

#FHGBR2025AFA

ACTIVE FOR AUTISM

5K RUN/WALK AND FUN FEST

BENEFITTING FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES OF GREATER BATON ROUGE

FHGBR.ORG



PROUDLY
CO-SPONSORED BY:

ENBRIDGE
100.7 THE TIGER
OCHSNER'S CHILDRENS

26
APRIL

SATURDAY
—
2025

LOCATION:

Pennington Biomedical Research Center
6400 Perkins Rd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

8:00AM TO 12:00 PM

EVENT
INFORMATION
BROCHURE

THANK YOU!

Dear Friends,

With great anticipation and heartfelt excitement, we prepare to welcome you to this year's **Active for Autism** event! For over 25 years, our event has grown tremendously, bringing awareness, promoting acceptance, and celebrating inclusion throughout the Greater Baton Rouge community.

Thanks to your continued support, we're able to sustain and grow the **Autism Spectrum Disorder Program (ASD)**. Many of you have personally benefited from the services offered through our center, and it's truly touching to see you return year after year—not only to support your loved ones but also to stand beside us in our mission.

We're thrilled to gather once again at **Pennington Biomedical Research Center**, where we'll celebrate together in a fun, inclusive environment. We hope you're ready for a day filled with community spirit, connection, and joy!

Inside this information packet, you'll find everything you need to know about the event. If you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at **(225) 216-7474**.

We are so grateful for your participation and look forward to another amazing **Active for Autism** event. See you there!

With gratitude,



Dr. Marilyn Thornton, Executive Director
Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge
Staff and Board of Directors



THANK YOU 2025 ACTIVE FOR AUTISM SPONSORS!

Presenting Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Patron Sponsors

Associated Grocers • BearCom of Baton Rouge • Gulf South Autism Center
Kidder & Schultz, CPAs • Mercy Autism Center • Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital
The Baton Rouge Clinic AMC

SPECIAL GUESTS



Mayor-President Sid Edwards and
Mrs. Maureen "Beanie" Edwards

Mayor-President Sid Edwards is a Baton Rouge native and proud graduate of Redemptorist High School. Before stepping into public office, he spent 35 years as one of Louisiana's most respected high school coaches, shaping young minds both on and off the field. With coaching stints at Catholic High, Redemptorist, Jesuit, Menard, and Central High School, he was known not only for his championship-winning leadership but also for his unwavering dedication to mentoring the next generation. As head football coach at Istrouma High School, he instilled discipline, integrity, and perseverance in his players—values he now brings to Baton Rouge's highest office.

His legacy in Louisiana high school athletics includes multiple state championships in football and basketball, earning him a place in the esteemed "200 Wins Club" and recognition as both Louisiana Coach of the Year and NFL Coach of the Year.

As Mayor-President, he has brought the same passion, strategy, and commitment to service that defined his coaching career. Since taking office, he has worked tirelessly to make East Baton Rouge Parish safer, stronger, and more prosperous. His administration has focused on reducing crime, revitalizing neighborhoods, and creating economic opportunities for all. A fierce advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion, he is committed to bridging the gap between the "haves and have-nots," ensuring that underserved communities, including North Baton Rouge, receive the resources, investment, and support they deserve. The mayor's leadership is rooted in action, accountability, and an unshakable belief in the power of community, making everyone feel included and valued.

Guided by his deep faith in God, Mayor Edwards leads with a servant's heart, always striving to uplift those in need. His most significant source of strength and joy comes from his family his beloved wife, **First Lady Maureen "Beanie" Edwards**; their four children, Cody, Chase, Jack Ryan, and Delaney, and three grandchildren. Their love and support fuel his mission to create a brighter future for Baton Rouge. His life's mission has always been to uplift others whether through coaching young athletes or leading a city toward a brighter future.

SPECIAL GUESTS



Senator Regina Ashford Barrow

Senator Regina Ashford Barrow has served the state of Louisiana since 2005, beginning as State Representative for District 29 and now representing District 15 in the State Senate since 2015. She currently chairs the Select Committee on Women and Children and holds key roles on several others, including Health and Welfare, Finance, and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. Her leadership extends nationally through her involvement with the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, Women in Government, and the Women Legislators' Lobby. A dedicated member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and North Boulevard Macedonia Church, Senator Barrow remains committed to expanding healthcare access in honor of her late husband, James Barrow, Sr. She is a proud mother and grandmother who lives by the motto: "To make 'A' difference is good, but to make 'The' difference is better."

