

Children's Advocacy Center of Comal County, Inc. 3rd Annual Valentine's Day 5K Run/Walk

That's right, another race to add to the many races that keep popping up in and around San Marcos, Texas. I have not heard of this race until this weekend. Pretty soon there will be a Groundhog Day, Father/Mother's Day race, etc... The San Marcos and surrounding area is quickly becoming saturated with racing events. With so many races to choose from, many are beginning to select based on the cause of the race. For me, the best aspect of the race is the cause.



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF COMAL COUNTY, INC.

The CACCC— Breaking the Cycle of Abuse One Child at a Time

According to the CACCC website, <http://www.comalcac.org/>: "Before the CACCC was created, children who had been abused in Comal County, Texas were taken to many different places to be interviewed by investigators. Often a child would need to tell his or her story to a police officer, a child protective services worker and an assistant district attorney, all the while being shuttled back and forth from one institutional and sometimes intimidating environment to another."

In addition, "The Children's Advocacy Center of Comal County was created so that children who had been abused could come to a single place to be interviewed one time, so that the number of interviews a child had to experience would be minimized as much as possible. Investigators watch the interview being done by a professional, objective forensic interviewer as it is being recorded. Additionally, the CACCC has a home-like environment, complete with a playroom to make children feel more comfortable."

Feel like you did not get enough of the Valentine's Day spirit? Check out this link associated with this race event.

<http://secure.smilebox.com/ecom/openTheBox?sendevent=4d6a517a4e5467774d3377304e4467334e6a6b320d0a&sb=1>

Race Day

Cindy Shannon-Lee, one of our newest members, has been looking for a 5K race for months now. She told me that she would be entering this race, and I decided to join her at the last minute. I figured I was scheduled to run 3 easy miles the day before the marathon; and why not run these miles at a supported running event with others? Other SMRC members that I saw that participated in this race were David Carlsberg, Ronnie Murphey, and Liesela Austin. Potential members of the SMRC that participated were Becky Patterson and Margaret ? This was Becky's first 5K event.

Hiccups

Despite the best efforts, there were some major hiccups with the event. The first hiccup involved running out of race numbers during registration. I happened to be next in line when this unfolded and was able to observe the scenario. After a few minutes of watching them stress and their anxiety build, I offered a few suggestions in which I exclaimed, "Excuse me, but maybe I can be of some help. I am with the SMRC and..." I used my SMRC card to help establish my credibility. They were grateful.

Another hiccup was observed after the race, in which it was reported that, although the race was a certified course, a volunteer was not positioned at the right turnoff; and therefore the mileage was off by about 1/10 of a mile, more or less. I picked a good day to pay and support the cause and opted to not receive a temporary race number, for I was not racing in the event.

Finally, the results process took much longer than normal. But there were door prizes that kept us entertained, even though that seemed to last forever, especially since a cool front blew in during the process.

Door Prizes- Must Be Present To Win

Cindy almost lost out on receiving the best door prize. We ran into our Hill Country Rambling photographers and asked them to take a picture of us; and while the picture was being taken and all the commotion, Cindy's number was called and she did not hear it being called. Luckily, Margaret's friend heard it and said, "Isn't that one of our numbers?" Good thing, too; because it was the jackpot door prize! She won two Spurs tickets worth a total of \$125.

Big Winners

Besides winning the best door prize, Cindy also placed in her age group, ran a P.R. for the 5K distance, and received a free plant. Of course the kids that are involved with the Children's Advocacy Center of Comal County were the biggest winners of the day!

Randall Wood
SMRC V.P.