

Nearly 450 people gathered together beneath the shadow of New Albany's Amphitheater on the morning of Saturday, December 1, for the 5th annual Miles for Merry Miracles 5K walk/run.. Miles for Merry Miracles is a volunteer-run organization that works every year to support the Salvation Army and the Angel Tree program during the holidays.

The entrance fee to entering the 5K is simply to sponsor a child from the Angel Tree. After the race, participants go shopping for toys, clothes and other items their child needs and drops them off for the M4MM staff, who in turn discreetly pass these presents out to the children's parents during their annual Christmas party.

410 people ran or walked the 5K's route along the Ohio River this year, a new record for the continually growing nonprofit. 380 of those participants managed to complete the course in just over an hour. Miles for Merry Miracles started half a decade back as the Eagle Scout project of local youth Nick Hebert, who is currently living in Honduras on a two year missionary trip sponsored by his church.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of under-privileged families in our community have been helped by the generous acts of Merry Miracle racers and supporters over the past few years. As of race day 2012, 650 children had been sponsored this year alone through the organization.

For more information on Miles for Merry Miracles, visit www.m4mm.org.