

Mars-Bros is a program of Oakdale Neighbors

Mars-Bros Partners are
 Daniel & Meghan Aupperlee
 Berend Hendricks & Stuit Insurance
 Bluehouse Realty
 Celebration Cinemas
 Doug & Maria Devos Foundation
 Irma Fennema
 Gazelle Sports
 Grand Rapids Public Library
 Grand Rapids Public Schools
 Grand Rapids Community Foundation
 GRIL
 Greg Jennings Foundation
 Joel Lautenbach
 Kent County Mentor Collaboration
 Madison Square Library
 Neland Ave CRC
 Bruce & Sue Osterink
 Oakdale Park CRC
 Kevin Roiseland
 Ryan Ogle Realty
 Donald & Lynn Smith
 Urban Mill Café
 Bob & Cheri VanderWeide Foundation
 Wedgwood Christian Services

Oakdale Neighbors Board
 President
 Tim Vander Kodde
 Vice President
 Walter Mathis Jr.
 Secretary
 Marthea Jager
 Treasurer
 Vacant

 Elaine Dreyer
 Sharon Vander Kodde
 Ernie Leep
 Vicky Steenbergen

*"So if anyone is in Christ there is a new creation, everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"
 -II Corinthians 5: 17 (NRSV)*



Running for Mars— peter dainling

It was just after 5 a.m. on Saturday, May 9; it was raining; and the windshield kept flashing with lightning as Bennario and I drove from Muskegon to Grand Rapids for the River Bank Run.

What a day to go running.

During the drive, I asked Bennario if he'd gotten enough rest the night before. Two minutes later, he was asleep.

It wasn't until later that I found out he'd slept around two hours that night. Ouch. At least he got a good dose of carbohydrates at the Mars-Bros pasta party.

Fortunately, the rain had slowed to a stop by the time we made it downtown. After navigating the crowds to reach the starting area of the 5-kilometer run, we looked around for other Mars-Bros runners. Although we only found one -- my cousin, Joel Lautenbach -- it was cool to think about the other Mars-Bros runners who were sprinkled through the crowd.

Once the starting gun went

off and the crowd of runners began rumbling forward, Bennario and I got off to a good start, but eventually



fell into a walk-run pattern. Each time we started walking, though, Bennario pointed to a spot -- like a bridge or intersection -- for us to start running again.

Even when Bennario got tired, he stayed in the race mentally. We were able to hold a good pace and sprint

through the finish line with a time of 33:57.

It was a rewarding experience for both of us, especially knowing the event helps raise money and awareness for Mars-Bros Mentoring. Not only does Mars-Bros help Bennario and I in our mentoring relationship, but it helps match new mentors with young men and women in West Michigan.

Right after the race, Bennario was already talking about running again next year -- maybe even the 10-kilometer run. I told him he would need more sleep to do that.

But we didn't have too much time to chat, because it was starting to rain again and Bennario had to get to a chess tournament. Actually, our sprint to the car to avoid the growing rain drops may have been the fastest we ran all day.

Lead Sponsors



2100 Ridgewood SE
 Grand Rapids MI 49546
 616 464-1151



1426 Wealthy SE
 Grand Rapids MI 49506
 616 776-9055
 www.thinkbluehouse.com



3930 28th Street
 Grand Rapids MI 49512
 616 940-9888
 www.gazellesports.com



3300 36th Street
 Grand Rapids MI 49512
 www.wedgwood.org



3055 44th Street
 Grandville MI 49468
 616 531-1900
 www.bhs.com



café

629 Michigan St. NE
 Grand Rapids, MI 49503
 616 855-1526
 www.urbanmill.com

New Shoes bruce bo-

Taiveyon Martin (left) ran the Fifth Third Riverbank Run in a time of 35:34. While not yet a record pace, especially if you compare it to our own Kris Koster's 5 minute miles, for a 12 year old who never ran before this is quite an accomplishment.