April Davis has worked in the broadcast news business for more than 25 years from Alaska to Colorado to the Carolinas. She grew up in the upstate of South Carolina and graduated from the University of South Carolina with a BA in Journalism.

She earned a regional Emmy for Best Morning Newscast in Denver and a regional Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Innovation for mayoral election coverage in Jacksonville, Florida. April has won regional awards for best anchor- most recently in 2023.

She moved here to be closer to her father and is enjoying exploring the pelican state.

When she's not waking up early to anchor 2une In, she enjoys kayaking, yoga, discovering new restaurants, and going on adventures with her dog.



April Davis, WBRZ 2une In Anchor
AFA Emcee

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

7:00 AM	Registration Opens
7:15 AM	Welcome Address - Dr. Marilyn Thornton, FHGBR
7:30 AM	Onsite Registration for Runners Closes
7:40 AM	Warm-Up for Runners (Near the Starting Line)
7:45 AM	Opening Prayer - Healing Place Church National Anthem - Mr. Clifford Minor, BREC
7:50 AM	5K Line Up
8:00 AM	Chipped 5K Begins - Threshold Timing <i>(Vendor Booths Open)</i>
9:00 AM	One Mile Fun Walk Begins - Z Time Fitness
10:00 AM	Special Acknowledgements 5K Awards Team Awards <i>(Food Booths Open)</i>
10:30 AM	Dance Party with Z Time Fitness, The Flamingeauxs, and Barney <i>(In Front of Stage)</i>
11:30 AM	Wrap Up

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

Vendors

Arrival Time & Location: Please arrive no later than 7:00 AM using the **Quail Drive entrance**.

Parking: Park in the area designated for Vendors. Event staff will be on-site to guide you to your assigned vendor location.

HFGBR Contact: Your main contact is **Sara Eldridge**, who will be wearing a purple hat to help you identify her easily.

Tent Setup: Please use **weights to secure your tent — stakes are not allowed** on Pennington grounds.

Tables & Chairs: Tables and chairs will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. For your convenience, we recommend bringing your own table and chairs.

Coolers & Heating Equipment: You may bring small coolers. Grills and any heating elements are not permitted.

Rain Plan: In case of rain, vendor tables will be moved indoors.

Teams

Tent Space: Space for team tents is limited and available on a **first-come, first-served basis**. **Stakes are not allowed** on Pennington grounds — please **use weights to secure your tent**.

Coolers & Equipment:

Small coolers are allowed. **Grills, heating elements, and alcohol are strictly prohibited**.

What to Bring:

We recommend bringing your own outdoor chairs and/or blankets to enjoy the Family Fun Day activities comfortably.

Volunteers

Parking: Please park at the main entrance off Perkins Road.

Check-In Location: After parking, follow the signs to the Volunteer Check-In area, located near the Active for Autism (AFA) Registration tent.

What to Do at Check-In: Check in to receive your volunteer kit and further instructions.

Service Hour Forms: If you need verification for volunteer service hours, please bring your forms with you to the event.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

AFA Participants

Arrival & Parking:

- Please enter Pennington via **Perkins Road** for race day access.
- Be aware that **5K participants will be running through the parking lot** — please drive cautiously.
- **Police Officers will be present to direct traffic** and help ensure the safety of all participants.

Runner Safety:

- For the safety and respect of the runners, **avoid the area near the finish line**.
- **Do not cross any barricaded areas** — these are in place to protect both runners and spectators.

Food, Drinks & Cleanliness:

- **Complimentary food and drinks** will be provided.
- Shaved ice will be available for purchase.
- You may bring **small coolers** with personal snacks or drinks.
- **Grills and other heating elements are not allowed**.
- **No alcohol is permitted** on the event grounds.
- Please use the **trash receptacles provided** to help keep the area clean.

Children & Lost and Found:

- **Children must be supervised at all times**.
- If a child is lost, **report immediately** to an officer or visit the **Information Booth** near Registration Tables.
- Lost children will be cared for and **reunited with guardians at the Information Booth**.

