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SPENCER NAMED 2023 SCOTT A. KEENAN FOUNDER'S AWARD RECIPIENT

Was Part of Organization's Inaugural Hall of Fame Class

(DULUTH, MINN.) --- Dorothy Spencer was presented on Grandma's Marathon weekend with the 2023 Scott A. Keenan Founder's Award, the organization announced today.

Spencer, already a member of the inaugural class into Grandma's Marathon Hall of Fame, was honored for her lifetime contributions that have contributed to and embodies the history, vision, and spirit of the race.

Called a second mother by Scott Keenan, the founding executive director of Grandma's Marathon, Spencer moved to Duluth in 1975 with her husband, Rick, and soon after became a mainstay of the North Shore Striders.

The Spencer's home was the early headquarters of Grandma's Marathon, and Keenan credits Dorothy not only with sharing his vision for the race, but also with keeping things organized.

"I felt a sense of calm with her there," Keenan wrote in his book, *My Journey to Grandma's Marathon: History & Heroes*, "especially when I started to feel frazzled."

Following a move to Minnetonka, Minn. in 1979 followed shortly after by Rick's death in 1980, Dorothy continued to return each Grandma's Marathon week to help with the race. Her duties ranged from answering phones and planning the post-race awards ceremony to helping out at the finish line on race day.



Spencer has contributed more than four decades to Grandma's Marathon, even completing the 26.2-mile race twice, and now resides in a lake home near Tomahawk, Wis.

Now 90 years old, she ran this year's William A. Irvin 5K and posted a new personal best time of 43:53 in the 30th annual event.

Spencer was presented with the 2023 Scott A. Keenan Founder's Award at a post-race reception following this year's race, making her the seventh person to receive the award.

SCOTT A. KEENAN FOUNDER'S AWARD RECIPIENTS

2023 – Dorothy Spencer

2022 – Garry Bjorklund

2021 – Brian Larsen

2019 – Wendy (Hovland) Cregg

2018 – Mike Krois

2017 – Dan Russell

2016 – Tami Tanski Sherman

For interview requests or for more information, please contact Marketing & Public Relations Director Zach Schneider via email at 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.



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