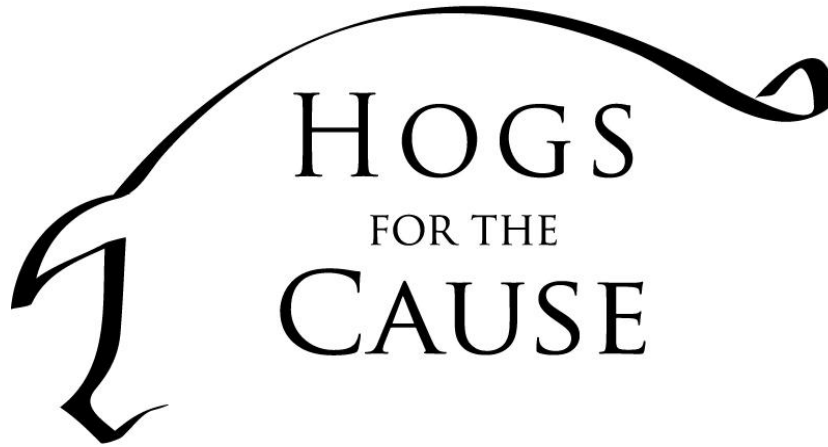


HOGS FOR THE CAUSE

presents the

Ben Sarrat Jr. High on the Hog Cook-Off



April 1st and 2nd, 2016

OFFICIAL COMPETITION RULEBOOK

Hogs for the Cause, Inc.

P.O. Box 792300

New Orleans, LA 70179

Web Site: www.hogsforthecause.org

Email: info@hogsforthecause.org

Board of Directors:

Becker Hall – *Chairman of the Board/President*

Rene Louapre – *Secretary*

Zandy Rainold – *Treasurer*

Jennifer Bond – *Director*

Benjamin Guider – *Director*

William Wolf – *Director*

MISSION STATEMENT OF HOGS FOR THE CAUSE, INC.

Hogs for the Cause uses the power of pork, music, and good times to raise money for families whose children have been diagnosed with pediatric brain cancer. To this end, once a year pork chefs from around the region descend on New Orleans to cook their way to victory. The motto of Hogs for the Cause is "Together We Can Do Something Great."

OFFICIAL BEN SARRAT, JR COOK OFF RULES

ALL TEAM MEMBERS MUST READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING:

The 2015 contest will have four main judged food categories:

- (1) Pork Ribs
- (2) Boston Butt/Pork Shoulder (picnic or regular)
- (3) Porkpourri
- (4) Whole Hog

In order to be considered for the “Grand Champion” title, a team must enter at least three of the four above food categories and raise at least \$2,000.00 in Fundraising. In addition to the judged main food categories, teams may compete in the following lagniappe categories:

- (1) Best Booth
- (2) Fundraising
- (3) Fan Favorite
- (4) Martin’s Potato Rolls Perfect Bite Category
- (5) Sauce
- (6) Best Friday Night Party

Health and Safety: The temperature and cleanliness of entry will be checked prior to judging. Entries that do not meet the sanitary or safety requirements will be disqualified.

Fire Safety: Each team must have a recently inspected fire extinguisher at their plot at all times. All tents must be made of fire retardant materials. **Each plot will be inspected for fire preparedness by 10 am on Friday morning, April 1st by the New Orleans Fire Department. You must have at least one (1) fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of 3A40BC with a current inspection tag. For 40’ x 40’ and larger tents, you must have two (2) fire extinguishers, one of which must be rated at least 3A40BC and one which must have a minimum rating of 2A:10BC. All smokers, grills, or any other heating device must be placed at least ten (10’) feet from any tent. THIS IS NON-NEGOTIABLE.**

Pork Products: All pork meat must either be fresh, or frozen and uncured. The meat for the judging submissions must be prepared from raw pork products while on site at the cook-off. All pork products served on the premises must be maintained at a temperature below forty degrees Fahrenheit prior to cooking, and at or above one hundred and forty degrees Fahrenheit after cooking. The pork products (not including “Porkpourri”) may not be pre-cooked, sauced, spiced, injected, marinated, or cured prior to the meat inspection.

