



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# LONGTIME BOARD MEMBER, VOLUNTEER JOHN HARTWICK TO RECEIVE 2025 MAC WELLES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE Now Oversees Ticketing Operations of Spaghetti, Entertainment

**(DULUTH, MINN.)** --- Longtime Board member and volunteer John Hartwick has been named the 2025 recipient of the Mac Welles Award of Excellence, it was announced today by Grandma's Marathon.

Originally elected to the Board of Directors in 2003, Hartwick has served much of the past two decades in the leadership of the marathon – that includes a stint as chairperson during the transition of Executive Directors following Scott Keenan's retirement.

"Serving in this role was a great experience for me," Hartwick recalled. "It was an honor and privilege to lead an organization such as Grandma's Marathon at that high level."

Outside of his duties on the Board of Directors, Hartwick's primary roles have been managing the Michelina's All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner and post-race entertainment portions of race weekend – that includes being a driving force in the transition of the entertainment to Bayfront Festival Park in 2021.

Having started at the age of 15 selling beer tickets and now overseeing the ticketing operations and crowd control, Hartwick has had experience in nearly every capacity of those two areas over the years.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with Grandma's Marathon," he said. "Being that my career is in hospitality, this event has been a natural fit for me. To be recognized with this very honorable award makes my heart smile, and being part of Grandma's Marathon is a true highlight of my life."

Named after longtime Grandma's Marathon employee and volunteer Mac Welles, this award is presented each year to an individual who or organization that has shown many years of dedication, commitment, and service to the continued development and growth of Grandma's Marathon.

Hartwick will officially be presented with his award on Friday, June 20 at the 2025 Grandma's Marathon Awards Brunch at The Garden Event Center in Duluth.



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Napa Auto Parts | Northland FAN 106.5 | Powerade ION4 | Storm Creek | Super One Foods | WM | WDIO/WIRT-TV

## MAC WELLES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

2025 – John Hartwick	2012 – Chris & Stephanie LaFleur
2024 – Super One Foods	2011 – David Bridges
2023 – Tom Rovinsky	2010 – Spirit Mountain Ski Patrol
2022 – Al Haeg	2009 – Sue Bussa
2020-21 – n/a	2008 – Jeff Frey
2019 – Country Hearth Bread	2007 – Leah Hulst, Sandy Brennan
2018 – Jim Kari, Peter Kolar, David Solon	2006 – Marian Holmes
2017 – Jeff Foster Trucking	2005 – Gert Belsvick
2016 – Kathy Bauer	2004 – Dan Russell
2015 – Upper Lakes Foods	2003 – Tom Ehle
2014 – Gordy Anderson, Mike Persing	2002 – Mike Krois
2013 – Duane Madison	2001 – Chester Keenan

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

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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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