Pets & Animals:

- To maintain a safe and comfortable environment, we ask that **animals not be brought to the event**.
- **Service animals are allowed** in accordance with ADA guidelines.
- Please note: **emotional support animals, comfort animals, and therapy dogs are not considered service animals** under Title II and III of the ADA and should not attend.

Weather Policy:

 In the event of **rain**, both the **5K Run and the Fun Walk will continue** as scheduled.

Additional Information:

- Please note that there are **no ATMs on Pennington's grounds**.
- **FHGBR staff and volunteers will be available** throughout the event — look for **badges** or visit the **Information Booth** if you have any questions or need assistance.

FAMILY FUN FEST

Family Fun Fest Begins After the Walk!

Once the Autism Acceptance Walk is complete, the Family Fun Fest officially kicks off! Enjoy fun activities for children hosted by vendors and organizations from across the Capital Region. It's also a great opportunity for families to learn about valuable community resources.

If you have any questions throughout the day, please visit the FHGBR Information Booth, located near registration— we're here to help!



5K RUN/WALK

Thank you to all of our amazing 5K participants! If you are registered but have not yet received your race bib, please stop by the Registration Table to pick it up. On-site registration for both runners and walkers is available at the entrance of the C.J. Pennington Building.

Special thanks to Threshold Timing for providing professional race timing services!

THE 5K RUN/WALK BEGINS AT 8:00 AM!

THRESHOLD
TIMING



RUNNER CATEGORIES

OVERALL FASTEST WINNERS
MALE & FEMALE

AGE 14 & UNDER
MALE & FEMALE

AGE 15 – 19
MALE & FEMALE

AGE 20-29
MALE & FEMALE

AGE 30-39
MALE & FEMALE

AGE 40-49
MALE & FEMALE

AGE 50-59
MALE & FEMALE

AGE 60-69
MALE & FEMALE

AGE 70-79
MALE & FEMALE

AGE 80+
MALE & FEMALE



TEAM AWARDS

MOST TEAM MEMBERS - Business & Individual Teams

*To be counted toward your team's total for the Most Team Members award, participants **must select or join the team at the time of race registration**. If a participant does not register under the team name, they will not be counted toward the team's total.*

LARGEST FUNDRAISER - Business & Individual Teams

*Each fundraising team has its own unique **RunSignUp link**, making it easy to share and collect donations via **social media, text, or email**. Don't forget to check if your employer offers a matching gift program – many companies will match donations to nonprofit organizations! For award purposes, **all funds raised by 10:00 AM on event day** will be counted toward your team's total.*

MOST CREATIVE T-SHIRT

Get ready to show off your creativity! 

Come up with a fun and unique team name, then design a standout t-shirt that shows off your team spirit. We'll be on the lookout for the most original and eye-catching designs – so bring your A-game!



AUTISM ACCEPTANCE WALK

Active for Autism is all about promoting **acceptance and inclusion** for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It's a truly special day when **families, friends, and our community come together** to show support for those on the autism spectrum. This day is **dedicated to them** — celebrating their uniqueness, raising awareness, and standing in solidarity. It's powerful to witness **thousands of people walking together with a shared purpose** — understanding, supporting, and embracing autism with open hearts.

THE AUTISM ACCEPTANCE WALK BEGINS AT 9:00 AM!



THANK YOU VENDORS!

Abilities Pediatric Therapy Services

Louisiana Blue

Absolute Health Training Academy LLC

Louisiana Department of Health - Medicaid

Access to Better Communication (ABC)

LSU Human Development & Daily Life Lab

Aetna Better Health Louisiana

Mercy Autism Center

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana

Methodist Foster Care

Ascent Behavior Therapy Center

NAMI Louisiana

Associates in Pediatric Dentistry

Olivier Group

Autism Spectrum Therapies (AST)

ResCare Community Living

Behavioral Intervention Group (BIG)

RISE Behavioral Services

Beyond Gymnastics

Shaved Ice Food Truck

BREC Adaptive

St. Lillian Academy

Capital Area Autism Network (CAAN)

Top-Notch Behavioral Healthcare Services

Coastal Louisiana Insurance

Young Life Baton Rouge

Dynamic Therapy Specialists



THANK YOU 2025 ACTIVE FOR AUTISM INKIND DONORS!



