OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

Rip It Events Announces Athletes Serving Athletes as Official Charity for the 2016 Columbia Half Marathon.

The 2016 Columbia Half Marathon (CHM), scheduled for April 24, 2016, is pleased to announce Athletes Serving Athletes (ASA) as its Official Charity. Rip It Events, organizer of the CHM, will donate portion of the race proceeds to ASA.

ASA athletes, individuals living with limited to no mobility, will be participating in the Columbia Half Marathon and 5K event. Empowering these athletes are WingMen (men and women, young and old, fast and slow), who are able bodied runners who push the athletes in custom racing joggers to cross the finish line.

"We are excited to be working with Athletes Serving Athlete for the 2nd Annual Columbia Half Marathon. We hope to help raise awareness and empower individuals with disabilities to train and complete in mainstream running events."

- Danny Serpico, Rip It Events

"On behalf of everyone associated with our program, we couldn't be more excited about the opportunity to be chosen the official charity partner for the Columbia Half Marathon". Our WingMan program is thriving in Howard County, and it will be a sight to see our athlete's line up and compete on April 24. Our teams have been putting in the mileage in preparation for this race and can't wait to feel the excitement on race day." – David Slomkowski, Athletes Serving Athletes

Online registration is open for the Columbia Half Marathon. For more information about this event and to register, visit: <u>www.columbia-halfmarathon.com</u>. For a list of sponsorship opportunities, email Danny Serpico at <u>racedirector@ripitevents.com</u>.

About Rip It Events, LLC

Rip It Events, LLC was founded in 2010 and has successful event planning experience in the entertainment, athletic, and non-profit sectors. Owned and operated by Danny and Suzy Serpico, Rip It Events produces the Columbia Half Marathon, Maryland Duathlon, Ellicott City 5K/10K, and the Columbia Turkey Chase 10K, manages large scale events such as the Howard County School System 5K, and provides individual coaching for multi-sport athletes.

About Athletes Serving Athletes

Athletes Serving Athletes (ASA) is a non-profit organization located in Maryland that brings people together to experience the joy, excitement, and thrill of competition. ASA offers innovative athletic training, supportive mentor relationships, and high quality endurance events for athletes living with disabilities. ASA uses athletic activity as a catalyst for personal development---improving physical fitness, increasing self-esteem and empowering challenged youth to meet their highest potential. We inspire all people to give of themselves and live more active lifestyles, pursuing a high quality of life and achievement. ASA offers these programs and services free of charge to the athletes they serve, their families and organizations that support them.