

Runners at Macomb school raced against hunger

Nicole Tuttle , For The Macomb Daily 06/06/16



Shawnee Elementary School hosted a 5K, a one-mile and more in 2015 to benefit Make-A-Wish. This year's run/walk event was renamed The Hunger Run to reflect the beneficiary of the run, Hope Center in Macomb. Photo courtesy of DEANNA SKELCY, MELISSA CRITESER



Children participated in a one-mile fun run during last year's Run for a Wish event at Shawnee Elementary School in Macomb Township. This year's race was renamed The Hunger Run to reflect this year's beneficiary of the run, Hope Center in Macomb. Photo courtesy of DEANNA SKELCY, MELISSA CRITESER

Runners and walkers raced against hunger Sunday when they participated in a 5K or one-mile at Shawnee Elementary School in Macomb Township.

The Hunger Run benefitted Hope Center in Macomb, a non-profit, volunteer-driven human services organization which has a no-cost, client-choice food pantry in Fraser.

In the past, a 5K and one-mile event held at Shawnee have benefitted Make-A-Wish, according to Shawnee physical education teacher Deanna Skelcy.

“I thought it was time to get fresh blood,” Skelcy said. “Hope Center is a local charity 10 minutes away from my school. It impacts a lot of families in Macomb County.”

Skelcy said she happened to contact Hope Center at a time when the organization was talking about starting up a 5K.

The course began and ended at Shawnee for the 5K, winding its way through a nearby subdivision. The one mile course was 100 percent on school grounds and primarily for children, Skelcy said.

Skelcy encouraged her students to participate in the event, particularly a school running club, by showing a video made by Hope Center about its mission.

“We talked about not everyone being able to go out and purchase all the food items they need for their family,” Skelcy said. In addition to the charity aspect, students learn the benefits of physical fitness by participating in the event.

“They’re moving their bodies. Nobody has to be the winner. They’re moving their bodies, whether they walk, jog or run, not giving up. When they cross the line they are winners and helping other people out,” Skelcy said.

Awards were available for the fastest team and the team with the most participants. Overall men’s and women’s awards were available, as well as age group awards. All one-mile participants received an award. Clay finisher awards were available to 5K participants. Shane Skelcy, 17, was the 5k overall winner in a time of 17:54.3 while Ally Slone, also 17, was the top female, clocking in at 22:28.9.

Although the total amount of funds raised through The Hunger Run was not available at press time, Skelcy said the 5K event held at Shawnee last year raised \$6,000.