A huge thank you to 100.7 The Tiger for your Platinum In-Kind Sponsorship and the generous donation of free commercial spots! Your support helps us spread the word and make this event a success—we truly appreciate it!



We are grateful to Williams Photography for their in-kind photography services at the Bronze Sponsorship level! Your talent and generosity help us capture the special moments that make this event so memorable.



Thank you Capitol City Produce for generously donating bananas to fuel our runners! Your support helps keep everyone energized and ready to go. We appreciate you!



Thank you to Magic Makers for bringing Barney back to our event! He was a huge hit last year, and we can't wait to see him and dance with him this year!



We're so grateful for your generous donation of bananas for our event! Your support helps fuel our participants and contributes to a fun, healthy day for all.



A big thank you to Sunray – Palm Beach Tan on Bluebonnet in Baton Rouge for donating water and promotional items for our runner bags!



A huge thank you to Chuck E. Cheese for generously donating pizza for our event!



We are incredibly grateful to REV for their Gold In-Kind Sponsorship, which includes the creation of a :30 spot and airing on their cross-channel networks!



We are so grateful to BREC for their Bronze Sponsorship through the generous donation of the stage for our event! Your support helps create an exciting and inclusive experience for everyone attending.



We are so appreciative of First Church of the Nazarene for their generous donation of tables and chairs for our event.



Thank you Animated Art Balloon Decor for generously donating beautiful balloon décor for our event entrances!



We appreciate Roy's Ice for generously donating ice for our event! Your support helps us keep our participants cool and refreshed throughout the day.



We are so grateful to The Looking Glass Photo Booth for donating a photo booth for our event! We can't wait to see all the fun memories captured. Be sure to stop by and strike a pose!



We're so grateful to Off the Hook on Corporate for donating swag items for our runner bags!



We sincerely appreciate ACE Enterprises Inc. for their Bronze Sponsorship through their generous in-kind donation of portable toilets, handwashing stations, and trash boxes for our event.



A huge thank you to BearCom of Baton Rouge for their Patron sponsorship through their in-kind donation of two-way radios for our Active for Autism event!



Thank you to Coca-Cola United for generously donating beverages for our event! Your support keeps our participants refreshed and ready to go.



A huge thank you to Rouses Markets for generously donating an entire pallet of water to our event! Your support helps keep our participants hydrated and ready to enjoy the day.



We are so grateful to United Rentals in Gonzales for donating the use of a golf cart for our event! Your generosity helps us keep things moving smoothly and ensures our team can better serve all of our participants and guests.



We are so thankful to Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers for their generous donation of drinks for our event and for providing our Kid Achievement Awards!

SPECIAL APPRECIATION

Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in the planning and execution of #FHGBR2025AFA! Your time, energy, and dedication make this event possible – and truly meaningful. We are so grateful for your support!

-  Representatives of the Active for Autism Planning Committee
-  Pennington Biomedical Center
-  Government Supporters: West Baton Rouge, Iberville, and Pointe Coupee Parishes
-  April Davis, Robert Savage, and Clifford Minor
-  Cortnie Foster
-  Junior League
-  Coastal Louisiana Insurance
-  Healing Place Church
-  Louisiana Ghostbusters, The Flamingeaux, and Z-Time Fitness
-  ELEVATE Church of Baton Rouge, Apostle Keith Richard, D'Orsay Williams, Malaiika Menna, Jennifer Turner, and all members of COTL Outreach Team
-  Painting with a Twist, Tony Chachere's, Walmart Store # 5327, Top Golf, and Bunnie Bounce Grove
-  St. George Fire Department
-  Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge Executive Director, Staff, and Board Members
-  Our incredible volunteers
-  To those companies that were the FIRST to join our event as sponsors/vendors: Enbridge (Sponsor), Associates in Pediatric Dentistry (Vendor), Capitol City Produce (In-kind)

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported, participated in, or helped make this event possible. If we happened to miss acknowledging anyone personally, please know how truly grateful we are. Your generosity, time, and spirit mean the world to us—and to the families we serve. Thank you for being a part of this special day!





Thank you for your support!
SEE YOU THERE!