Prohibited Smokers: The following smokers or cooking devices may not be used for Whole Hog, Ribs, or Shoulder: propane, gas assist, electric, induction, microwave, nuclear, or induction cooking equipment. Any smoker with a gas tank must be disconnected prior to meat being

placed on the cooking surface. **Any team caught violating this rule will be disqualified from the Whole Hog, Rib, and Shoulder category.**

Pork Shoulder: A pork shoulder is the portion of the pig that contains the arm bone, the shank bone, and a portion of the blade bone. The pork shoulder category includes both the butt half (Boston butt) and the picnic cut.

Pork Rib: The pork rib category includes spare ribs, loin ribs, and baby back ribs. Country style ribs are not a valid entry for this judging category.

Whole Hog: The whole hog category requires an entire hog whose dressed weight prior to cooking is greater than forty pounds prior to the removal of any of the head, feet and skin. The hog must be cooked as ONE complete unit on a single grill surface. No portion or portions of the hog may be separated prior to or during the cooking process. For Whole Hog, each team will be given a 3 X 5" index card to describe their cooking process to the judges. **DO NOT WRITE YOUR TEAM NAME OR ANY OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS ON THE CARD.** Each container for Whole Hog must contain a portion of the ham, loin, and two other portions of the pig chosen by the team.

Porkpourri: The Porkpourri category allows the non-traditionalist BBQ chefs to flex their creative muscle. The only rules for this category's submissions are: (1) each entry must be finished on site, (2) pork product must be included as an ingredient. Should you require a special container for your Porkpourri entry, please discuss with us prior to March 20th. In no instance, may a turn in container be larger than 12" x 12". For Porkpourri, each team will be given a 3 X 5" index card to describe their Porkpourri dish to the judges. **DO NOT WRITE YOUR TEAM NAME OR ANY OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS ON THE CARD.**

Martin's Potato Rolls Perfect Bite Category: Your team will be provided with a packet of Martin's Rolls. Your job is to create a delicious dish featuring the roll. Each team will be given a 3 X 5" index card to describe their Martin's Potato Rolls Perfect Bite dish to the judges. **DO NOT WRITE YOUR TEAM NAME OR ANY OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS ON THE CARD.**

OFFICIAL EVENT RULES

Alcohol: Teams will be able to purchase beer, vodka, rum, whiskey, bourbon, wine, and other beverages through Hogs for the Cause prior to the event and at select times during the event. Teams may also bring their own beverages in to Hogs field. **However, teams will not be allowed to leave and re-stock their beverage supplies once gates open on Friday at 3 p.m.** At no time, may a team sell alcohol to attendees. Teams may host parties at their tent for folks over twenty-one, but they are not allowed to sell alcohol to patrons. **At no may a team sell alcohol to the general public or distribute alcohol to anyone under the age of 21. Any team caught violating this rule will be immediately disqualified.**

Noise: Music and other noise-making devices are allowed at each plot, but must be kept at a reasonable volume. **No amplified music, noise, foghorns, hawkers, or other noise making devices will be permitted from team plots when gates are open.** A warning will be given to any team that is playing excessively loud amplified music during the musical acts. A second warning may be grounds for team disqualification and/or expulsion from the event and grounds. **All amplified music or other noise making devices must stop at 11 p.m. on Friday, April 1st.**

Water: Water will be available in limited locations, but teams are still encouraged to bring their own water. Teams **must** bring a bucket or container to transport water. Each team will be required to have a bucket (separate from their cooking water) at their plot filled with chlorinated water for sterilization.

Electricity: Electricity will not be provided by Hogs to the participants. Participants may only use their own generators when gates are open if it is a quiet generator that produces very little or no sound.

Open Fires: All fires must be contained in the equipment, a drum, a chimney starter, or a cinder block pit with a covering.

Team Members: Each team will receive ten (10) bracelets included with their entry fee. Teams may purchase up to ten additional bracelets per team, for the price of forty (\$40) dollars a bracelet. If a team requires more than ten additional bracelets, the request must be submitted to Hogs for the Cause via email at rene@hogsforthecause.org more than seven days prior to the event. Any bracelets over the ten provided with team entry fee or the additional ten will be sold for \$50 a bracelet. Team bracelets must be worn at all times by team members during the event. **No person without a bracelet is allowed in the team cooking area.**

Load-In and Break-Down Times: Load-in begins at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, March 29th, and must be completed by Noon on Friday, April 1st. Once your team has finished loading in, please remove all vehicles to the competitor lot. Break-down begins an hour after the last music set is finished and must be completed by 4:00 PM on Sunday, April 3rd. Earlier load-in for teams may be arranged with prior approval from Rene Louapre.

