



18th Annual Maryland Swim for Life: *Most Successful Event Ever, with Record Number of Swimmers and Funds Raised!*

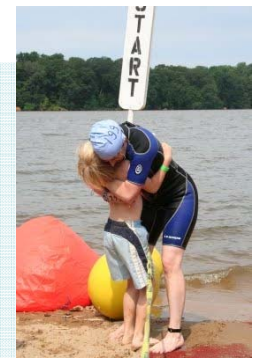
July 11, 2009

Chester River, MD

Building upon a long tradition of committed swimmers and volunteers, **over 180 swimmers raised more than \$42,000** at 2009's Maryland Swim for Life, held on July 11th in the Chester River. The money raised will go to community non-profit organizations who primarily work with individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS, and who advocate to keep the Chester River healthy and swimmable. In these times of an economic struggle, the spirit of giving came through. This year's swim honored the memories of **Dorothy Stewart Eckert, Ann Hennessy, and Sally Holloway Joseph**, three women who for many years were dedicated supporters of the event.



The conditions before the start looked picture-perfect, with warm water and not a jellyfish in sight! As an impressive fleet of safety power boats and kayakers headed out onto the course, the breeze started to pick up. By the time the final wave of 1-milers hit the water at 9:20AM, a gusty wind was making itself felt out on the course, and swimmers got a real taste for the unpredictability of open water swimming (and a few unexpected tastes of the Chester River). But as the finish line photos attest, swimmers reached the shore with energy and a sense of accomplishment.



This year's event also had a record number of **volunteer boaters** providing support to the swimmers. Special thanks goes to long-time volunteer **Scott Leidig**, who led the power boat fleet and managed on-water communication, assuring every swimmer arrived to shore safely. **Suzanne Farace** of the **Chesapeake Paddlers Association (CPA)**, helped organize the largest kayaker fleet ever, including paddlers from CPA, the **Chester River Association**, and many individual volunteers. Many thanks also goes to **the Riverkeeper, the US Coast Guard, the Maryland Natural Resources Police, and the Kent and Queen Anne County Rescue Squad.**



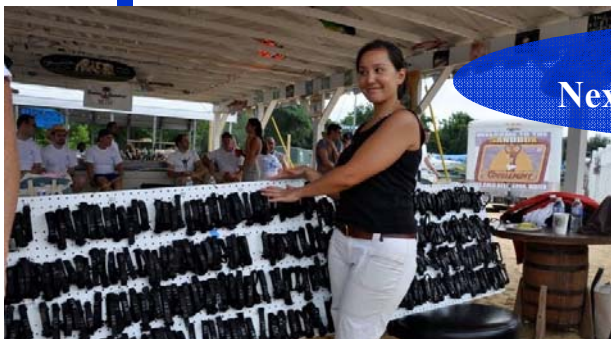


Swim for Life Highlights continued...

Each **beneficiary receiving funds from the 2009 Swim for Life also was present at the event** cheering on swimmers and helping out. **PediatricCare, Inc.** volunteers helped with registration set-up, and even showed their dedication by swimming in the event! In addition to paddlers, the **Chester River Association** provided a record number of homemade salads for which this swim has become justly famous. **Heart-to-Hand** led breakfast and lunch preparation and served as registration/timing assistants, and **Quality of Life Retreats** volunteers continued to serve as our head timers. Our beautiful ceramic awards were crafted by Merrill Strange, and Brian Blanchard provided music and the PA system.



The District of Columbia Aquatics Club (DCAC), which sponsors the event, continued to have a strong presence in the event, claiming 9 out of the top 12 fundraising positions and turning in first-place finishes in several of the distances. While many DCAC members volunteered, race coordinators Kathy Kirmayer and Nell Orscheln give special thanks to DCAC members and friends Neill Williams, Steve Pajeres, Erin Claybaugh, Smeds Smedinghoff, Jamie Quirk, Don Verlenden, and Brendan Garvin for much behind-the-scenes work; Mason Chang and JP Richard for serving as photographers; Wonkee Moon, Andrew Bellows, and John Pacovich who contributed to event outreach; Seth Chamberlain and Matt Hoffman for going above and the beyond the call of "DCAC spouse duty"; and of course Mr. Swim for Life himself, Dawson Nash (HELLO!).



Save the Date!
Next Swim for Life: July 10, 2010



Final results:
<http://www.swimdcac.org/Swim4Life.html>
<http://www.bluepointtiming.com>

Event photos:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/nellorscheln/2009MarylandSwimForLife02#>

Thanks to all who paddled, swam, cook, lifted, loaded, served, counted, hustled, watched, cheered, and otherwise helped!