

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Gretyl Macalaster
(603) 624 – 1250 ext. 10
GretylM@sonh.org

Special Olympics
New Hampshire



Special Olympics New Hampshire Awarded Grant from The Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation

(September 18, 2014) Manchester, NH – Special Olympics New Hampshire (SONH) has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield in support of the inaugural Rail Trail Run & Ride community fitness fundraiser being held on September 27 in the Dartmouth-Lake Sunapee region, making them the event’s largest sponsor.

The Rail Trail Run & Ride event will be all-inclusive, featuring a variety of running and bicycling races and a fall festival all rolled into one!

This event is designed to be welcoming for people of all ages and abilities from the most avid runners and cyclists to the most novice beginners with 5K and 10K running/walking events and a 50K bicycling event. All of the races start and finish at Proctor Academy in Andover.

Families can join in the fun during a 4.5 mile family bike ride beginning at the Highland Lake Inn and traveling the Northern Rail Trail to Proctor Academy’s Carr Field. A race for children under the age of 10 will also be held at Carr Field.

Unique awards categories are being offered in the 5K race to promote inclusion in community fitness activities, including Special Olympics and Unified team awards categories.

All of the races will take place amidst the beauty of the Northern Rail Trail and conclude at Proctor Academy where a family fun festival will be taking place with food, entertainment and more.

“We are thrilled to support this terrific event,” said Chris Dugan, director of public relations, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in New Hampshire. “We have been proud partners of Special Olympics New Hampshire in the past and glad to collaborate with this wonderful organization again.”

“We are grateful to the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation for their support of this inclusive community fitness event to benefit the athletes of Special Olympics New Hampshire. This partnership will help us host a successful first year event while participants with and without intellectual disabilities have the chance to enjoy a beautiful day on the Northern Rail Trail,” said SONH president Mary Conroy.

More

Make your race plans today by registering at <https://www.bikereg.com/railtrailrunorride>.

More information is available by visiting www.sonh.org or www.facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsNH or by contacting SONH Development Director Chelsea Gill at (603) 624-1250 ext. 42 or via email at chelseag@sonh.org.

About Special Olympics New Hampshire

Special Olympics New Hampshire (SONH) is an accredited program of Special Olympics International (SOI) and is part of an international global movement that changes lives by encouraging and empowering people with intellectual disabilities, promoting acceptance for all, and fostering communities of understanding and respect worldwide. SONH was founded in 1970 with the first State Summer Games at Phillips Exeter Academy. Learn more at www.sonh.org.

About Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in New Hampshire

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in New Hampshire is the trade name of Anthem Health Plans of New Hampshire, Inc., an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. ®ANTHEM is a registered trademark of Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield names and symbols are registered marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Additional information about Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in New Hampshire is available at www.anthem.com. Also, follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/healthjoinin, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HealthJoinIn, or visit our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/healthjoinin.

About the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation

Through charitable grant making, the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation LLC, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, promotes Anthem's inherent commitment to enhance the health and well-being of individuals and families in communities that Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield serves. The Foundation focuses its funding on strategic initiatives that address and provide innovative solutions to health care challenges, as well as promoting the Healthy Generations Program, a multi-generational initiative that targets specific disease states and medical conditions. These include: prenatal care in the first trimester, low birth weight babies, cardiac morbidity rates, long term activities that decrease obesity and increase physical activity, diabetes prevalence in adult populations, adult pneumococcal and influenza vaccinations and smoking cessation. The Foundation also coordinates the company's annual associate giving campaign and its parent foundation provides a 50 percent match of associates' campaign pledges. ®ANTHEM is a registered trademark of Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield names and symbols are registered marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

###