



By Noreen Flack
staff writer

The threat of rain didn't scare away the fearsome folks who put on their walking shoes Sunday for the 20th annual March of Dimes WalkAmerica at Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus.

Even with cloudy skies, the Farmington Hills site set another pledge record by raising more than \$122,425 with 1,225 walkers, nearly \$100 per walker.

Last year, it set a record with \$110,000, nearly \$12,500 less than this year.

Throughout southeast Michigan, the March of Dimes raised \$1.3 million with 10 walk locations and more than 13,000 walkers. A southeast Michigan pledge record was also set with \$200,000, up from last year's earnings.

"We were extremely pleased, extremely pleased, with the result of Sunday's event," said Patti Radzik,

March of Dimes special events coordinator for the Farmington Hills site.

"I have to give special thanks to my volunteers in Farmington, especially the Farmington Hills Police Department," she said. "It's crucial in getting their support for this event to make sure it's safe for our walkers."

THE WALK began shortly after 9 a.m. By 11:30 a.m., enthusiastic volunteers greeted walkers at the finish line for earned congratulations after the 25 kilometer (15 mile) walk.

Most walkers met the challenge of the 25km distance but some people strolled in with partial credit and aching muscles.

Everyone was afforded the relief of a leg massage donated by area health centers and masseuses.

The Muscle Therapy Center of Southfield removed walker's shoes and socks for a "True leg and foot massage." Gary True of Southfield, a

masseuse from the Muscle Therapy Center, volunteered his "rub down" services to the March of Dimes for the day.

The Mira Linder Spa of Southfield and an independent masseuse, Cheryl Woods of Southfield, also eased aching leg pains with massage therapy.

Linda Robinson and Heather McDonald joined 20 fellow employees from The Fourmable Group in Farmington Hills as part of a company effort to raise money for the March of Dimes.

"The March of Dimes is a good cause," said McDonald of Troy.

"Exactly," agreed Robinson of Wyandotte. "It's for the babies. There are so many charities to choose from, but this one is for the babies."

Robinson and McDonald declined a foot massage from True after the walk and instead headed off to "Burger King."

EDWARD KOBOSH of West Bloomfield cruised in as one of the first walkers to complete the 25km route before noon.

"I feel pretty good," Kobosh said. "I did it last year and it's something I figure I would like to keep doing."

Josephine Brealer of Pontiac an employee from the Kroger West Bloomfield store raised \$200.

The Livonia-based Kroger chain had 12 stores participate in the southeast Michigan Chapter walk with 95 employees raising \$10,000, said Janet Fellwack, Kroger senior human resources assistant.

"We focus our energies in certain areas and the March of Dimes is something our employees can give to and feel good about. We are interested in ways our employees can volunteer their time."

Walkers received "I did it for the March of Dimes" buttons at the finish line and filled up on donated treats such as cookies, brownies, muffins and pop.



"It has to help that's why we do it," said Cheryl Bell (right) of Livonia, who along with her sister Deonna Bell (left) and two others were walking for EDS. The four raised \$1,000.



photos by SHARON LEMUEL/staff photographer

Hans Hughes, 12, (left to right) Shaun Gaffrey, 11 and Mark English, 11, all from Southfield said they didn't raise much money but they were doing it for the babies.

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY salutes two of its All-Stars

Nita Parekh and Brian Miller have been presented with the Donnelly Award as the outstanding male and female in the WSU Spring graduation class.

The two were chosen because of their outstanding contributions to the university in the areas of student activities, leadership and service as well as high scholastic achievements.

A Merit Scholar, Parekh graduated with a triple major in Honors Political Science, Economics and Speech Communication. She now plans to either attend law school or continue her political study in Washington D.C.



Nita Parekh

While attending Wayne State, Parekh served as president of the Liberal Arts Student Senate and was a member of the Student Council. In addition to being an ambassador for the WSU Admissions Office, she was also an Orientation Counselor.

A graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School, she was selected as one of only 25 National Fellows to the Center for the Study of the Presidency. She has served as an intern with the Canadian Embassy as well as with the Republican National Committee in Washington, D.C.



Brian Miller

Miller, who graduated with a degree from the College of Liberal Arts, majored in criminal justice. He is currently in the cadet program at the Wayne State University public safety department and hopes to obtain his master's degree in criminal justice or enter law school.

Miller was a member of the Liberal Arts Student Senate, Golden Key National Honors Society, Mortar Board Senior Honor Society and Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

A Detroit resident, Miller graduated from De La Salle High School. For the past three years at WSU, he has had an outstanding career on the varsity baseball team, serving as team captain for the 1990 season. In 1989, he was chosen for the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Academic All-Conference First Team.

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