

Message to all registered runners:

Due to the known and forecasted impact of COVID 19 through the remainder of this year, the 2020 Clarence DeMar Marathon and DeMar Half Marathon have been cancelled. This decision was made in the interest of the health of our runners, our race committee, 400+ volunteers and the greater Keene community. We've been monitoring the impact of the pandemic in our own community and across the country and the risks far outweighed the rewards of running DeMar. Our mission has always included health and wellness, and moving forward with the real threats posed by COVID 19 would contradict everything we stand for.

The Keene Elm City Rotary club took on the presentation of DeMar back in 2012 as our signature fundraiser and community service project all in one. We are a 100% volunteer race committee with no paid staff. The marathon has been run consecutively since 1978, but for the last 8 years, it has been the primary source of funds for a long list of community and international service programs. Those programs include, but are not limited to:

- The "Follow ME" sneaker program, providing the motivation for kids to Move Every-day (ME), supplying more than 850 brand new sneakers to every 2nd grader in Cheshire County.
- Our youth literacy program where we provide brand new dictionaries to every 3rd grader in Cheshire County.
- The "Unsung Hero Scholarship" program providing scholarships to local youth who demonstrate a commitment to their community and overcome personal hardships.
- Our commitment to Central American countries where we build homes and improve schools in the countries of El Salvador, Nicaragua and Puerto Rico.
- And finally, our commitment to food insecurity for the underprivileged youth in our community in partnership with the Keene Community Kitchen.

DeMar has become one of, if not the best community events on our local calendar and it is our runners who make it what it is. We are heartbroken to be put in this position, but are committed to moving forward and will begin the planning for 2021 immediately.

We are offering 3 choices for all registered runners due to this announcement and ask that you make your decision by the end of the day, July 17th 2020. Those options include:

1. Donate your 2020 registration fee to the Elm City Rotary Club to support their ongoing service programs. Tax deductible confirmation will be sent.
2. Defer your registration to the full or half to the 2021 or the 2022 DeMar races
3. Request a full refund, less the original processing fees

The DeMar race committee and the Keene Elm City Rotary Club are fully committed to putting on a DeMar event we are proud of and have all come to rely on in the years ahead and will look forward to welcoming everyone to Keene, NH on race weekend 2021!

May you stay well, safe and keep running.

Yours in service,

Alan Stroshine, Race Director

Member, Keene Elm City Rotary Club