



**8166 Main St.  
Houma, LA 70360  
Attn: Marketing and Planning**

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**For More Information  
Contact: Kellie Walters  
985-873-4631**

### **SUPER COOPER 5K RUN/WALK RACE TO BENEFIT TGMC**

The 8th Annual Super Cooper 5K and 1-Mile fun run is scheduled for March 22, 2014 at The Workout Company in Houma. This event is hosted by John and Ashley Fontenot of the Cooper Life Fund and raises money for families whose newborn infants are born with serious medical conditions and are admitted into Terrebonne General Medical Center's (TGMC) Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

John and Ashley Fontenot founded the Cooper Life Fund organization after their son, Cooper Fontenot, was born in 2004 with a Congenital Heart Defect called Transposition of the Great Vessels. Cooper spent many weeks in the hospital and endured several hours of open-heart surgery when he was only 9-days old. Cooper is alive and well today because of great medical care and because of intensive cardiovascular research.

All of the proceeds from the Super Cooper 5K Run/Walk will be used to provide medical and social care needs to the infants and families of infants admitted at TGMC's NICU after being born with serious medical conditions. This fund allows families to focus on the wellness of their child without having to worry about how they might afford the immediate necessities of caring for a sick baby. The money provides families with a care package filled with necessities in caring for NICU infants, gas cards, phone cards, car seats, strollers, lodging vouchers and other items that these families have not prepared for while their baby is in intensive care. The Cooper Life Fund is dedicated to honoring those families with babies in the TGMC NICU and is committed to helping to ease their sorrow by letting them know that they are not alone. Over the last seven years, The Cooper Life Fund has donated close to \$100,000 to the TGMC NICU.

"John and Ashley Fontenot along with their two sons Remy and Cooper are a very inspiring family and I want to thank them for their continuous efforts to help support the families that find themselves in the TGMC NICU," said Phyllis Peoples, TGMC President and CEO. Mrs. Peoples added, "Having a child who is in the NICU can be very devastating for a family and the funds from the Super Cooper race allows these families to have peace of mind that they are not alone. Our community supports them through their difficult time of need."

"It's overwhelming to think that we've been helping families for seven years now. We feel so very blessed that we have been able to create this gift and continue to follow through with it each and every year. Touching just one life makes it worth it all," said the Fontenot family. They added, "The Super Cooper race is amazing! It brings so many people together for a common cause. Sometimes it feels as if it has a life of its own and we're just along for the ride. It can be bumpy at times but it's always worth it in the end. We've never met a soul that didn't have a great time at our race."

Ashley Fontenot says, "Cooper Life Fund keeps me and my family motivated to help people in every aspect of life. It's like a reminder to keep doing good things for others that are in unfortunate situations. I know that we have been so very blessed in every way and that it's only right to keep giving back and helping out. It feels good to give, and I always want our boys to know that feeling and to continue to do good for others their entire life. I feel The Cooper Life Fund has been a great foundation for this."

For more information on the TGMc NICU and the Cooper Life Fund please visit [www.tgmc.com](http://www.tgmc.com) and [www.cooperlifefund.org](http://www.cooperlifefund.org). Super Cooper race information and sponsorship opportunities can be found from the Cooper Life Fund website.

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