

2024 Southlake Run raised more than \$450,000 for local healthcare



The 2024 Nature's Emporium Run for Southlake has raised \$450,000, an impressive figure for the 100th anniversary of Southlake Regional Health Centre.

Fundraising closed Friday, May 3, and the final numbers are in and it was the best-ever fundraising result for the event, say Southlake officials.

For 100 years and counting, Southlake has built healthy communities through leading edge care, said Dr. Paul Woods, President & CEO of Southlake Regional Health Centre, speaking to more than 1,350 participants at the April event. While a lot has changed since then, the overwhelming support from the communities Southlake serves has stood the test of time.

Runners and walkers gathered on Sunday, April 28 at the Newmarket Seniors' Meeting Place for Southlake's largest annual community fundraising event that takes participants down Davis Drive on a five-kilometre loop past the hospital.

The event that began as the Bob Hartwell Challenge is now in its 22nd year and rallies a large cross section of participants of all ages from across the community.

We are so thrilled to see the incredible results from this year's event, said Joe D'Addario, CEO of Nature's Emporium, who celebrated their 12th year of partnership as the event's Title Sponsor. Our more than decade-long partnership is a key way that Nature's Emporium gives back to the communities that support us and every year our team is inspired by the positive impact we all make together.

96 teams participated in the event and competed for fundraising awards in five different categories. Fundraising challenge winners are:

Corporate & Business Team Challenge Winner: Team Magna;

Community Friends & Family Challenge Winner: Angel Mom Squad;

School Challenge Winner: Aurora Montessori School Wolverunners;

Mayors Challenge Winner: Team Aurora;

Hospital Family Challenge Winner: Fun-Raisers.

A sixth additional award was added in 2022 the Community Spirit Award which goes to the municipality that has the largest number of participants per capita. The winning municipality for this year's event is the Town of Newmarket.

In addition to Nature's Emporium, Southlake extends a special thanks to event sponsors who were integral to the success of the event, including: Magna International (Community and Volunteer Sponsor and long-time corporate partner of Southlake), Upper Canada Mall, BUNN, Boland Romaine LLP, GEM Health Care Services, Highland GM, Sports Medicine Centre of Excellence, telMAX, The Bakerfield, Chartwell Retirement Residences, Century 21 Heritage Group Ltd, Print Graphics, and Upper Canada Signs.

Southlake Foundation President and CEO, Jennifer Ritter says she is thrilled by the community support and fundraising success of this year's event.

?To say that I'm blown away by how our communities showed up for Southlake at this year's Nature's Emporium Run for Southlake is an understatement,? she said. ?From our dedicated group of volunteers, to our participants who fundraised so passionately, to our community leaders that participated, and sponsors who supported the event to help deliver the best experience for our participants, we couldn't be more grateful for this level of commitment for our hospital in this, our 100th year providing leading edge care close to home for our communities.?

Funds raised from this year's event will enable the purchase of things like day-to-day equipment essential for patient comfort and care and advanced technology for clinicians across the hospital as they provide leading edge care to patients and families.

For more information about upcoming events supporting Southlake throughout the year, visit www.southlakefoundation.ca.