Vehicles: **On Friday, April 1st, vehicular traffic on the grounds will be strictly controlled.** Each team will receive two (2) vehicle passes in order to load their equipment onto the site. Your 2 Vehicle Access Passes are not permission slips to leave your car on site all weekend. You may make multiple trips in and out, but only two vehicles per team will be allowed on the site due to logistical concerns. All vehicles entering the site, must check in with security. Vehicle passes will be distributed to teams on Friday morning at the Wisner and Friedrichs Service Gate. Lost or stolen vehicle passes will not be replaced. Please keep vehicles on the path whenever possible and after unloading your equipment, please remove your vehicle to the Competitor Parking Lot.

All cars must be off the field by Noon Friday.

Do not park anything under the limbs of oak trees, this includes, cars, smokers, trailers, or campers. Anyone making deliveries of equipment to your plot must understand this.

Check-In: After arrival and before unloading, a team member must check your team at the Team Check-In Booth. A representative will be out on the event grounds starting at 9:00 AM on Thursday and will be accessible for any questions. Meat Check-In will begin at 9:00 AM on Friday. **At check in please, have your fire extinguisher ready for inspection.** You will not be allowed to check-in or set up, until your fire extinguisher has been inspected.

Lead Chef Meeting: Each "Lead Chef" or a team representative MUST participate in the 2016 Rules Conference Call to be held on March 16, 2015 at 7 p.m CST. Call in information will be distributed at a later date. Also, each "Lead Chef" must attend the Lead Chef meeting on Friday, April 1st at 2:00 PM. This is the time when these rules will be reiterated and any questions regarding the event, the competition, etc. will be answered. Melzie Wilson will once again be our on-site judging coordinator, and will lead this event.

Security: Private security will be on site throughout the weekend. However, Hogs for the Cause will not be held responsible for any lost or stolen items from your team area. Each team will be required to take full responsibility for the security of its team area, including overnight.

Plot Guidelines: Each team is required to provide a boundary for the front of their plot. Recommended boundaries include ropes with stanchions, tables, and fences. Digging on the team plots is strictly prohibited. **Tents should be weighted down to prevent any movement during excessive winds or bad weather.** Combustible and fire sensitive materials should be kept as far away from the cooking areas as possible. If any team has a tent larger than ten (10') feet by ten (10') feet, tents must be permitted through Hogs for the Cause and the City of New Orleans. **Any cooking implement must be at least twelve (12') feet from any tent.**

Food, Beverage, and Merchandise Sales: Vendors will be on-site during the competition hours selling drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), food, and official event merchandise. If you would like to pre-order any merchandise (aprons, koozies, etc.), please send an email to info@hogsforthecause.org.

Sanitation: Each team is responsible for thoroughly cleaning their plot prior to departure. All fires must be completely extinguished, and any coals or other garbage should be properly disposed of. Any team that does not comply with this sanitation rule may be subject to a **forfeiture of their \$100 damage deposit**. Each team will be provided with two (2) collapsible garbage cans. These will be emptied throughout the day by sanitation crews, but please make sure to keep them cans in operation. You may purchase additional trash receptacles and liners as well as a Port-O-Lets for your team through River Parish Disposal.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 16th , Team Plot Draft Party	12:00 PM, NOLA Brew
March 16th , Lead Chefs Conference Call	7:00 PM, Instructions forthcoming
March 23rd , Additional Team Member Bracelet Request Deadline	5:00 PM, Email
March 29th , Load In Begins	8:00 AM, City Park
April 1st- 2nd 8th Annual Hogs for the Cause	All Day, City Park
April 3rd , Load Out Deadline	4:00 pm, City Park
April 10th , Itemized receipt Submission Deadline	5:00 pm, Email
December 31st , Tax Receipts Issued	5:00 pm, Email

Requests for early receipts will be considered, but no tax receipts are guaranteed prior to the end of the calendar year

COMPETING TEAMS – COOK-OFF SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 29th – Thursday March 31st:

