

Wellness Challenge lauds participants

Awards \$1,000 scholarship to participant



The Darke County Wellness Challenge presented Ashley Lewis with a \$1,000 scholarship during the group's annual awards banquet Sunday. Pictured are (from left) Terri Flood, Christy Baker, Jeannie Grosch, Lewis, Shelly Acker, Lacie Grosch, and Jordan Francis.

Erik Martin | The Daily Advocate

By Erik Martin

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DARKE COUNTY — Touting a very successful 2015 and looking ahead to 2016, The Darke County Wellness Challenge held its annual awards banquet at the Brethren Retirement Community in Greenville Sunday.

The Darke County Wellness Challenge is a wellness initiative formed in cooperation with local businesses and lifestyle groups to make the Darke County community healthier. It promotes community health with running/walking events held throughout the county.

The events offer an opportunity for all to engage in challenges with 5K races, a 15K race and a half marathon. Race points are earned for participation and competitive achievements, which are accumulated at the end of the season.

All the races help fund nonprofit and community organizations,

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which in turn help to support needs within the community.

During the banquet, the group handed out awards to individuals and teams that took part in races in 2015.

Among the teams which participated, Team Addie Girl came in first place, followed by YOLO in second place and CIA in third.

Gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded to the first, second and third place individual winners, respectively, for males and females divided into age groups of five years, from 10 and under to 70 and older.

The overall individual winner among individuals also received recognition. The top point winner among women was Amy Brandt; for men, Justin Marshall. Each was awarded a \$100 gift card for their efforts.

As well, the group awarded one of its participants a scholarship, a first for the organization. Ashley Lewis received a check for \$1,000 to further her college education.

In all, Darke County Wellness Challenge conducted 14 races last year.

There were nearly 3,900 individual registrants and 97 teams participating.

The runners and walkers covered 10,515 miles during the 2015 race season.

In 2016, the Darke County Wellness Challenge commences its fourth year. Thirteen races are scheduled for the season, including (name, location, date): Kilt Run/Walk, Greenville, Mar. 12

Heart & Sole 5K,

Eldora Speedway — New Weston, Apr. 2

5K for the Dog Park,

Greenville — Darke County Fairgrounds, Apr. 9

Mega Wild 5K,

Greenville, May 7

Ansonia Mad Dash

for Missions, Ansonia, May 14

United Methodist 5K

Run/Walk, New Madison, June 4

Poultry Days, Ver-

sailles, June 11

Ansonia Firecracker,

Ansonia, July 4

Going the Distance

for Young Life 5K, Versailles, July 9

Angel Run, North

Star, July 17

Breast Cancer Awareness, Greenville, July 30

YOLO Festival of

Races, Greenville, Sept. 4

The SUNshine 5K,

Greenville, Sept. 17 All ages are welcome to participate, either individually or as part of a team. For more information on the organization and the costs to enter, visit the Darke County Wellness Challenge website at www.darkecountywellnesschallenge.com.

Erik Martin may be reached at 937569-4314. Join the conversation and get updates on Facebook search Darke County Sports or Advocate 360. For more features online go to dailyadvocate.com.



Justin Marshall (left) and Amy Brandt were the male and female overall point winners during 2015's Darke County Wellness Challenge. Each was awarded a \$100 gift card during the group's awards banquet held Sunday.

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