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Back on My Feet DC Participates in Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walk-a-Thon *Last Year for Walk on National Mall*

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In the weeks leading up to the holiday season, Back on My Feet DC (BoMF) participated as a charity beneficiary for the second year in a row in the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walk-a-Thon. On November 19, thousands gathered on the National Mall to walk in support of their favorite homeless service providers in the area. The 23 year-old program is changing the structure of its operation in 2012, eliminating the National Mall walk and focusing on mini-walks to generate funds and awareness for participating organizations.

“We’ll definitely have to refocus our targets for 2012,” said Autumn Campbell, Regional Executive Director for the Back on My Feet Washington DC-Baltimore regional chapter. “I think a lot of people look forward to the event each year.”

In addition to recruiting walkers for the November 19 walk, Back on My Feet was paired with four DC public and charter schools to conduct mini-walks this year. Mini-walks are comprised of a physical activity component as well as a 15-minute educational piece about the organization and its approach to the issue of homelessness.

“I really enjoyed my experience going into schools to educate students and the community about the work that Back on My Feet does,” said Gretchen Gates, Director of Communications and Corporate Relations for Back on My Feet DC. “The kids were really engaged and wanted to know more about what it means to be homeless.”

About Back on My Feet: Back on My Feet (BoMF), launched in Philadelphia in 2007, is the non-profit organization that promotes the self-sufficiency of individuals experiencing homelessness by engaging them in running to build strength, confidence, and self-esteem. Members run Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 5:45am and must maintain 90 percent attendance to move forward in the program and gain access to educational opportunities, job training programs, job placement assistance and financial aid. Back on My Feet has chapters in Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Indianapolis, Philadelphia and Washington DC. The organization has received media support, including attention from NBC Nightly News, ABC World News, CNN and TODAY for its ingenuity in tackling this difficult social issue. More information can be found at backonmyfeet.org.

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