

Runners come out to help scholarship

By DIANE POTTORFF
Staff Writer

WAYNE – Traci and Dwayne Stiltner have had a hole in their hearts for the past two years since the death of their daughter, Kristen, from a vehicle accident in May 2012.

According to Traci Stiltner, Kristen was a giving person.

“From kindergarten to the 11th grade, I cannot tell you the number of lunch boxes and backpacks that we got for others, all because she saw a fellow student in need,” Stiltner said. “We decided to move forward in keeping her memory alive with a scholarship.”

To help fund the Kristen’s Promise Memorial Scholarship, a 5K Run/Walk was organized for the Town of Wayne.

The scholarship goes to a senior at Wayne High School, where Kristen was a student at the time of her death, who misses a grant or scholarship because their grades are in the middle.

Stiltner said it is to help that student to have an opportunity to go to a post-secondary education center to continue training for a career. The scholarship is given for the second semester.

“Kristen always wanted to help people,” Stiltner said. “This is a

way of paying it forward. This is a way to honor her in helping another student to have an opportunity to further their studies.”

Although Kristen will not get to experience college, Stiltner said she got a taste of life at Marshall University through the scholarship’s first recipient, Chelsea Stephens.

She said she and Dwayne helped with some of the expenses Stephens had, as well as going with her to the registrar’s office and bookstore to purchase books.

For the first scholarship, only \$1,200 was given. The second was \$2,500.

As the scholarship fund grows, Stiltner hopes to dispense more to more than one student and would consider a student from Spring Valley and Tolsia High schools.

“Kristen had friends at both the schools and we would like to help them out, as well as Wayne,” Stiltner said.

This is the third year for the 5K and organizer Forrest Reed said it began as a way to help the family, now it helps a student.

“This is good for the town,” Reed said. “It brings everyone together.”

Nearly 100 participants were involved in the race.



STARTING THE RACE – More than 100 participants took part in the third annual Kristen’s Promise Scholarship 5K Run/Walk Friday in Wayne. WCN photo by Diane Pottorff



THE WINNER – Thijs Nijhuis of Denmark finished the Kristen’s Promise Scholarship 5K Run/Walk in 15:30.52. Nijhuis is competing for a spot on the Denmark Olympic track team and is third in his country. Officials say he is a student at East Tennessee University. WCN photo by Diane Pottorff



NEW TO THE AREA – Members of the Wayne Volunteer Fire Department brought the new addition to the fleet, a new ambulance. This was the ambulance’s first event. WCN photo by Diane Pottorff



HOME STRETCH – These ladies are almost finished with the 5K Run/Walk course from Kristen’s Promise Scholarship.



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