

Hometown Heroes raise millions to Support YFA's Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter at the Annual Rap River Run

(New Port Richey, FL) April 24, 2024 - For 15 years, a small team of hard-working hometown heroes have adopted Youth and Family Alternatives Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter, known as the RAP House, in New Port Richey. RAP is home to over 200 runaway, homeless and at-risk youth annually and like most non-profits, depends on the generosity of the community to support the program. Although they had no idea how to organize a charitable run, RAP's heroes, led by Victoria Barley, created a local event that continues to bring the New Port Richey and Tampa Bay's running community together year after year. The RAP River Run's presenting sponsor, Spring Engineering, has also provided unwavering support for the event since the race began 15 years ago. While the race and her legacy will continue for years to come, this year's event marks the retirement of Victoria Barley, the visionary and tireless chair for the Rap River Run committee. She truly is a hometown hero and champion for RAP House!

"When we started the 1st RAP River Run, we had a goal to make the RAP House known and create an event that runners would love, and the community would support. I couldn't have imagined where we'd be today with one of the premier races in Tampa Bay. Seeing an entire community embrace and support the RAP House, knowing we've made many improvements possible while giving hope to so many children, has not only changed their lives but mine. It brings me back every year, and we're not done yet." Patricia Patterson, RRR Committee Member

Rap River Run's Leadership Committee members include Victoria Barley, Chair, Patricia Patterson, Angel Cook, Stefanie Pontlitz, Geoff Balkcom and James Mallo, along with countless volunteers.

The Rap River Run is an esteemed running event that draws thousands every year to downtown New Port Richey and along the scenic Cotee River and Sims Park. This year's 15th annual RAP River Run, presented by Spring Engineering, is June 8th at Sims Park in Downtown New Port Richey.

The race has raised over \$1.3 million to support YFA's RAP House for at-risk youth. The Rap River Run has helped raise awareness and resources for Youth and Family Alternatives, Inc. RAP House in New Port Richey. RAP House is a Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter where teens have found a safe place off the streets since 1970.

"Who knew it would turn into such an incredible event! It couldn't have happened without Victoria Barley and her passion for the kids. We are deeply thankful for her, the committee and sponsors" Mark Wickham, YFA CEO and President

Join the fun, show your support for RAP House Runaway and Crisis Youth Shelter, and celebrate the incredible team of volunteers that have devoted their time and talent to this cause for 15 years!

When: Saturday June 8th, 2024

Time: 10K: 6:30 AM

5K Run/Walk: 7:30 AM

Kid's Fun Run: 8:30 AM

Where: Sims Park (Downtown New Port Richey), 6400 Circle Blvd, New Port Richey

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