Fraternity to run to Bozeman to raise money for Watson Children's shelter

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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The University of Montana chapter of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity needs donations for its biennial “Run to Bozeman,” a fundraiser that benefits Watson Children’s Shelter in Missoula.

The fraternity, established at UM in 1918, holds the fundraiser every other year when Montana State University hosts the Griz-Cat football game in Bozeman. Starting Thursday, Nov. 19, 16 members of Sigma Phi Epsilon will take turns running four-hour shifts along the 201-mile stretch of Interstate 90 to Bozeman. The UM President’s Office donated two vans for members to rest in when they’re not running.

The fundraiser takes on extra importance this year, as Watson Children’s Shelter, a haven for Western Montana children who are victims of abuse, neglect or family crisis, is undergoing a capital campaign to build a second facility. The current facility has a capacity of 16, but 130 children applied for placement at Watson’s in 2008.

“The run isn’t only important for us as a chapter, but is important for Missoula as a community,” said Colin McLean, president of the UM chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon. “Watson Children’s Shelter is trying to build a second and much-needed facility to house more children in
need. While the overwhelming demand for this type of establishment may never be appropriately met, Watson’s is taking a step in the right direction, and we, as a fraternity, couldn’t be more proud or happier to help out with their cause.”

Anyone interested in donating can do so at http://www.runtobozeman.com. For more information, call McLean at 406-381-1265 or e-mail colin.mclean@umontana.edu.

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