More than 900 runners from all across the country braved below freezing weather for the Fourth Annual Fort Smith Marathon. The theme of the marathon, “This One’s Got Grit,” was more than fitting due to the challenging course.

Mercy Fort Smith has been the presenting medical sponsor since the inaugural run in 2015. The marathon promotes the beauty of our city and to further promote awareness and consideration of healthy activities.

The marathon, half-marathon and relay races have consistently grown in size and community participation. To ensure the safety of the runners, the marathon depends on over 400 community volunteers, 24 watering stations and 4 aide stations along the course. It offers an excellent opportunity to build and maintain a collaborative relationship with Park Partners, Sebastian County Sheriff’s Dept., Fort Smith Police Dept., Fort Smith Schools and Fort Smith EMS.

It is the goal of Mercy Fort Smith to continue to collaborate with a wide number of community volunteers, sponsors, churches and local leaders to support the marathon. The proceeds from the marathon assist with the continued growth and development of the trail system in Fort Smith.

Charity Care
Includes the actual cost of providing free or discounted care to persons who cannot afford to pay and who are not eligible for public programs. Charity care does not include bad debt.
Benefit: $34,090

Community Outreach Services
Includes activities carried out to improve community health and services that are subsidized because they are needed in the community. Examples: education, support groups, health screenings, and immunizations.
Benefit: $4,090

Health Professionals Education and Research
Includes the cost of providing clinical placement for physicians, nurses and other health professionals plus the costs of the nursing anesthesia, EMS and radiology schools.
Benefit: $2,460

Cash, In-Kind Donations, Workforce Enhancement and Fundraising
Includes cash, in-kind donations, fundraising costs, food & supplies to shelters, use of Mercy rooms and facilities, donated office space and recruitment of health professionals in medically underserved areas.
Benefit: $9,700

Medicaid Subsidies
Includes the actual unpaid cost of providing care to Medicaid patients and represents the shortfall between cost of care and the payments received by the government.
Benefit: $184,890