

Sprint to the Finish Line

October 6, 2011

It was a chilly morning Saturday as over 300 people gathered at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds for the Georgia Race for Autism 5K. Among the crowd were 22 Delaney employees and friends who joined together to race for this special cause. Clad in their "Awesome Dude" t-shirts, the Delaney Team made up the largest group racing together for the 5K.

Bennett O'Bryan, son of Michael O'Bryan and employee of The Delaney Co. has worked part-time at Delaney during the summers between school sessions. After graduating last year, Bennett has come to work at Delaney on a more regular basis and his hard work and determination is admired by all.



Twenty two Delaney employees and friends came together to race for Autism in honor of their friend and co-worker, Bennett O'Bryan.

"When I saw the race online, I knew it was something that we could do as a group to honor Bennett and give back at the same time" says Jennica Haskell, Marketing and Sales Support for Delaney.

A total of 13 employees and 8 friends and family members hit the street for this 5K. Some walked, some ran, and a good many "wogged". Libby Elder, General Manager said, "Doing a 5K was new for all of us. We had one person on our team who'd done a 5K previously, but other than that we were all newbies."

Tehvid Dedic and Lynda Harris took home prizes for their age divisions, Dedic earning a third place ribbon and Harris bringing home a second place ribbon. But the ultimate prize went to Bennett who completed the 5K in just under 55 minutes earning him a gold medal for participating.

Through a month long Facebook Campaign Delaney was able to raise \$1250 for various Autism support groups, the main benefactor being Spectrum Autism Support Group. Spectrum, who sponsored the Georgia Race for Autism, is a parent operated group whose mission is to provide support, education, and resources encompassing the entire spectrum of Autism for children and adults. Bennett, who has participated in Spectrum camps and programs for many years, continues to be part of the organization as a young adult.

For more information about Autism or to find a local support group, please visit www.autism-society.org.