Team Load-In 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

No vehicle restrictions in place during these times

Friday, March 27th:

Team Load-In (vehicle restrictions in place) 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Meat Check-In Begins 9:00 AM

Fires Lit, Competition Cooking Begins As soon as meat check in complete

All Vehicles Removed from Grounds 12:00 PM

Lead Chef Meeting 2:00 PM

Gates Open 3:00 PM

Gates Close 11:00 PM

Saturday, March 28th:

Gates Open to the Public 11:00 AM

Competing Teams Public Sampling Begins 11:00 AM

Sauce/Perfect Bite Turn-In 9:45-10:00 AM

Porkpourri Turn-In 11:15-11:30 AM

Pork Shoulder Turn-In 12:15-12:30 PM

Ribs Turn-In 1:15-1:30 PM

Whole Hog Turn-In 2:15-2:30 PM

Competing Teams Public Fundraising Ends 5:00 PM

Competition Winners Announced 6:30 PM

Public Gates Close 10:00 PM

Team Break-Down Begins 11:00 PM

Sunday, March 29th:

Team Break-Down Ends 4:00 PM

JUDGING

Ribs, Whole Hog, and Pork Shoulder

We use the Memphis Barbecue Network scoring system. All entries will be blind judged. This means that every team's sample entry will be "coded" so that no judge knows who the entry belongs to. Each sample will be judged on the following criteria: Appearance, Tenderness, Flavor and Overall Impression. Each judge will score each sample on a scale of 6 to 10 with 10 being the best. The criteria are weighted with Flavor being the highest weight followed by Tenderness, Appearance and Overall Impression.

Porkpourri/Martin's Potato Rolls Perfect Bite

Porkpourri will be judged with the same criteria as above, however Creativity and/or Use of Pork will replace Tenderness.

Fundraising

Whichever teams raises the most money via a combination of cash/checks in their Piggy Bank, shadow credits from ticket sales, and Silent Auction items, will be declared the Fundraising Champion. Each team will be assigned a volunteer to run your bank along with a lockable piggy bank. See below for more information on fundraising.

Fan Favorite

Fan Favorite will be determined by whichever team sells the most product. Whichever team raises the most money solely through food sales, will be declared the Fan Favorite. Volunteers will help tabulate your bank and will be instructed to hold cash, checks, and other donations separate from Hoggy Dollar Food Sales.

Sauce

Teams will be allowed to enter one sauce per team. Hogs will provide sauce containers for each team. Sauce submissions made after this time will not be judged. The sauces will be judged blindly in a numeric fashion by the judges. The judges will have the option to taste-test the sauces either on their own, or on a slice of white bread.

Best Friday Night Party

Pretty self explanatory. **Reminder any and all amplified music must stop at 11 pm, sharp.** This is non-negotiable.

Plot Attractiveness & Team Spirit

Each team plot will be graded for cleanliness, organization, and flair. The more professional and together your team plot appears, the better the score. Extra points go to teams with coordinated team uniforms and other pork related flair. Booth judging will occur on Saturday morning and it will be done by judges walking the event grounds.

Grand Champion

Grand Champion will be determined in the following manner. A team must compete in at least three of the four main categories (ribs, whole hog, pork shoulder, porkpourri). **If a team does not raise at least \$2,000.00 via day of food sales, shadow credits, silent auction items, or other donations, you will not be eligible for Grand Champion.** A team's top 3 scores from those categories (lowest one dropped if compete in all four) will each be weighted 30% with the final 10% of a team's Grand Champion tabulation coming from the Fundraising score.

TEAM FUNDRAISING RULES

The principle purpose of Hogs for the Cause is to raise money for the fight against pediatric brain cancer. All participating teams should recognize and understand that their reason for participation is to assist Hogs for the Cause in raising as much money for this charitable purpose as possible. While there is potential to win negligible prizes and notoriety, teams should maintain a charitable attitude and keep the goal of the charity in mind while participating.

This year each team has a goal to raise \$5,000. This money can be raised through donations, ticket sales, silent auction items, food sales, or sales of other items out of one's plot. The following are the guidelines for each category...

