

For Immediate Release  
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### **Registration Open for the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Jack O’Keefe Memorial Strides Road Race**

Waterford, CT- The annual Jack O’Keefe Memorial Strides Road Race, sponsored by the Arc Eastern Connecticut, celebrates its 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Held on Sunday October 3 at Camp Harkness in Waterford, the race offers prizes to top finishers as well as a family fun run/walk/roll. All proceeds benefit programs that serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in eastern Connecticut. A virtual option is also available this year for those who can’t make it the day of the race.

“Our community partners have been incredible supporters of this event over the years,” notes Kathleen Stauffer, Chief Executive Officer. “Gerardi Insurance and Berkshire Bank, our Platinum Sponsors, have partnered with us on all our fundraisers this year and we couldn’t be more grateful.” The Robert F. and Maureen T. O’Keefe Family Foundation are also Platinum sponsors for the race and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tolland Fund is the race’s official T-Shirt sponsor.

Gold Sponsors include Martin and Arlean Bednar, Centreville Bank, Connecticut Business Systems, Linemaster, MJ Sullivan Auto, TriPoint Insurance, and Secor Auto Group. Dime Bank’s “Blue Crew” volunteers have helped with pre-race preparations for over 12 years. A complete list of sponsors can be found on The Arc’s website at [TheArcECT.org](http://TheArcECT.org).

“This race has become a favorite fall event for both serious runners and families,” said The Arc’s Board President, Linda Rhodes. “Even though the event was completely virtual last year, over 250 runners participated, which shows a great feeling of commitment and loyalty to the agency and what we do here.”

First hosted in the late 1970s, the race honors the late Jack O’Keefe. For more information, and to register online (including for the virtual race), visit [TheArcECT.org/Strides](http://TheArcECT.org/Strides) or contact Denise Tift at [dtift@thearcect.org](mailto:dtift@thearcect.org) or (860) 889-4435 x116.

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