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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Urell Family Named “Family of the Year” by Wilkes Barre Racing, Inc.

Wilkes Barre Racing, announced that the Urell family from Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania has been named the 2013 “Family of the Year”. This First Annual Award is being given to a Pennsylvania family that has provided a forever home to orphaned or foster children under exceptional circumstances. “Regina Urell has opened her heart and her home to five wonderful girls and adopted all five sisters together in 2012. She is a single mom with more faith, courage and love than anyone can imagine” said Rich Pais, Executive Director of Wilkes Barre Racing in announcing the award.

Indeed, Regina Urell is *now* a single mom who first became a foster mom with Concern, a local foster care and adoption agency. Although she was born and raised in Toms River, NJ, she attended Penn State Worthington and settled in northeast Pennsylvania. Regina’s first contact with the girls was as a foster mom. The sisters had been separated in different homes before they met Regina, but she quickly fell in love and decided that this family would stay together forever.

Regina credits two unusual things with helping her move towards adoption: leukemia and divorce. “I had leukemia twice when I was young and beat it both times. I missed a lot of what it was like to be a little girl because I was always in treatment. Well, these girls didn’t ask to be in their situation either. I could not stand by and not give them a chance to experience the childhood I missed.” As for divorce, Regina says “I was working three jobs and then I got divorced. Suddenly I had some time and I knew I wouldn’t have a family in the typical way. At first I thought I would just be a foster mom until I met the right man...but now he will have to accept all six of us!”

Regina keeps all five girls – Emily, age 10; Courtney age 8; Alexa age 6; Ashley, age 5; and Abigail age 3 – active in community activities such as gymnastics, dance, karate and soccer. All five girls receive services for special needs. Regina has an incredibly supportive family that lives in N.J. They are looking to find or build a mother/daughter house where the girls can share the love and support of their grandma too.

“Regina is an amazing person” said Pais. “These sisters might have been separated or lost into institutions forever but for the actions of Regina they have been saved and have a forever family. She is a light shining into the lives of everyone she touches”.

You can meet the Regina family at the Glenn Summit Spring Water Harvey's Lake Run on April 20th. They will be available to talk about adoption and they will be handing out water and energy gels to runners on the course.

Wilkes Barre Racing is an NEPA based non-profit that raises money and awareness for foster care and adoption. It organizes a dozen local races including the Pocono Xterra Trail Run Series, the Glenn Summit Spring Water Harvey's Lake Run, the OneSource Valleys Fastest Man Series, two fitness challenges and the Wendy's Wonderful Kids Half Marathon.

Wilkes Barre Racing is also starting a grant program for young athletes in the foster and adoption community. "From now on, all foster parents and kids will race with us for free. And we have scholarships for foster kids who want to race anywhere in NEPA."

Interested parties may learn more about Wilkes Barre Racing by visiting their website at www.wilkesbarreracing.com