



**Columbus International Program**  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Kiwanis to host Columbus International 5K**

**COLUMBUS, OHIO** — The Kiwanis Club of Columbus, in collaboration with the Columbus International Program will host the fifth annual Columbus International 5K, which is set for April 16 from 3:30 - 7 p.m. at Genoa Park.

The 2016 Columbus International 5K is an event designed to help educate families on prenatal and infant care, and thus reduce infant mortality throughout Ohio. Representatives from Walsh University, located in North Canton, Ohio, are on the race committee to raise awareness of Ohio's infant mortality issue beyond the borders of Central Ohio. The race starts at 5 p.m., beginning and ending at Genoa Park, 303 W. Broad St., along the scenic Scioto-mile bike path. A special walking category will be available for expecting mothers and parents with infants.

According to Ohio Department of Health, Ohio has one of the highest infant mortality rates in America. In 2013, 1,024 infants died in the state of Ohio. Dr. Patricia Gabbe, a pediatrician at Nationwide Children's Hospital and founder of a community-based program, Moms2B, said that the infant mortality problem is severe in this state. Prevention of infant death in Ohio can be increased through supporting pregnant women to have a healthy and safe pregnancy.

This event features a variety of exhibits to build awareness and raise money to reduce infant mortality. Event chair Tom Hayden is excited for the resources the race brings to the community.

"Kiwanis is thrilled to be focusing our effort on combating infant mortality in Central Ohio with the introduction of the health and resource fair, food trunks and kids activities," said Hayden.

The race has an international theme to celebrate the global community in Columbus, and throughout Ohio. Runners will receive an international T-shirt as part of their entry. Participants are encouraged to celebrate their heritage by waving flags of their heritage, dressing in international attire and performing cultural dance and song.

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Mark Poeppelman, executive director of Columbus International Program, is eager to add the international component to this year's event.

"We are excited to host the fifth annual 5K. It will be a celebration of global culture and diversity in Central Ohio. Columbus is a global city, and we want to share this with our community," said Poeppelman.

The Columbus International 5K grew from a small activity in 2012 to become a signature event in Columbus, and extend through Northeast Ohio. Based on previous races, people from more than 30 different countries will attend.

Entertainment is free and open to the public, along with access to food vendors. Race registration prior to April 3 is \$30 for adults and \$10 for children. Discounts are applied for groups and students.

For more information on registration fees, participation, volunteers and sponsorship, please contact Mark Poeppelman at [mark@cipcolumbus.org](mailto:mark@cipcolumbus.org), or visit the race website <http://www.columbusinternational5k.com>.

### **About Kiwanis Club of Columbus**

Kiwanis is a global organization of member-volunteers working to change the world, one child and one community at a time. Kiwanis helps shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, mentor the disadvantaged and care for the sick. The Kiwanis Club of Columbus was founded in 1916 and is the fifth oldest Kiwanis club in the world. Through fundraising efforts and extensive scholarship and grant programs, the Kiwanis Club of Columbus facilitates more than \$75,000 of aid placed into the local community each year.

### **About Columbus International Program**

The Columbus International Program is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting international understanding through professional development and cross-cultural exchange. By sponsoring J-1 visas, CIP helps international professionals in residence and delegations to obtain training or professional exchange programs throughout central Ohio. CIP provides programs for individuals and groups in social services, business and non-profit and public organizations. In the last 42 years, CIP has hosted more than 1,100 professionals and delegations from 112 countries.

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