



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Zach Schneider  
Marketing & Public Relations Director  
[zach@grandmasmarathon.com](mailto:zach@grandmasmarathon.com)  
(218) 727-0947

# ALLEN TO RECEIVE 2023 MARSH NELSON MEDIA AWARD FROM GRANDMA'S MARATHON

*Has Played Major Role in Race Day Broadcast Since 2008*

**(DULUTH, MINN.)** --- Longtime radio personality Chris Allen has been named the 2023 Marsh Nelson Media Award recipient, it was announced today by Grandma's Marathon.

Allen actually started volunteering for Grandma's Marathon in 1980 at a water station, and he's been a mainstay on the event's race day radio coverage since 2008. After first serving as a producer, Allen quickly moved into an on-air role that also included most of the advance planning and talent management.

"I am surprised to be receiving this award," Allen said. "I am humbled being in the company of people I idolized as a kid and who all have helped make this race what it is today. Knowing I have done something to help grow Grandma's Marathon is the best feeling in the world, and this award really means a lot to me."

Allen has also served since 2009 as one of the weekend entertainment hosts, and he became the first musical act to play in both of the marathon's live concert locations – he played in 1991 with Molly and the Heymakers at the Big Top and then solo in 2021 at Bayfront Festival Park.

Allen will be officially presented with his award at the 2023 Grandma's Marathon Awards Luncheon, which is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. on Friday, June 16 at The Garden Event Center in Duluth.

## MARSH NELSON MEDIA AWARD RECIPIENTS



Adolfson & Peterson Construction | Advantage Embroidery & Screen Printing | Anderson's Maple Syrup | Black Woods Grill & Bar | Bud Light  
Cirrus Aircraft | City of Duluth | Coca-Cola | Country Hearth Natural Breads | Dasani | DEDA | Duluth News Tribune | Essentia Health  
Garmin | Grand Casino Hinckley/Mille Lacs | Grandma's Restaurant Co. | Great Clips | Holiday Inn & Suites | Holiday Stationstores | Jamar | maurices  
Michelin's | Minneapolis Oxygen | Minnesota Pork Board | Minnesota Power/ALLETE | Nature's Gem CBD | Northland FAN 106.5 | Powerade ION4  
Storm Creek | Super One Foods | Waste Management | WDIO/WIRT-TV

2023 – Chris Allen  
2022 – Deb Messer  
2021 – n/a  
2020 – n/a  
2019 – Jake Benson  
2018 – John Gilbert  
2017 – Howie Hanson  
2016 – Bob King  
2015 – Townsquare Media  
2014 – Marathon & Beyond  
2013 – Dan Moller  
2012 – Pat Cadigan

2011 – Running Times Magazine  
2010 – David Jensch  
2009 – Mark Stodghill  
2008 – Tom Hansen  
2007 – Barbara Reyelts  
2006 – Chuck Curtis  
2005 – Rik Jordan  
2004 – Bruce Brothers  
2003 – Bob Rich  
2002 – Bruce Bennett  
2001 – Kerry Rodd  
2000 – Marsh Nelson & Kevin Pates

For interview requests or for more information, please contact Marketing & Public Relations Director Zach Schneider via email at [zach@grandmasmarathon.com](mailto:zach@grandmasmarathon.com) or via phone at (218) 343-9874.

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#### ABOUT GRANDMA'S MARATHON

Grandma's Marathon began in 1977 when a group of local runners planned a scenic road race from Two Harbors to Duluth, Minnesota. After seeing just 150 participants that year, the race weekend has now grown into one of the largest in the United States and welcomes more than 20,000 participants for its three-race event each June.

The race got its name from the Duluth-based group of famous Grandma's Restaurants, the first major sponsor of the marathon. In addition to the 26.2-mile race, the organization has now added the Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon and William A. Irvin 5K to its weekend offerings.

As the popularity of Grandma's Marathon has grown, our mission has stayed the same – to organize, promote, and deliver annual events and programs that cultivate running, educational, social, and charitable opportunities to our communities.

Grandma's Marathon-Duluth, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization with a nine-person, full-time staff and a 17-member Board of Directors.



Adolfson&PetersonConstruction | AdvantageEmbroidery &ScreenPrinting | BlackWoodsGrill&Bar | BudLight | CirrusAircraft | CityofDuluth | Coca-Cola  
Country Hearth Natural Breads | Dasani | DEDA | Duluth News Tribune | Essentia Health | Grand Casino Hinckley/Mille Lacs | Famous Dave's  
Grandma's Restaurant Co. | Great Clips | Holiday Inn & Suites | Holiday Stationstores | Jamar | maurices | Michelina's | Minnesota Pork Board  
Minnesota Power/ALLETE | Nature's Gem CBD | Northland FAN 106.5 | Powerade ION4 | Super One Foods | Waste Management | WDIO/WIRT-TV