

October 2011

LVHN Marathon, Half Marathon and 5k Walk for Via

See color photos on page 9 by Alice Lipe • Available at www.photosbyajlipe.com

BETHLEHEM, PA — More than 2,900 runners participated in Lehigh Valley Health Network Marathon for Via on Sunday, September 11, 2011. Two hundred and twenty five teams, 900 Full 26.2 mile Marathon and 900 Half Marathon runners hit the streets running, while more than 350 walkers participated in a 5K Walk on Saturday, September 10, 2011 to help raise money for Via of the Lehigh Valley's programs for children and adults with disabilities.

"We expect our fundraising to surpass last year," said John Crampsie, Via Board Member and LVHN Marathon Committee Chair.

"We'll continue fundraising through the end of the month and release our final number on October 1, 2011. We are pleased with the progress we have made over the first five years. We owe much to our hard working staff at Via, a very generous community, great sponsors and the best volunteers anywhere."

The Lehigh Valley Health Network Marathon for Via benefits services for children and adults with disabilities. Via works with children up to age three in their homes and daycares to address disabilities and delays. Via finds jobs in the community for adults and provides coaching

and training for successful employment.

And Via helps people connect and live in their community by volunteering, participating in leisure activities, and finding or purchasing affordable, accessible housing. Via fosters and advocates the concept of inclusion and choice within schools, neighborhoods and communities, personal relationships, and employment. And Via helps young adults transition from high school to the work force and community involvement.

"It takes a lot to put together a marathon, more than any one organization can do, and the Lehigh Valley has shown how much they support Via by the outpouring of support the Marathon has received," Crampsie said.

More than 550 volunteers are out on the course on race day,

from staffing water stations, directing runners along the course and providing medical support. The Lehigh Valley has really embraced this event and the outpouring of community support has been tremendous.

The 26.2 mile course, designed by Bart Yasso, starts at Lehigh Valley Hospital - Cedar Crest in Allentown and takes runners through the beautiful Lehigh Parkway to the Lehigh River Canal Towpath continuing through Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton. Along the way, runners will enjoy the scenic beauty of the Lehigh Parkway and the Lehigh River, pass through Bethlehem's Historic Quarter, utilize miles of beautifully canopied trails including cinder, paved and grass surfaces, and end at the Center Square in Easton.

The LVHN Marathon raises funds for Via's services for



children and adults with disabilities. Via has been serving our community since 1954. Via's mission is to provide support and opportunities for children and adults with disabilities so they can live full, independent and productive lives within the community.

Selected results Overall

Marathon Winner: Craig Coon of Penfield, NY (2:30:42); Overall Half Marathon Winner: Ben Clarke of Morristown, NJ (1:12:23); Overall Relays: Re-Living the Glory Days (2:30:45) Men's Open

Full results at www.vianet.org/events/marathon/results.shtml.



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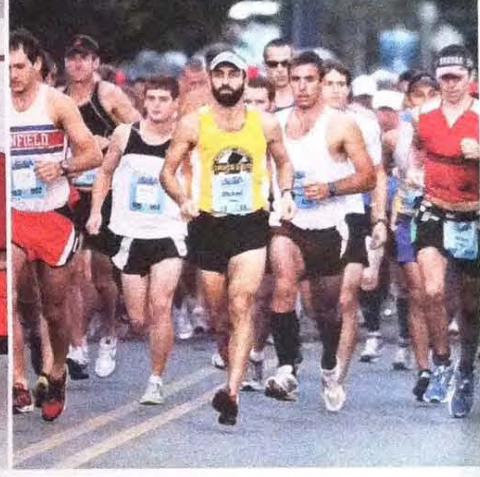
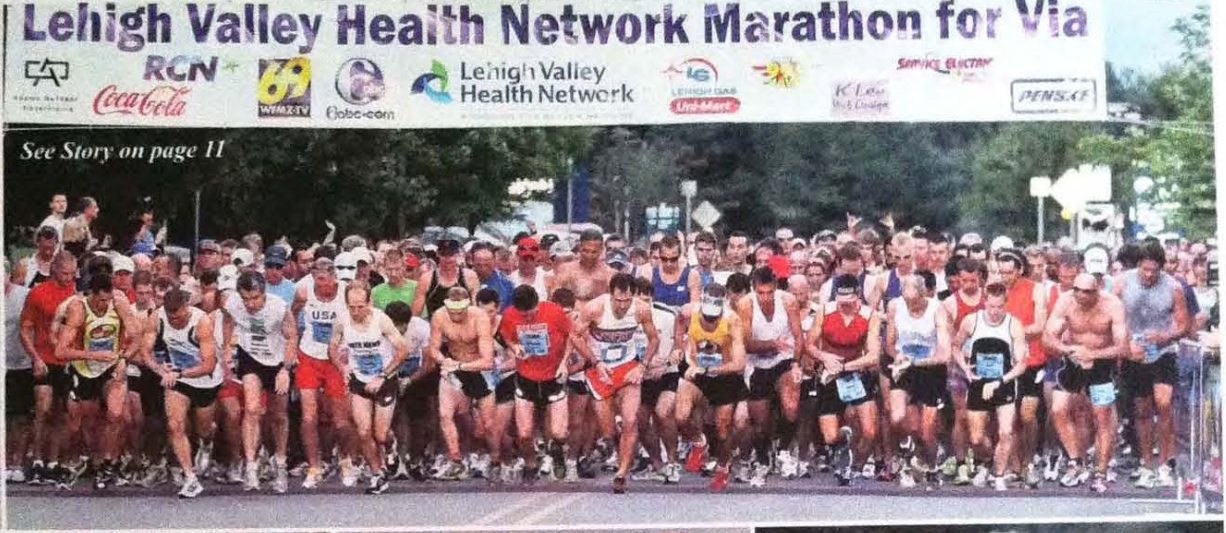
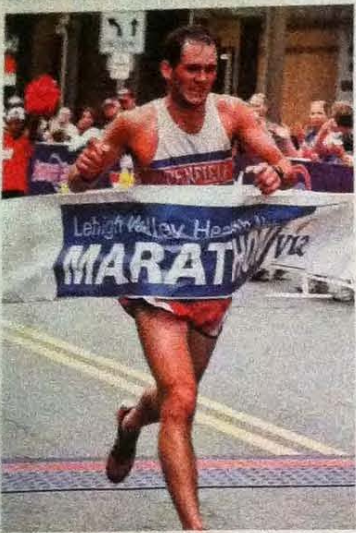
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Lehigh Valley Health Network Marathon for Via



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