

With air temperatures in the low thirties, Blue River Services warmly hosted its 5th annual Splash and Shiver for Blue River on Saturday, March 1st at Buffalo Trace Park in Ramsey. Brisk temperatures were no match for the 97 participants and 35 volunteers who turned out for the much anticipated days' events. The morning began with a 5k run/walk as well as a one mile walk. Greta Sparks of Corydon turned in a first place finish in the female division of the 5k run with a time of 23 minutes and 32 seconds. Isaac Blackman of Lanesville outpaced his 5k run performance from last year finishing with a time of 18 minutes, 11 seconds to finish first in the male division. Top earners for the run/walk were: Individual – Jeff Fredricks (\$50); Team – Arbor House Bed and Breakfast (\$70); BRS Team – Kevin's Waddle & Walk team (\$180); One Mile walk individual- Merry Lemmel (\$100); One Mile walk team – Lanesville United Methodist Church (\$322); One Mile walk BRS team – Rainbow's End Childcare Corydon (\$230).

After Boy Scout Troop 412 presented the colors as Jim and Sandy Aich sang the national anthem, an opening prayer was given by Mary Jane Hochstetler and things were underway but not until the Indiana State Police scuba team broke up and cleared away sheets of ice from the lake making it safe for participants. Eighteen participants braved the freezing water temps. The youngest, Ella Birkla age 5 could be heard saying "I'm not sure about this" as she made her approach.

Performance presents itself in many different forms as seen with the most funds raised by an individual for the Splash and Shiver again going to Jacob McClanahan raising a whopping \$750 in support! The Happy Feet Hochstetler team raised \$175 as the top team. Salem Crossing won the most money raised by a company award with \$250 raised and they also took home the best costume award dressed in Disney Frozen themed costumes.

According to the Blue River Services Inc. website "Blue River Services, Inc. served 17,981 individuals in 28 Southern Indiana Counties during fiscal year 2012." They offer a wide array of services to individuals with disabilities.

Community Relations/Fund Development Director Evelyn McPherson says that "Blue River Services truly appreciates the support of the individuals, organizations, and businesses that helped us raise \$9500.00." Facing such cold temps even for an organization well known for helping so many still takes quite a level of courage so make plans now to build a team for next year's splash. As Chris Avis of the New Salisbury Lions Club told Evelyn after his first year splash "I'm not going to lie, it was a lot of fun!"

Story and photo by Kris Konick