Donation Solicitations:

Teams are asked to solicit their friends, families, co-workers, and total strangers prior to the event to help support the cause. This can be done through emails, phone calls, letters, billboards, TV ads, etc. For every donation dollar that a team brings in, the team's piggy bank will be credited with one donation dollar. Personal checks should be made out to Hogs for the Cause Inc. In the back of this rulebook is a sample solicitation script that can be mailed/emailed/spoken in hopes of raising money.

Please note: Hogs receives a staggering amount of checks and online donations the weeks leading up to Hogs. If someone is sending us a check or online donation on your team's behalf, please have them list your team name in the memo line or please alert either Becker, Zandy, or Rene of the incoming donation.

Any donations without your team's name in the subject line or a head's up to Hogs, will not be credited to your team's Piggy Bank.

Any funds taken by your team during the event must be turned over to Hogs for the Cause. This includes food sales, donations, fees from Friday night food sales, parties, etc...

Food Sales:

Participating teams are required to raise money for the fundraising category by distributing samples of their food products to the general public. The general public food sampling will take place from 11:00 AM until 5:00 PM on Saturday, April 1st. Teams are strongly encouraged to see food on Friday night as well. While the Fundraising portion ends at 5:00 pm, teams are encouraged to continue to distribute food as long as they can to help support the charity and feed the general public. Each team will also receive a lockable Piggy Bank.

This year teams may only accept Hoggy Dollars (wooden nickels in increments of \$1 and \$5) for food sales. Teams may accept cash and or checks for fundraising, but cash or check will not be considered for Fan Favorite. Change trays of 50 Hoggy Dollars will be distributed to teams on Saturday at 10:00 AM. Hoggy Dollars are sold in increments of \$1 and \$5.

TEAM FUNDRAISING

We understand that a six hour window, between 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM, is a long time to distribute food to the general public. Obviously we cannot ask each team to guarantee that they will cook enough food to serve for the entire six hours, but we do ask that each team be prepared to serve at least two hundred and fifty (250) samples to the public. **You may also wish to serve food on Friday night as this is a tremendous way to boost your piggy bank.**

Silent Auction Items:

Teams may submit to Hogs for the Cause, an auction item. Selected items will be placed on tables at Gala Dinner or put up for live auction at the Gala Dinner. Whatever the item sells for, that amount will be credited to a team's piggy bank.

Ticket Sales:

Teams can also earn fundraising credit by selling tickets to the event. Tickets can be ordered through our website (www.hogsforthecause.org/tickets/), or by mailing in a request (*see the sample solicitation letter*). Shadow credits will be applied to your piggy bank when an attendee purchases tickets online and selects your team name from a drop down box on the ticketing website

Other Sales/Solicitations:

Teams are encouraged (not required) to raise money by selling items other than food. Some examples include silent auction items, fishing and hunting trips, beach houses, raffles, selling t-shirts and sauces, pictures with celebrities, pictures with food, games, etc. We cannot announce any winners or make any announcements over the PA system for individual team events, so please be sure to make your guidelines and timelines very clear to those buying these items. **Any team which uses the Hogs for the Cause logo(s) in any item they wish to sell to the public, must have that item approved by Hogs for the Cause.**

TAX DEDUCTIBILITY

Hogs for the Cause is a not-for-profit entity organized under §501(c)(3) of the 1986 Internal Revenue Code. As such, various donations and expenses incurred on behalf of the charity may be deductible, as prescribed by the IRS regulations.

Team entry fees are not tax deductible, whereas monetary donations made directly to the charity and/or in-kind expenses incurred on behalf of the charity are potentially deductible. If a team wishes to receive tax donation receipt(s), the team must submit their itemized receipts reflecting the cost and exactly what was purchased no later than April 10th. The receipts must be dated within two weeks of the event. Any purchases outside of two weeks will be reviewed by the board. Teams must also specify which team member incurred which costs so that each member can be provided a receipt for the amount in which they were out of pocket. If a team combines expenses and then splits the costs evenly, just let us know that.

If a team does not submit their expenses timely, Hogs makes no guarantee of issuing tax deductible receipts. Receipts can be submitted through the mail, dropped off in person, or scanned and emailed (but please keep the original receipts as proof).

