

Runners get help along Turkey Trot path

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By TRACY ROBINSON
COASTAL MONMOUTH BUREAU

MANASQUAN -- At the mile-and-a-half mark of the race, Pam Herrmann still had lots of energy. But she wasn't among the approximately 2,400 runners in yesterday's 21st annual Turkey Trot; she was an avid spectator.

"Good job, good job," urged Herrmann, 36, clapping and hollering to encourage runners from her Euclid Avenue post. "All right, Aunt Gioia," she yelled as her sister-in-law ran by and stopped briefly to kiss her 6-week-old daughter Josephine.

"It wouldn't be a Thanksgiving holiday without helping out," Herrman said about the tradition that has held since her husband grew up on that street.

The five-mile race was the main event; there also was a one-mile run. The race raises money, through entry fees, for several area organizations.

Herrmann was joined by many who lined the race's path and had varying ways of aiding participants along the route. The course started on First Avenue and wound around the town's neighborhoods before ending near Stockton Lake Park on Second Avenue.

"It's pretty fun to help people," said Charlie Loelius, 13, of Wall, who was working a water stop with Boy Scouts from Manasquan Troop 59.

Yet it can also be "pretty chaotic" when groups of runners come through at once, all grabbing for cups of water, Charlie said.

Fellow scout Nick Standt agreed, adding, "Last year I had a (cup of) hot chocolate and some guy took it from me."

To spur on certain runners -- including her mother, aunt, uncle and a friend -- Aren Berkenbush, 6, of Livingston, sat on a curb on Second Avenue holding a sign she made herself.

And on Main Street, spectators partying in front of one house offered unique inspiration to some runners -- beer.

"You have less than a mile left, guys, you can do it," urged Beth English from her front yard, where she stood on stilts.

As she urged on participants with words, others at the party handed cups of beer to some runners.

"They do that every year, that's another tradition," race director Pat Hoey said of the parties that accompany the race.

"That's really why most of the people come," said race official Pete Pappas of Manasquan.

But for the Mallecks of Point Pleasant, who swept the younger-age category wins, the race was more of a family outing.

Stephen Malleck, 43, ran with his three children -- Stephen, 12; Ryan, 10, and Kerry, 8 -- who all earned first place in their age groups.

"They like to run. They are all very self-motivated," said their mother, Karen Malleck, who was there as a spectator.

"I don't know where they get it from," she joked.

Finishing first in the adult categories were Dave Slavinski of Toms River in 24:55 in the men's category, and Jill Evarts of Middletown in 29:47 in the women's. Placing second were Eric Motzenbecker of Wall in 24:45, and Karen Walker of Lawrence in 31:07; and placing third were Brock Butler of Manasquan in 27:17, and Lauren Dunning of Toms River in 31:38.

Tracy Robinson (732) 643-4029 trobinso@app.com