



Greetings local business owner!



In July 2015, former Downers Grove North champion runner Ben Silver took his life at 22 after battling schizophrenia for nearly three years. As a brother, son, grandson, friend, and teammate, Ben excelled in all aspects of life. He had an impressive running career at Herrick Middle School and Downers Grove North. He was also a singer, songwriter, poet, and role model for all who knew him.

On August 8, 2026, we are hosting our 11th annual Ben's Memorial Mile! Since our inception, we have raised well over \$100,000 for mental health research and advocacy! It will be a great summer reunion and feel-good event for people of all ages. It will again be a community gathering to honor Ben's life and raise money and awareness for mental health, schizophrenia research, and suicide prevention. There are two organizations who we will donate our net proceeds to: the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation (BBRF) and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).



Local businesses investing their time and resources help make our event successful. If you are not in a position to make a financial contribution, you can still help in other ways: we accept donated goods for our raffle or event needs, and we can always use help with outreach.

This year, your business can be part of this exciting community event! We appreciate your generosity and hope you find a level of support below that is comfortable for you (please see the next page for our sponsorship levels). Thank you for being a part of Ben's story and contributing to the community!





<i>Friends of Ben, PREMIER Level - \$10,000+</i> • “Ben’s Memorial Mile brought to you by [your company name]” • Opportunity to give a short speech • Large banners around the event • Company name/logo on t-shirts and sponsor board • Promotional table during event • Unlimited employee race entries/t-shirts. Option for additional free or discounted entrees.	<i>Friends of Ben, PLATINUM Level - \$5,000+</i> • Large banners around the event • Company name/logo on t-shirts and sponsor board • Promotional table during event • Unlimited employee race entries/t-shirts
<i>Friends of Ben, SILVER Level - \$1,000+</i> • Company name/logo on t-shirts and sponsor board • Promotional table during event • 10 race entries/t-shirts	<i>Friends of Ben, BRONZE Level - \$500+</i> • Company name/logo on t-shirts and sponsor board • Promotional table during event • 4 race entries/t-shirts
<i>Friends of Ben, COPPER Level - \$250+</i> • Company name/logo on sponsor board • 2 race entries/t-shirts	<i>Friends of Ben - \$100+</i> • Company name/logo on sponsor board • 1 race entry/t-shirt

Please make all checks payable to “Ben’s Memorial Mile”. Ben’s Memorial Mile is a registered non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Proof of certification can be provided upon request.