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ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION NAMED CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

ATLANTA, June 20, 2006 - The Arthritis Foundation has been named USA Track & Field's Charitable Organization of the Year. The Foundation was recognized for raising a combined \$9 million in 2005 for three events: Arthritis Walk, Jingle Bell Run and Joints in Motion.

Each year, USA Track & Field (USATF) issues a study of the impact of charitable running and walking in the U.S. By recognizing charities like the Arthritis Foundation, the USATF promotes the economic impact of running and walking on America, and the good it does for society.

"This is a great honor to be recognized for all the hard work put in by our volunteers and staff," said Laura Robbins, chair of the Arthritis Foundation's national board. "We're proud that the USATF recognized the Arthritis Foundation for events that not only raise funds critical to our mission but also encourage regular physical activity, which limits the impact of arthritis."

The events recognized vary in time commitment, fund-raising goals and personal/team orientation, but they all offer an opportunity for participants to help end the nation's number-one cause of disability. The Arthritis Walk is the Arthritis Foundation's nationwide team walk event held each May in conjunction with National Arthritis Month. Jingle Bell Run/Walk is a 5K run or 5K walk held each November and December in more than 80 cities. Participants are encouraged wear seasonal costumes and tie jingle bells to their shoelaces to capture the best of the holiday season. Joints in Motion is the Foundation's marathon and hiking program. Participants are trained for 20 weeks and then travel to events in Orlando, FL; Durango, CO; or Honolulu, HI.

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USATF chose the Arthritis Foundation as its Charitable Organization of the Year based on the Foundation's longstanding commitment to overall health through exercise and its impressive track record in comprehensive, nationwide fundraising.

About the Arthritis Foundation

The Arthritis Foundation is the only nationwide, nonprofit health organization helping people take greater control of arthritis by leading efforts to prevent, control and cure arthritis and related diseases. For more information on arthritis, contact the Arthritis Foundation at 1-800-568-4045 or www.arthritis.org.

About USATF

USA Track & Field (USATF) is the National Governing Body for track and field, long-distance running and race walking in the United States. USATF encompasses the world's oldest organized sports, the most-watched events of Olympic broadcasts, the #1 high school and junior high school participatory sport and more than 30 million adult runners in the United States.

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