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Contact:

Carrie Moulder

news@jlno.org

504-891-5845

## **JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NEW ORLEANS TO HOST FIFTH ANNUAL FRERET 5K AND HALF MILE FUN RUN**

*February 23, 2018 NEW ORLEANS, LA* – The Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO) is off to a running start this spring, announcing the fifth annual Freret 5K and Half Mile Fun Run at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 8, 2018 generously sponsored in part by Ochsner Baptist and Lowe Stein LLP.

The Freret 5K is a family-friendly event that encourages a sense of community among all ages and enables the area's residents and business owners to share their neighborhood pride. The Freret 5K showcases a vibrant economic corridor, promotes family fitness and raises funds for JLNO's community projects and volunteer efforts.

"The Junior League of New Orleans is proud to be a member of the dynamic Freret Street community for the past 58 years," said Kristen Cocke Koppel, president of JLNO. "Since the doors of our Bloomin' Deals thrift store opened in 1960, we've been honored to be a part of the growth and positive change in this neighborhood."

Race day festivities include a 5K run/walk, a half-mile fun run, entertainment, post-race refreshments, awards presentation, children's activities and more. The race will start and finish at the Bloomin' Deals Thrift Store at 4645 Freret Street; participants will travel down the Freret Street corridor, through the Freret neighborhood, and return to Bloomin' Deals.

"Now in its fifth year, we're excited about how the Freret 5K has grown and we're grateful for the community's support," said Koppel. "We're sponsoring more youth runners than ever before, and hope to outshine our 2017 fundraising which will increase our ability to give back to the New Orleans through our community projects."

This year, JLNO will sponsor youth runners from community groups such as Youth Run NOLA, and the after-race party will feature over 20 prizes for category winners including certificates to local restaurants, theaters, yoga classes, gyms, and much more.

Adult early registration is \$25 and is open until March 31, 2018. Regular adult registration is \$30 and begins April 1. Team registration (minimum of four team members) is \$20 per team member. Youth registration (15 and under) and senior registration (65 and over) is \$15.

All participants registered before March 31 will be entered into a drawing for a gift certificate to Warby Parker, and every participant has an opportunity to win a prize the day of the race.

Late registration and packet pick up will be on April 6 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and April 8 at 7:00 am at Bloomin' Deals Thrift Shop on Freret Street.

For more information or to register online, please visit [www.jlno.org/Freret5K](http://www.jlno.org/Freret5K). Sponsorship opportunities are still available. If interested, please email [freret5k@jlno.org](mailto:freret5k@jlno.org).

*The Junior League of New Orleans is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.*

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