

Milton Foundation for Education

Oct. 29, 2003 CONTACT: Steve Windwer 617-471-4491

Milton Monster Dash Celebrates Sam and Education

More than 200 people turned out on an afternoon perfect for running to make the Milton Monster Dash another successful day to honor the memory of Sam Cichello and to raise funds to support the school science programs he enjoyed the most.

The Annual Milton Monster Dash was held Sunday, October 26 at Cunningham Park to benefit the Sam Cichello Memorial Fund, which was established through the Milton Foundation for Education in 1999, when seven-year-old Sam died in a playground accident at Tucker Elementary School.

The race was won again by defending champ Chris Fitzgerald, but the real winners were Sam's many family members and friends, as well as the students of the Milton Public Schools who will benefit from the more than \$13,000 raised to support innovative teaching and learning programs by means of grants to teachers. Proceeds will be distributed through a grants program later in the school year.

"The Milton Monster Dash is just a different kind of road race," said Steve Windwer, the foundation board member who organized the Monster Dash. "It is a tremendous way to honor Sam and through his memory, honor his classmates and the children of Milton."

Sam's father, Tony Cichello, said his family wanted to thank the runners, organizers and spectators for their participation.

"It's a nice way to remember Sam," Tony Cichello said. "The funds go to the science programs he really loved. And it is tribute to him for all these people to come out to run, in great spirits and costumes and having a ball. That's the way Sam was and the

way we remember him."

Some people ran in costumes ranging from Scooby Doo to ghosts and goblins, each grinding out the course of slightly more than three miles, which wound its way down Edge Hill Road, to Randolph Avenue, down Centre Street, to Brook Road, up Otis Street and back down Edge Hill to the finish line at the Cunningham Foundation Hall.

Afterwards there were bagels and bananas, coffee and cake from Konditor Meister for those who ran and those who cheered on the racers.

Many children from the schools ran in the race and a fun run was held at Cunningham Park for youngsters looking for a shorter event. Throughout the afternoon, participants were treated to music provided by Steve Fennerly.

Windwer expressed his gratitude to the events critical sponsors including Fallon Ambulance, Pat's of Lower Mills, Bay State Physical Therapy, Milton Hospital, Krokidas & Bluestein, The Fruit Center, Burgess, The Ellis Family, Carriage House School, Dennis H. Sherman, DMD, Video To Go, Milton Junior Women's Club, Marc A. Susi Scholarship Fund, Tom O'Neill, Falconi Companies, Will Sand/Canton, Newcomb Farms, Cunningham Foundation, Milton Police and the Milton Times.

While runners came to support a great cause, the competitive nature of any participant could be satisfied knowing they could see their results courtesy of the computerized finish line provided by Spitler Race Systems.

For those who may have missed the event, there's always the chance to contribute. Donations can be sent to:

Milton Monster Dash
G Jeanne Schmidt
4 Franklin Street
Milton, MA 02186-5522