



ANTARCTICA MARATHON RAISES FUNDS TO BENEFIT THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT

Over \$70,000 was raised by 2011 Antarctica Marathon participants on behalf of Oceanites, Inc., announced Marathon Tours & Travel, the event organizer who spearheaded the fundraising campaign. Based in Chevy Chase, Maryland, Oceanites is a non-profit organization that researches the impact of tourism on Antarctica's pristine environment.

Britons David McLellan and Ian Edwards raised over \$63,000 and an additional \$6,750 was netted at a post-race auction of trip mementos. The event was held February 28.

Due to the success of the 2011 inaugural program, the Antarctica Marathon, one of the world's most perennially sold-out marathons, will reserve two spots in the 2012 event for runners committed to raising \$25,000 each for Oceanites.

"This is an opportunity for Antarctica Marathon participants to make an important contribution in the preservation of the most unspoiled place on the planet long after they cross the finish line," said Thom Gilligan, president of Boston-based Marathon Tours & Travel and expedition leader. "We work very hard to have zero impact on the environment during the race and throughout the two-week trip. I doubt if a greener marathon exists."

The Antarctica Marathon and Half Marathon has sold out nine of its last 13 editions, usually years in advance, and is presently sold out through 2014.

In 2011, 98 athletes from 14 countries journeyed by land, air and sea to run on what is known as the darkest, windiest, iciest and most remote continent on earth. The 26.2- and 13.1-mile courses are held on gravel roads that connect the scientific research bases of Uruguay, Chile, China and Russia on King George Island just off the Antarctic Peninsula.

The 13th Antarctica Marathon is scheduled for March 9, 2012. For more information contact Marathon Tours & Travel at (617) 242-7845 or visit www.marathontours.com. For more information on Oceanites, please visit www.oceanites.org.

About Marathon Tours & Travel

Boston-based Marathon Tours & Travel is the leading marathon tour operator in North America. The company offers comprehensive travel packages to marathons on all seven continents, including the Antarctica Marathon and Safaricom Marathon in Kenya, the only marathon run entirely within a game park.

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