



Winged Foot Foundation
2013 Newsletter

Greetings from the Winged Foot Foundation,

11/7/13

Many of you are well aware of the good works being done for Chicagoland student athletes by our volunteers and partners. For those that are just learning of our mission, the message is simple, we are a 501 c 3 charity organization that assists student athletes in need of athletic equipment, we also promote higher education & athletic events. We believe that the lessons learned in the classroom and in athletic competition are beneficial to the development of young people.

This is our first annual newsletter, it will serve as an update regarding our progress in the running community and recognize those that have contributed to our growth. These are the highlights:

- Over the past 12 months, 10 more schools have been added to our network bringing our total to 62 schools.
- Five more partners were added: Brooks Shoes, Runners Grove Shoes, Newton Shoes, Mizuno Shoes and Geneva Running Outfitters,
- Our 4th Annual Illinois Sprint Spectacular Track Meet was a great success, tripling year over year registered runners. Six meet records set.
- Thornwood boys, Thornton girls and Brooks Jr. High won the WFF sponsored team trophies at Thornton Turkey Trot Thanksgiving morning.
- Several runners have joined the Winged Foot Foundation Racing Team, join today!
- Several contributors have made tax deductible donations on the WFF Website, wingedfootfoundation.org

2013 WFF Student Athlete of the Year

Thornwood's Kenneth Allen was selected as the WFF Student Athlete of the Year Award for his accomplishments in the classroom and on the track during the 2013 school year.

Kenneth will be competing for the University of Illinois this Spring.

2013 WFF Underclassman of the Year

Leo HS Freshman Sirlaurence King was selected for this award by virtue of his strong academic and athletic performances during his Freshman school year.

During the current cross country season, Sirlaurence won the Catholic League Soph. Div. Cross Country Championship and qualified for the State Meet.



Support the Winged Foot Foundation

Donate Goods

- Donate new or slightly used running shoes, spikes, apparel. Drop off shoes at the following stores:
 - Runners Edge, Run Today and Road Runner Sports.
- Donations can also be mailed or delivered to:
 - Mitch Johnston
Winged Foot Foundation
913 Manchester St.
Naperville, IL. 60563
Cell 312-513-6965

Donate Storage Space

- Donate warehouse storage space for the storage of shoes. A non-cash tax deductible receipt will be provided for the monthly expense.



Donate Money

- Several contributors have made tax deductible donations on the WFF Website,.....
wingedfootfoundation.org . A tax deductible receipt will be sent to substantiate the amount of the donation.
- With a minimum \$50 donation you are entitled to a Winged Foot Foundation t-shirt or singlet.
- Many thanks to these contributors: Steve Pokin, Jim Knoedel, Tom & Carrie Lithgow, Steve & Julie Rocque, Jay Wesley, Mike Sullivan, Caroline Goss, Mick Kirk, Bill Moran, Roger Johnston, Steve Toth, Steve Ibarra, Jay Wesley, Jim & Laura Keithley, Steve Schellenberger, Ed Adams, Mike Keane, Jim Mullen, Randy Cottingham, Jim Werren, Julie Faulkner & Oscar Herrera

Winged Foot Foundation Receives Special mention in 10/7/13 Chicago Tribune Story



Cross-country gaining steam

Scrappy CPS programs offer students confidence, fitness, after-school activity

October 03, 2013 | By John Keilman, Chicago Tribune reporter

While CPS schedules competitions for most sports, cross-country coaches must find their own races. They need to enter six to be eligible for Illinois [High School](#) Association events at the end of the season, and that can mean staging their own meets or scraping up the cash for invitational entry fees.

"We're always out there searching," said Monalisa Georgopoulos, the coach at Kennedy High [School](#). "Everything we're searching for usually costs money."

CPS officials responded that the district offers a few meets each year but that leaving the bulk of scheduling to the coaches allows them to find competitions best suited to their teams' levels.

Despite the obstacles, the teams make it work. **They do fundraisers to buy uniforms, while an organization called the Winged Foot Foundation distributes 100 pairs of running shoes to CPS cross-country athletes each year.**

And one way or another, they get their races. The Dunbar meet, which was free to participating schools, attracted 13 teams whose athletes were driven by all sorts of motivations. Some said they wanted to be with their friends, get in shape for sports such as basketball or just have something to do after [class](#).

"I'm an active kid," said Brandon Marshall, 15, a North Lawndale [College](#) Prep sophomore with bright red hair and a tattoo on his shoulder that reads *R.I.P. Tony*. "I don't like being still."

Some brought up the [idea](#) of winning a college scholarship to run cross-country, a prize claimed by perhaps a dozen city athletes each year. But the sport has changed lives in other ways, too.

Take Elizabeth Bueno. The 17-year-old was a middle-of-the-pack runner her freshman year at Gage Park before getting hooked on the small victories offered by the sport — steady improvement, personal records, school records. By the end of her sophomore season she was one of the best on the team.

Weglarz saw Bueno's commitment and encouraged her to expand her academic horizon, too. She ended up getting a scholarship through an organization called A Better Chance that has allowed her to attend Edina High School, a scholastic and athletic powerhouse in the Minneapolis suburbs.

She's still doing cross-country there, though her times have put her on the "C" team, a notch below junior varsity. She doesn't mind. The sport has already given her a blueprint on how to persevere.

"Running has made me a better person," she said. "When you run over a hill, you learn you have to work hard to get over it. Any problems in my life, running's way harder. How could you not get over those problems if you got over that hill?"

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Thanks to our Volunteers and Partners for supporting the 2013 Illinois Sprint Spectacular



The Winged Foot Foundation Racing Team is Growing, Join Today!

