

TMC 5K will help burn victims

By Howard McEwen • Enquirer contributor • September 7, 2010

CRESTVIEW HILLS - In July of 2000, Sharon Everett's car became a fiery prison as a leaking pool of chemicals in her back seat ignited. Her doors locked, trapping her inside. Two neighbors came to her rescue, but by the time Fort Thomas firefighters pulled her from the car she was given a zero chance of survival.

On Saturday at Thomas More College's runMORE 5K run/walk, Everett will walk the course as captain Team RISE - Runners Inspired by Survivors Everywhere.

"It is the name my son came up with to identify the runners we sponsored in the Flying Pig Marathon to raise money for the Phoenix Society," Everett, 61, of Alexandria said. "The Phoenix Society is an organization for burn survivors, their families, caregivers, health care professionals and firefighters - anyone impacted by a burn injury."

Everett does not run, but her husband runs for her.

"After running a relay in a race in Alaska, my husband (George Everett) was inspired by Team in Training running for the Leukemia Society. He decided to run in the Flying Pig to raise money for Phoenix," Everett said.

She said her husband began to train and along with his son-in-law and friend Bill Zembrodt, who has run several marathons, he ran the race and raised more than \$6,000. The next year he ran again along with the couple's children and a burn survivor. This year Team RISE has 140 runners, including more than 40 from Shriner's Hospital, some from UC Hospital. The group has raised over \$38,000, Everett said.

This is the seventh year Thomas More has hosted runMore. It is the first time Sharon Everett and Team RISE has participated. Other beneficiaries include the college's service learning and community service programs.

"Service learning activities provide opportunities for our students to utilize their classroom knowledge in support of programs or institutions geared toward helping others improve their lives and well-being," said Thomas J. Gilday, a Thomas More accounting professor and organizer of runMORE.

The school's service learning activities have included Habitat for Humanity projects, canned food drives and Winter Wonderland for area children at Christmas, Gilday said.

Registration and donation information for runMORE can be found at www.thomasmore.edu/runmore.

Donations can be sent to the Phoenix Society Inc., 1835 R.W. Berends Drive SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49519-4955 in support of Team RISE or go online at www.Phoenix-society.org.

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