In fact for eight weeks this spring, Taiveyon and seven other youth teamed up to prepare for Run Mars. Students from our book club, chess club, and mentoring program ran together every Saturday. Some students who couldn't meet ran on their own. Peter Daining, mentor of Bennario Chapman remembers, "I called Bennario to see if he would be available that weekend to play chess. His brothers replied, 'Bennario can't talk right now because he is outside running to prepare for the Riverbank.' I was quiet surprised to hear that."

Running was a new experience for most of the students. Kids showed up in beat up basketball shoes or casual dress shoes. We decided it would be best to get them into shoes specific to running. None of them knew how well their feet would respond. Jennifer Taylor, who is the community coordinator for Gazelle Sports said, "Our staff help consumers pick the best shoe for the design of their feet. Some feet point in, some point out, some knees bend different etc. We take all these things into account to make sure their experience is the best possible." Gazelle not only made sure the shoe fit but helped defer most of the cost involved for our youth.

Getting ready for Run-Mars was even more than Saturday runs and the right pair of shoes. Students attended a life skills class sponsored by Wedgwood Christian Services. We were able to meet and have discussion on seven topics. The one topic that generated lots of conversation was Nutrition. Students wanted to know if they were overweight, what foods to eat less of, and how exercise played a role in their weight loss. My brother Brian, who struggles with eating, came to speak to us about a program called: Over Eaters Anonymous. Since last October Brian has lost nearly 130 lbs! One of his challenges to the kids, was, "Deal with your emotional set-backs in a healthy way."

35 runners and walkers braved the rain and early thunderstorm. They all finished. This made me so proud. Bottom line: Run Mars is more than a fundraiser. It's an amazing opportunity for our kids and supporters! Thank you to all and well done.

We were able to raise \$6,935 for the race. The design of the fundraiser is to get runners and walkers to give and get pledges towards their run. Are goal was \$10,000. **IMPORTANT:** Mars-Bros is a program of Oakdale Neighbors, but all donations are separate. **Please make checks payable to "Oakdale Neighbors" and the memo should read 'Mars-Bros' or '90% Mars-Bros.'**

Oakdale Neighbors/ Mars-Bros
1260 Kalamazoo SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Phone (616) 248-2848
bruce@marsbros.org
www.marsbros.org



Hilary Byma
00:33:45
Bennario Chapman
00:33:58
JoVone Cohen-Reed
00:35:32
Alison Cory
00:35:58
Peter Daining
00:33:57
Chance Johnson
00:39:18
Clemence Johnson
00:48:56
Clementine Johnson
00:39:17
Joel Lautenbach
00:23:33
Taiveyon Martin
00:35:34
Ryan Ogle
00:24:25
Mandy VanderMeyden
00:34:20
David Veldkamp
00:29:01

Finish Line

25 k

Dan Aupperlee
2:00:14
Corey Degoffau
1:55:42
Larry Degoffau
2:50:14
Sarah Degoffau
2:17:12
Kris Koster
1:23:24
Drew Sorenson
1:59:08

10k

Eric Beuker
00:53:46
Marionte` Jackson
00:43:51
Brad Knetsch
1:01:23
Kevin Lawrence
00:59:06
John Ogle
00:49:02
David Malone
00:39:56
Aaron Terpstra
1:01:22

5k

Meghan Aupperlee
00:34:41
Bruce Boman
00:48:57

5k walk

Julie Bos
Elaine Dreyer
00:56:08
Brittany Cole
00:41:12
Nancy Hightower
1:01:55
Jessica Ogle
00:35:31
Rachael Veldkamp
00:46:02
Cathy Visser
00:41:12

Support Team

Meghan Aupperlee
Tim Boersma
Joel Lautenbach
Ryan Ogle
Jennifer Taylor
**Best time on that course*

Bruce Wyrick (right) Terry McSwain, and Lemarr Jackson took home acknowledgments for their commitment to mentoring. We have know Bruce since he was age 6. Bruce and Lemarr will be working for Camp Tall Turf
www.tallturf.org

