



Dear Friends and Family,

On April 2nd 2016, a team representing the **Matt Blackwell Foundation** will travel to Paris Mountain State Park in Travelers Rest, SC to participate in the Poinsett Park Run, or the **Run With Heart 5K** as Team Matt will call it. Eighteen team members will run or walk the distance, and some even plan to cross the finish line pushing their children in strollers. We may run the race in different ways, but we will all finish for one cause, to support the continuing work of the **Matt Blackwell Foundation**.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the **Matt Blackwell Foundation**. To look back and realize the number of young lives that have been touched by the Foundation's work is gratifying for so many of us. Our success through the years would not have been possible without the support of those who believed we could make a difference in our community and beyond. The Foundation continues to support our youth in many areas throughout Lancaster County. This year, we are proud to announce the establishment of a scholarship endowment in Matt's name to Clemson University. The recipient each year will be a Lancaster County student and the first scholarship will be awarded later this spring.

As with any foundation, fundraising is crucial. It is a necessary ingredient for an organization, like our own, to succeed and reach its goals. In 2005, Matt's uncle, Mark Blackwell, recognized this need and decided to create his own personal fundraiser by attempting to run a full marathon in Matt's honor. He not only succeeded in completing the 26.2 mile run, but well exceeded his fundraising goal for the Foundation. Since then, Mark has made this run every year, including an astonishing 51 mile run in 2008. As the years have gone by, others have run with him in this annual event, and thousands of necessary dollars have been raised. And all because Mark was bold enough to take that first step 10 years ago. This year, however, Mark will be unable to run his race. Early in 2015, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and has been through many struggles this past year. But, just as he faced every marathon, Mark has met this obstacle head on, and continues fighting this battle today. It is because of this display of courage and fight that we dedicate this year's Team Matt run to Mark as well as Matt.

Many of you have received our sponsorship letter in the past and many have donated generously. For that, we say THANK YOU. We are, again, asking for your support. Any donation will be much appreciated and 100% of all funds raised will go to **The Matt Blackwell Foundation** and its mission.

Donations can be made by check, credit card, or PayPal. Make checks payable to;

The Matt Blackwell Foundation
PO Box 188
Lancaster, SC 29721

To pay by credit card or PayPal, go to our website at www.mattblackwellfoundation.org and follow the instructions.

Thank you, in advance, for supporting and honoring Mark and Matt.

God Bless,

Larry & Jan Blackwell