

Winning for the animals at Race To Read

By Fiona Green



The 3rd annual Race To Read in Colleyville on November 7 was a race with a difference. At stake was a \$500 prize – not for the fastest runner - but for the group who signed up the most runners/walkers for the charity or school of their choice. The incentive idea was the brainchild of local physician Dr. Kathy Doody, whose goal was to get people active, offering them as a bonus the possibility of helping out a local charity. On a day when there were several other races on the Metroplex calendar, her plan worked well and race registration jumped from last year's 200 runners to over 400.

The day's events began with a 1-mile pet fun run followed by a 5k run/walk starting in front of Colleyville's public library (the race beneficiary) and winding through the nearby residential area. A flat course led to many fast times but for me personally this race was about much more than speed and time. Having co-founded a charity to help homeless animals last year, Animal Advocates of North Texas (AANT), I was determined to win the money for our group. After hearing of the non-profit challenge I spent a week coaxing fellow runners and couch potato friends alike to sign up for our cause. \$500 is a significant amount of money. It can pay for a dog's heartworm treatment, 10 spays or neuters or medication for a sick animal. Finding ways to spend money is not a problem. Raising money is the hard part! On race day, I became aware that our group had some serious competition from a local elementary school. Spending most weekends competing against high-schoolers, this was actually an interesting change for me!

When the results were in – 2 groups had tied for first place– Bransford Elementary and AANT, whose combined efforts had signed up almost 25% of the participants. Thanks to everyone who helped us win. We'll be back next year!

One of AANT's goals is to develop a network of foster families who can offer animals a safe and loving environment until they find their forever home. Anyone interested in this opportunity can contact me at info@fionagreenphotography.com. For more information on AANT, visit the group's website at www.A-A-N-T.org.



Hitting the roads for the books

Runners take off Saturday (Nov. 7) morning at the Race To Read 5K in Colleyville. The event had more than 400 participants. Visit Monday for more pictures from the race. Picture submitted by Movin' Pictures.