



Kid-Tastic Celebration at the 34th Annual Marine Corps Marathon

The 34rd Annual Marine Corps Marathon took place on Sunday, October 25th, 2009, and Crystal City was the place to be for the more than 15,000 spectators who watched the runners as they passed miles 22 and 23 on their way to the finish. The area was the host of a family-friendly festival from 9:30AM until 2PM at the intersection of 18th and Crystal Drive—conveniently located near the Metro station for race-watchers. Beautiful weather and an exciting atmosphere set the stage for a great day as more than 1,000 children came out for the event with their parents and enjoyed live music, moon bounces, face paintings, balloon art, arts and crafts with the National Children’s Museum, and circus activities with Lizzie Lyra. When not engaging in the various entertainment and activities, children snacked on cotton candy courtesy of Freddie’s Beach Bar and popcorn from the Marriott. Candy was also given away at select Crystal City restaurants to trick-or-treaters looking for early Halloween action.

Three sets of musical performances filled the area with vibrancy and excitement as runners passed by. Milkshake, Rocknocerous, and Oh Susannah! kept the children and their parents entertained between stops at the numerous festival booths. In between music sets, race-watchers made their own music with red Crystal City cowbells. Over 1,000 cowbells were distributed to the crowd in less than two hours! As fatigue was setting in at miles 22/23, runners got a great boost from the bright and colorful wind visuals lining Crystal Drive and the sound of cheers and cowbells from supporters. Crystal City was **the** place to be for the 34th Annual Marine Corps Marathon.

