**Martial Cyubahiro (14) and Ghislaine** **Gikundiro (12)**

Philadelphia, PA

Middle-school students at George W Childs School

Cigna Foundation partner**:** Students Run Philly Style

SRPS Mission: Students Run Philly Style (SRPS) has built a powerful community of runners, mentors, youth advocates, health experts, volunteers, foundations, corporate partners and philanthropists to support the next generation and to help them draw from their strengths and prepare to achieve their goals.

Headline: Born to run and born to lead, these two Philadelphia middle schoolers are gearing up to take on the Walt Disney World Marathon 5K

Nothing slows down running enthusiasts and Philadelphia-area middle-schoolers Martial Cyubahiro and Ghislaine Gikundir. They were born to run. “For me, it’s all about being outside, seeing all the great sights and sounds of Philly,” said 14-year-old Martial. Ghislaine, 12, added, “Even if it’s early in the morning on a Saturday and even when the weather’s not so great, I just love to run!”

Martial and Ghislaine joined Students Run Philly Style (SRPS) – a [Cigna Foundation](https://www.cigna.com/about-us/corporate-responsibility/cigna-foundation) partner and a Philadelphia-based mentoring program that unites runners, mentors, youth advocates, health experts, volunteers, foundations, corporate partners and philanthropists to empower the next generation of leaders through long-distance running coaching and tutoring to help improve academic achievement. Running mentors serve as role models who encourage the students to run and who check on the students in and out of the classroom to help them become better leaders in their schools and within their communities.

Both Martial and Ghislaine recently completed the Philadelphia Marathon 8K in November with their running mentors, and they’re determined to complete the Disney Marathon 5K in under 30 minutes. To help them achieve their goal, the Cigna Foundation is providing Martial and Ghislaine with a trip to the January Walt Disney World® Marathon Weekend, presented by [Cigna](https://www.cigna.com/), where they will run the 5K while their families and running mentors cheer them on.

“The Cigna Foundation is proud to support organizations like Students Run Philly Style who share our commitment to eliminating barriers to health and improving access to care,” said **Mary Engvall, Executive Director of the Cigna Foundation**. “We know a person’s journey to wellness can be limited by factors beyond their control, so our philanthropic giving is designed to improve health equity and respond to community needs in ways that are sustainable, scalable and effective.”

Leah Jafir, SRPS Running Leader for George W. Childs School, added, “Martial and Ghislaine are wonderful young leaders who have grown so much since joining Students Run Philly Style. You’ll always find them cheering on their teammates and encouraging other students to give their all. I’m excited to see what they can accomplish at the Disney Marathon 5K and beyond.”