Examples of expenses that are not deductible include: equipment purchases, t-shirt purchases (that are not being sold to raise money), food/drinks to be consumed by team members at the event, frivolous rentals (rent a big screen to watch on Friday night, etc), and anything that will not be fully consumed at the event and that will also not be donated to the charity after the event (new smoker, grill, etc). If a team is unsure of the deductibility of an expense, feel free to contact us by sending an email titled "Team Name - Tax Deductibility" to info@hogsforthecause.org. Teams are encouraged to send their questions prior to incurring any expenses for the event.

Professional tax guidance will not be provided by Hogs for the Cause. General guidance provided by Hogs for the Cause should not be relied upon for tax reporting purposes. Teams are encouraged to contact a professional tax advisor for advice regarding their personal tax situations.

DIRECTIONS

The 2016 event is taking place at New Orleans' City Park Festival Grounds, renamed for the weekend, "City Pork". The event grounds are on the lake side of Big Lake and next to Christian Brothers. Bordered on the East by Wisner Boulevard and on the West by Henry Thomas Drive.

While driving directions will be provided, and parking is available throughout City Park, patrons are encouraged to use the streetcar or ride their bikes.

TEAM EVENT CHECKLIST

Prior to the event, each team should review this checklist to make absolutely certain that their team has done all of the following, and has brought the following to the event:

1. Fire Extinguisher Minimum 3A40BC tagged with a current inspection sticker.
2. 32 ounces of sauce (if entering in sauce contest)
3. Clean/Sanitary Water 5 Gallon Bucket (separate from smoker water bucket)
4. Trash receptacles and garbage bags
5. Attendance at Lead Chef Conference Call and Meeting
6. Acknowledgement Agreement (Lead Chef)
7. Tickets/Extra Bracelets (remember that each team only gets ten bracelets from registering, so be sure to pre-buy any extra bracelets needed prior to the event).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AGREEMENT

MUST BE SIGNED AND RETURNED VIA FAX, MAIL, OR EMAIL BY MARCH 5TH

By my signature below, I, _____ (print name) Lead Chef of Team _____ do hereby state that I have read and reviewed all of the competition and event rules covered in this official rulebook; I agree to be bound by the rules contained herein; I have reviewed the rules with my team; I will require my team and teammates to be in full compliance with them at all times during the competition; I agree to abide by any decision the Competition Chairman makes on a rule determination; I will abide by all safety, fire, and other such regulations; I accept full responsibility should myself or my team break any rules outlined in this official rulebook; and I agree to **indemnify and** hold Hogs for the Cause, Inc., its officers and directors, harmless for any acts, omissions, or decisions which may result in harm to either myself, my team, or others resulting from my team's non-compliance with the official rulebook.

Signature/Date

SAMPLE SOLICITATION CORRESPONDENCE

Dear _____,

On April 1st and 2nd, I will be participating in the 8th annual Ben Sarrat Jr. High on the Hog Pork Cook Off at City Park, presented by Hogs for the Cause. Hogs for the Cause is a local New Orleans charity whose mission is to raise money to write grants to families with children suffering from pediatric brain cancer. The grants are intended to offset the ancillary costs incurred by the families that are not covered by their insurance carriers, the hospitals, and/or Medicaid. These costs can be insurmountable, and may include anything from travel expenses to out of the area hospitals, to costs to eat while at the hospital with the children, to costs to install improvements to make their homes more accessible to the suffering children.

In addition to cooking up some amazing pork products for the event, which will be judged and sold at discounted prices to the attendees, participants are tasked with helping fundraise for the charity. My team's goal is to raise **\$5,000** to help further this cause. Donations are tax deductible and can be made out to Hogs for the Cause Inc. (memo line should read INSERT TEAM NAME 2016 donation). Credit card donations can also be made through the Charity's website at <http://www.hogsforthecause.org/donate/>.

In addition to donating, I urge you to consider attending. This event has been a tremendous success in years past and should be nothing short of spectacular this year. There are eighty teams competing, all of which will be selling food to the public. There will also be other great food and drink vendors and plenty of activities for guests of all ages. Finally, there will be a stacked music lineup on both Friday and Saturday that is sure to impress and while keep your feet moving all day.

If you purchase tickets on line prior to the event, please make sure and select my team name _____ when prompted so that our team may receive credit for your support.

I am truly grateful for your support, and remember...together we can do something great!

With heartfelt thanks!

PARTICIPANT NAME OR TEAM NAME