

Mid-Atlantic **Sports Digest**®

Cassidy & Pinkard

8th Annual Brain Tumor Society

DURON
TRIM & WALK COLLEGE

"There Is Hope..."

Golf for HOPE
at Blue Marsh

5^k Run & Walk



Racing for **HOPE**

Racing for Hope



Were there fast runners who produced incredible times? Absolutely. However, if you asked the over 5,300 participants who showed up in force for the *Cassidy & Pinkard Race for Hope Brain Tumor Society 5k Run/Walk* why they were there, their answer would be decidedly different.

Jeff Kolodin, who has been tireless in his efforts to raise awareness and funds since being diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor in 1999, said it best: "Every person who attended the race was here supporting a friend or family member with a brain tumor, fighting the battle themselves, or participating in memory of someone who has lost their battle."

The 8th Annual Race took place on Sunday, May 1st and raised over \$1.2 million for Brain Tumor research, with funds still coming in through their website www.curebraintumors.org.

The event reached new heights as over 5,300 people participated! That is an incredible growth from 2004, in which 3,500 registrants came out. This race has become the second largest 5k in the district after the Race for the Cure.

The event featured 214 teams comprised of over 4,150 people, who ran or walked honoring loved ones, past and present. While the sheer number that turned out was gratifying to race organizers, it was also a very visible reminder of how much a brain tumor affects not only the person who is suffering, but friends, family and our community, and why finding a cure is so important.

Perhaps most moving was how many teams stayed together throughout the event, demonstrating the unity that compelled them to get involved in the race.

There were amazing stories of courage, sadness and hope throughout the morning, as teams came from all over the country to take part.

Each \$50,000 raised pays for another research grant and provides hope for those afflicted with brain tumors. All the money raised goes straight to research. Period.

An emotional high point came just before the starting gun as more than 5,000 runners and walkers paid tribute to the survivors as they marched up to the starting line along Pennsylvania Avenue.

After the 5k, runners and walkers cleared the starting line, the children lined up for their fun run, and off they went down Pennsylvania Avenue.

Jeff Kolodin received so many touching letters and e-mails after the event that he decided to share one with us. It really exemplified the feeling of the day, and we're grateful that Ann allowed us to print it, as her words best described what the event meant to so many...

Hi there! Attached you will find the picture I promised to send. Here's a "long-story short" account: Christine Daley is pictured with you and her son, Chris. Chris is a sophomore at Good Counsel High school. Mariah, who was 10-years old on April 6 of this year, passed away on April 12. She had a brain tumor, which was in remission for 4 years, and then it reared its ugly head. Chris plays football with our boys at GC, so we all got together to support him. My husband, Bob, is also in commercial real estate, and is a business friend of Brendan Cassidy.

Coincidentally, they were talking last week, Brendan told Bob about the race, and this past Monday, we put together our team (the day before the ONLINE deadline), which ended up to be nearly 30-strong, and when all is said and done, will raise over \$5000 (not bad for a week's work!!). One of the coolest things I heard today was Chris' young cousin, who said to me, "Are we going to do this again next year?".....Obviously, when that comes from a 12-years old, we'll double, if not triple, our numbers next year!

Hope this helps. You can call anytime, and anything I can do to help in the future I'd be honored and blessed to do! Thanks for a great day for the kids AND the adults! You're doing great work!

- Ann Dickman



In My Words...

We use an exclamation point when we read in disbelief the amount of participants in a race to earn money for a cure of a deadly disease. 5,300 participants! That's a lot of people who came on May 1, 2005 to show their support for a wonderful cause. But, why doesn't it end with a question mark? 5,300 participants? Why so many this year? Is it the publicity that Brain Tumors have received, or is it that so many new people have been affected that more family and friends of loved ones have come to a place where they belong because they have in common with so many others this terrible deadly disease? The people who come to this race are all survivors in one way or another. They have survived the death of a loved one - a daughter, son, husband, wife, mother, father or friend, or have survived a brain tumor themselves. They have moved on with their lives in a way that is difficult, yet triumphant. They have invested time and energy to help give in any way they can. They have turned a tragedy into a potential hope or success story for someone else. Because WHEN a cure is found, these people will have helped to find it.

When you walk this race and look around at the hats and backs of shirts that represent a loved one, you can't help but feel proud to be there supporting this great cause. After that thought leaves your mind, it is filled with sadness and maybe anger. How can something so horrible effect so many wonderful people? Why them, and how do they make it through each day - let alone the three miles to the finish line?

On a day that started out rainy and cold and that ended with sunshine and warmth one can only look back and say - a cure is surely on the way, it will be here soon - thanks to 5,300 people!?!- victims, some might say- but heros and survivors everyday.

by Jeff Kolodin

Left: Christine Daley, Jeff Kolodin & Chris Daley at the event.

Photos by James Oesch.