

KDMF to hold annual Run/Walk and Family Fun Day June 12

By **SHAUN KIRBY**

NARRAGANSETT—The streets of Narragansett will be filled with family and friends, walking and running for a great cause. The Katie DeCubellis Memorial Foundation is holding its 12th annual Run/Walk and Family Fun Day this Sunday, June 12.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Narragansett High School, participants of all skill levels will have the opportunity to compete in a friendly manner on a predetermined and beautiful course

throughout town.

"Aside from the opportunity to celebrate Katie's life, we wanted a social event which brought together the community and to have fun," said John DeCubellis, Katie's father.

The walk/run averages 500 to 600 supporters a year, and typically will swell to 800 on the day of the event. Awards will be presented to the first three men and women runners in every age group from 10 to 70+ years, and also to those in the handicapped division. T-shirts are given to the first 500 participants who regis-

ter.

"You're bound to see several of your neighbors and friends at the post race festivities," said David Tetreault, a frequent participant in the race. "I run lots of races each year and this is one of my favorites. For those training for the Blessing of the Fleet in July, I run lots of races each year and this is one of my favorites. For those training for the Blessing of the Fleet in July, it serves as a nice tune-up. Of course, it's for a great cause and

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The Katie DeCubellis Memorial Foundation will hold its 12th annual Run/Walk and Family Fun Day this Sunday, June 12.

KDMF helps raise awareness of drunk driving

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I For those training for the Blessing of the Fleet in July, it serves as a nice tune-up. Of course, it's for a great cause and I wouldn't miss it!"

Participants are also invited to stay after the race has finished and connect with others. Free Brickley's Ice Cream, pizza and hot dogs will be served, while music and attractions such as face painting and an inflatable bouncing house will be offered.

"There are a lot of these kinds of races that go on throughout the state," said DeCubellis. "We are grateful to our supporters and without them, we wouldn't be anywhere near as successful. We are blessed and fortunate that so many people come out for the event."

Katie DeCubellis was tragically killed by a drunk driver on Oct. 29, 1999, ending a life which had brought happiness into the lives of everyone it touched. The foundation, led by John and Meg DeCubellis, raises awareness for drunk driving and also provides funding for numerous scholarships.

"We give out a minimum of \$10,000 worth in scholarships a year," said Decubellis. "We also just recently donated \$50,000 to the Maury Loontjens Memorial Library in the Pier for the children's part of the library, which is dedicated to Katie."

Meg and John DeCubellis have also spoken at numerous schools throughout the state, teaching more than 100,000 students about drunk driving and how to make better life decisions. In 2008, the foundation donated \$100,000 for the construction of a

new Student-Athlete Development Center with the hope that successful academic and personal counseling can be provided to student-athletes.

"We are excited that we have secured enough funds to start moving on construction," said Trueson Tarinelli, Associate Director of Athletics Development at URI. "We are so grateful for John and Meg's contribution to make [the Student-Athlete Development Center] a tangible project for our community."

The memory and energetic spirit that typified Katie DeCubellis and everyone she met continues through the great work of the Memorial Foundation in her name, and a beautiful day this Sunday will mark the event well for all who wish to participate.