

Donor Spotlight – July 2009

Race for the Rock Winners: AJ & Andrea

Can you imagine nearly 1,000 people whizzing around downtown Sacramento in matching blue shirts on bikes in search of a diamond ring? That is exactly what happened on June 6th as a fundraiser for Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services (SFBFS). For a donation of only \$25 per team to SFBFS, friends, spouses, fiancés, co-workers and siblings followed clues sent via text message on a fast-paced scavenger hunt called Race for the Rock. Participants received questions about Sacramento landmarks and then confirmed their guess by texting back a verifying answer that would only be known by visiting the specific location. For example, participants were asked, "This member of the railroad's Big 4 has a university named after him in the Bay area and a mansion right here in Sacramento." The answer is Stanford. After biking to the Stanford mansion, participants would then answer the verifier, "what does the front landscaping remind you of?" The answer: a chess board. Over 100 clues were sent from a computer in a different order at different times to each team so no one could follow another team to the next clue.



Race participants counted trees at Capitol Park, decoded clues hidden within words on plaques and sought out monuments of historical significance to answer about 20 clues in two hours. The top ten finishers received fantastic prizes including diamond earrings awarded to a pair of SFBFS volunteers who finished the race in 2nd place.

The event winners, Andrea Stirling and AJ Elftmann, took home a \$25,000 Hearts on Fire diamond ring from Roger's Jewelers. The couple, who have been dating for a year and a half, are Sacramento natives and heard about the event because of their regular participation in the Run to Feed the Hungry. "The Race for the Rock was a very memorable experience, we definitely had our competitive moments and we were exhausted by the end, but overall we had so much fun racing up and down the streets of Sacramento racking our brains for answers. It was a perfect day to be out on our bikes and all for a great cause," shares Andrea. When asked what it felt like to win, she exclaimed "SHOCKING! I don't think I stopped shaking until the next day." The win was especially wonderful for the young couple as AJ just celebrated his two and a half year mark of remission from Hodgkins Lymphoma in April.

Thanks to the support of Roger's Jewelers, this year's Race for the Rock raised over \$4,000 for SFBFS. Check out the great slideshows and videos of all participants and the winners of the event at www.racefortherock.com.

We invite you to tune up your 10-speed bike, brush up on your Sacramento trivia and support SFBFS at the Race for the Rock in 2010. If you're looking for another fun event before the end of the year, please join us for the 16th annual Run to Feed the Hungry on Thanksgiving Day. More information and online registration is available at www.runtofeedthehungry.com