



JEAN DEAN RIF/KIWANIS



Press release-- for immediate release/photos on request

Contact: Cathy Gafford, Director, Jean Dean RIF cell 334-750-9974 jeandeanrif@bellsouth.net

headline- 2nd Annual Run to Read benefiting Jean Dean RIF - a huge success!

"The 2nd Annual Run to Read benefiting Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) was a huge success at every level! Thanks to our very capable Run Director, Rich Bailey, and his dedicated Run Committee, four times as many participants registered this year," reports Cathy Gafford, Director, Jean Dean RIF. *"It was a beautiful day where over 200 people, runners, walkers and volunteers, came together to help at-risk young children across Alabama get books in their homes.*

At the event, individuals and families from several counties stood together and enjoyed seeing a perfectly done flag ceremony conducted by the 113 Auburn Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol while Garret Miles delivered a stirring rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. Mayor of Opelika Gary Fuller declared October 3, 2009 "Run to Read Day" and reminded the crowd of the importance of literacy efforts. Bailey also read a letter from Governor Bob Riley reinforcing that need. The crowd enjoyed Clifford the Big Red Dog and Aubie and the AU Women Gymnasts were valuable assets to the event. The Kicker broadcast from the Run and gave folks a chance to talk about why they supported this literacy effort. AU Spirit Points were awarded for registering. Walkers walked and runners ran. Folks got great door prizes and goody bags, which were supported by local businesses. One lucky winner, Trey Butler, got a week's vacation in the North Carolina Mountains! *"Happy winners got their medals and a good time was had by all,"* according to Run Director Bailey.

He summarized the event; *"David Wishart was the first runner back, in just 15 minutes, 17.3 seconds. The total 5K race took 47 minutes, 9.6 seconds. The 90 5K participants ranged in age from one to 59. The one and 3 year old registered were piloted by their fathers and at least one dog also ran the race! It was exciting to see! Another 75 participated in the walk to help support early literacy in Alabama. Including volunteers, over 200 folks were on hand for the 2nd Annual RUN to Read. (Another 30 or so registered but didn't make it to the event, but their registrations are very much appreciated!). Benteler Automotive employees won the participation trophy with over 30 employees and their families participating!"*

Event sponsors included Super Sponsors: Benteler Automotive, Opelika– Auburn News and Scholastic, Inc., Major Sponsors: J. Smith Lanier, Kohl's, Sara Schwarzauer "Jesus Loves You" Family Foundation and Epsilon Eta Chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma, Supporting Sponsors: All About Books, HeathPlus Fitness Center, Hyundai of Auburn, Opelika SportsPlex and Aquatic Center, Qantum of Auburn, Rich Bailey/ The Brown Agency, Superior Portables and Loco's, and Contributing Sponsors: Sneakers, BancorpSouth, Bubba's Medicine Shop, Burnett Photography, Curb Technologies. Dr. Robert Calcote and Dixie Wings.

Overall 1st, 2nd and 3rd place male and female winners received medals and prizes. Winners were as follows. Male overall winners were: first place, **David Wishart**, second place, **Antrovoski Brown** and third place, **Matthew Ryan**. **Female overall winners were:** first place, **Shannon Mobley**, second place, **Marlee Smith** and third place, **Zoe Holmes**. Overall winners were not eligible to win in individual age categories:

Individual age category winners also received medals. In the 10 and under males, 1st place winner was **Braden Belcher** and **Chandler Jones** placed second. **In the 10 and under females**, 1st place winner was **Jessica VanHosk** **In the 11-14 males**, 1st place winner was **Dylan Ogburn**. **In the 11-14 females**, 1st place winner was **Diana Ridley** **In the 15-19 males**, 1st place winner was **Jeffrey Greathouse** and **William Jackson** placed second. **In the 15-19 females**, 1st place winner was **Chelsea Hodgkins** and **Chelsea Dodd** placed second. **In the 20-29 males**, 1st place winner was **Jeremy Renfroe** and **Matt Goclowski** placed second. **In the 20-29 females**, 1st place winner was **Elizabeth Brown** and **Melanie Jones** placed second. **In the 30-39 males**, 1st place winner was **Scott Sprayberry** and **Cory Landers** placed second. **In the 30-39 females**, 1st place winner was **Kelly Rush** and **Tami Blackwell** placed second. **In the 40-49 males**, 1st place winner was **Michael Lindner** and **James Majors** placed second. **In the 40-49 females**, 1st place winner was **Deborah Selix**. **In the 50-59 males**, 1st place winner was **Randall Holmes** and **Jay Jones** placed second.

"Jean Dean RIF is the largest RIF project in the nation providing books to pre-schoolers. In the last 20 years, we've provided well over a million quality, age-appropriate books to over 373,000 at-risk young children. Each year, over 25,000 children receive books in their homes from Jean Dean RIF. (About 2000 are served locally). Without the help of thousands of volunteers across the state, (300-500 locally), fund raising events and the tax deductible donations of caring individuals, foundations, businesses, Kiwanis and other organizations, this program would not be possible," reminds Gafford.