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### **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Buckley's – Kennedy's Run Raises \$100,000 for HeartShare**

(Brooklyn, NY)— On a beautiful spring morning, a modern record of nearly 1,200 runners took off from the Riis Park Boardwalk, to the music of DJ Nikko, and hit the streets of Breezy Point, Queens for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Buckley's – Kennedy's 5K Charity Run. Raising a record \$100,000, the Run proceeds benefited HeartShare Human Services of New York, as has been the tradition over the last 20 years.

The Run is always dedicated to the memory of loved ones who recently passed away. This year's Run was dedicated to the memories of William Joseph Polanco, Jr., Brendan James McCarthy and Jimmy Cassidy. Billy was only 6-weeks-old when he mysteriously, suddenly and tragically died, leaving behind his twin and 2-year-old sisters. Equally incomprehensible and tragically, Brendan was 3-years-old when he died in a household accident, leaving behind his 4-year-old sister and 6-year-old brother. Jimmy, a long-time Run volunteer, died after a long battle with an illness.

The Buckley and Casey families and the organizers of the Run believed that this was an appropriate and respectful way to honor each of their lives, and, at the same time, help children and young adults with autism throughout the community.

“On behalf of Jim Buckley, Gerard Casey and everyone at HeartShare, I extend our deepest appreciation to all the runners, sponsors, volunteers, and especially the organizers of this year's Run. It was incredibly successful as a result of your hard work,” said HeartShare President and CEO Bill Guarinello. “We are also grateful to the families of Billy, Brendan and Jimmy for lending their names to help ensure the success of this special anniversary Run.”

Following the Run was a Family Fun Day and Picnic at Kennedy's Restaurant, also celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, with food and drinks, live music by Head Over Heels and DJ Suds, games, and rides.

Celebrating its 96<sup>th</sup> year, HeartShare is a nonprofit organization that assists nearly 30,000 New Yorkers. Its wide array of services assist individuals with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental

disabilities through numerous programs including education services, adult day programs, residential services, case management, recreation programs, family support services, and health services. It also provides counseling, after-school programs and assistance with foster care and adoption to children and families, supports people affected by HIV/AIDS, and administers low-income energy assistance and cell phone programs. For more information, visit [www.heartshare.org](http://www.heartshare.org) or follow on Facebook or Twitter.

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