

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**OUR HOUSE GRIEF SUPPORT CENTER HOSTS 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL RUN FOR HOPE  
CELEBRATES THE COMMUNITY WITH COUNCILMEMBER MIKE BONIN  
AND THE POWER OF UNITING HANDS WITH PAWS – MAY 1**

**Los Angeles (April 14, 2016)** – OUR HOUSE Grief Support Center, one of the most respected non-profit grief centers in the nation, will host its seventh annual Run For Hope 5K Festival on Sunday, May 1st at the West Los Angeles Civic Center & Bandshell. The Run For Hope is the only event of its kind in the nation- a day dedicated to celebrating and honoring the memory of loved ones who have died. Every year, the Run focuses on community engagement, bringing people together to support each other in memory of their loved ones. Deeply rooted in the community are the Presenting Sponsors – The Hollander Family and Karma Rescue – who will honor this commitment by showcasing the power of unity by uniting hands with paws.

In the spirit of community and civic-mindedness, current Councilman Mike Bonin of the 11<sup>th</sup> District will honor former City Councilman Bill Rosendahl at the Run For Hope. Councilman Rosendahl served the West Los Angeles district from 2005-2013, and his endorsement was integral to the launch of the first Run For Hope in 2010. Councilman Bonin will kick off the run at the starting line, in memory and in honor of Bill. “We are proud to honor Councilman Bill Rosendahl at the run, and celebrate his memory while uniting the community in the memory of their loved ones,” said Michele Prince, Executive Director, OUR HOUSE Grief Support Center, “The Run For Hope is our largest event of the year with an expected 1,700 attendees who have pledged to raise over \$480,000 for essential grief support services and the collective benefit of our community.”

The event will be filled with activities for those participating in the walk or stopping by to show their support. With registration, participants have the opportunity to personalize t-shirts with their loved ones' photos commemorating and celebrating their memories, and on Sunday, May 1 take part in three key events: The In-Memory Ceremony, 5K, and Festival. Additionally, there will be an In-Memory Wall inviting participants to write and place the name of their special person who died amongst others also being remembered.

The Presenting Sponsors - The Hollander Family and Karma Rescue – are further exemplifying community commitment by bringing smiles to participants with a dog-kissing booth where all can receive a smooch by a pooch. Karma Rescue will also bring some of their rescue dogs, as many who are mourning the death of a loved one are often calmed and reassured by the loving companionship of a pet. Jackie Hollander says, “My vision for OUR HOUSE Grief Support Center and Karma Rescue is to have these two wonderful organizations collaborate by uniting people and animals at their most vulnerable times, helping them provide solace and support for each other.” To honor the memory of participant’s pets who have died, all will be able to memorialize them on the Zuma Memorial Wall.

Other community partners include In-N-Out Burger, who will provide complimentary burgers to all registered children and teens. A variety of vendors will be in attendance including: Starbucks, Justin’s Nut Butters, Pressed Juicery, Yelp, New York Life, iHeart Momo Photobooth, and Di Dio’s Italian Ice. For the jewelry lovers, Bead Relief will be on-site featuring a customized signature bracelet stack, inspired by their long-standing partnership with OUR HOUSE.

There will also be a variety of entertainment including contortionists and stilt walkers from Aerial Warehouse, the Santa Monica High School Cheer Squad, LACES Jazz Band, Magic Castle Junior Magicians, Mar Vista Garden Steppers, face painting, and RUN MC' as our DJ and Announcer!

**WHO:** 1,700 OUR HOUSE Supporters & Race Participants, OUR HOUSE representatives, as well as Los Angeles City Councilmember Mike Bonin of the 11th District.

**WHEN:** **Sunday, May 1st, 2016**

**7:30am In-Memory Ceremony-** sponsored by The Rapaport Family, is an intimate ceremony for adults-only led by OUR HOUSE's Adult Clinical Team where participants have the opportunity to share about their loved one who has died, and listen as others share their stories of grief, hope and healing.

**9:00am Opening Ceremony and Children's Ceremony**

**9:15am 5K Run/Walk & Family Fun Run-** Start line in memory of Bill Rosendahl

**10:15am Timing Awards Presentation**

**11:30am Raffle Call by the Associate Board**

**12:00pm 2016 Run For Hope 5K Festival Ends**

**8:30am-12pm Kid Zone + Festival**

**WHERE:** **West Los Angeles Civic Center & Bandshell** 1645 Corinth Ave. LA 90025

**Spread the Love. Spread the Hope. #OHRun4Hope #pawsandhands #karmarescue**

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<http://www.ourhouse-grief.org/events/run-for-hope/>

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#### **About OUR HOUSE Grief Support Center:**

OUR HOUSE Grief Support Center is one of the nation's most respected organizations for grief support and education. For 23 years, OUR HOUSE has helped thousands of grieving children, teens, and adults as they embark on their journeys to hope and healing following the death of someone close. The safe, warm, and nurturing environment of their Los Angeles centers offer support groups specific to age and relationship. OUR HOUSE is a leading provider of grief education, offering workshops, seminars, and in-service training to mental health and medical professionals, clergy, educators, and other members of the community who interact with bereaved families. The OUR HOUSE grief education program is part of the curricula for students at USC's Keck and UCLA's David Geffen Schools of Medicine. To learn more, please visit [www.ourhouse-grief.org](http://www.ourhouse-grief.org) or call 1.888.417.1444.

#### **About Karma Rescue:**

Karma Rescue is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving animals in need by finding them permanent homes and providing the resources for successful companionship. Through education, Karma Rescue instills the critical need for spay/neuter, and offers guidance to strengthen the animal-human bond. Karma Rescue's vision is to help create a compassionate society, which provides safety, refuge, and protection for all animals.