” noted Delores Barr Weaver. “We want to encourage everyone to contribute to 26.2 with DONNA so that we can support those living with this terrible disease and accelerate the research that will eradicate it.”

The Weavers’ commitment to the 26.2 with DONNA extends beyond their extraordinary match. Each year, the Weavers are present on the beach to cheer on the race participants, and they plan to be there once again in 2016 to greet the finishers.

“We are grateful to Wayne and Delores and all of our fundraisers for their support and generosity each year,” added Donna Deegan, founder of 26.2 with DONNA and three-time breast cancer survivor. “Through the efforts of many – sponsors, fundraisers, race participants, doctors and health care professionals, volunteers and spectators – we will accomplish our goal, to finish breast cancer.”

Individuals and teams interested in becoming a fundraiser or registering as a race participant can learn more at www.breastcancermarathon.com.

About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida (www.jaxcf.org), Florida’s oldest and largest community foundation, works to stimulate philanthropy to build a better community. The Foundation helps donors invest their philanthropic gifts wisely, helps nonprofits serve the region effectively, and helps people come together to make the community a better place. Now in its 51st year, the Foundation has assets of more than \$313 million and has made grants in excess of \$332 million since 1964.



About 26.2 with DONNA

26.2 with DONNA is a private non-profit organization in Northeast Florida producing the only marathon in the United States dedicated to breast cancer research and care. All race proceeds go to the Mayo Clinic Breast Cancer Translational Genomics Program and The Donna Foundation to help breast cancer patients with critical financial needs. Held annually on the second weekend of February, DONNA Marathon Weekend attracts runners and supporters from all 50 states and more than 20 countries. For more information, visit www.breastcancermarathon.com.

Contacts:

The Community Foundation

Susan Datz Edelman
VP, Strategic Communications
sedelman@jaxcf.org
(904) 356-4483

26.2 with DONNA

Lyndsay Rossman
Account Supervisor, SJ&P
LyndsayRossman@sjp.com
(904) 596-8573

###