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8th Annual 5K Run/Walk Raises Over \$8,000 to Benefit The 2 BigHearts Foundation!

More than 400 runners and walkers converged on Long Beach on May 26 to raise funds and awareness for women's heart health.

LONG BEACH, IN – It was a hot time on Long Beach May 26 as spirits soared along with the thermometer for the 8th Annual 5K Run/Non-Competitive Walk to benefit the 2 BigHearts Foundation.

The high turnout matched the high temperatures as more than 400 participants gathered at the Long Beach Community House to begin their race along the challenging, picturesque course. Runners and walkers traversed steep inclines, took in the bucolic local scenery of the Long Beach Country Club golf course, and ran lakeside, all with the aim of helping the 2 BigHearts Foundation to raise funds for and awareness of heart health in women.

"This race gets larger and more successful every year we come out here, and the 2012 event did not disappoint," states Jim Clarke, Foundation President and event organizer. "The community not only turns out to participate and volunteer, but to share in the good will engendered by this event. We raised money, and we raised hope for more women who will be screened for heart disease this year." The Foundation raised over \$8,000 during the event, to be allocated to awareness and screening for heart disease.

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The organization was established by Mr. Clarke, whose wife Gigi, 44, and sister-in-law Sally Czechanski, 49, died on the same day, June 25, 2004, following heart attacks. Both women suffered from previously undiagnosed cardiomyopathy, or enlargement of the heart muscle.

Winners and times of the competitive run were:

Male: Paul Danger (17:34.4) Senior Male: Don Wilson (20:26.6) Female: Karen Nagel (19:47.6) Senior Female: Angela Erb (24:19.7)

A complete list of the race results can be found at the Foundation's Web site, 2bighearts.org.

The event was sponsored by the Chicago law firm of Roberts McGivney Zagotta LLC, Clarke Advertising, 15 Degrees Advertising, Hummingbird Organics, iGoBanking, Tahoe Capital, Konrady Plastics, and The Stapleton Group. The race was also sponsored by LLC IU Health La Porte Hospital, and the La Porte Hospital Foundation.

"I'm so grateful to everyone involved who contributed to making this the best run yet," Mr. Clarke said. "It was great fun for all. My thanks go out to the participants, the volunteers, the donors, the spectators, and all who care enough to support our Foundation. I'm overwhelmed by this outpouring, and on behalf of everyone at the Foundation, I thank everyone for their generosity and good will."

The 2 BigHearts Foundation is dedicated to raising awareness of heart disease in women and provides much-needed heart screenings to women, free of charge. To date, the Foundation has arranged for more than 1,700 women to receive free heart screenings, in part with Indiana University Health La Porte Hospital through the La Porte Hospital Foundation. For more information, visit 2bighearts.org.