Runners Raise $13,500 for Takoma Park Schools

“I never ran this far before,” said Keiffer Edwards, a fourth-grader at Sligo Adventist School (SAS) in Takoma Park, Md., after participating in a 3.1-mile fun run. Why did he run? “I wanted my mom to be happy,” he said, holding up a first-place trophy.

There was another reason Edwards participated in Sunday’s “5K Race/Fun Run for Christian Education.” This inaugural fundraising race, which took place at Sligo Creek Parkway, brought in $13,500 for student scholarships at Sligo Adventist School and John Nevins Andrews School (JNA), also located in Takoma Park.

The fundraiser was the brainchild of Alvin Fuentes, an SAS parent who for many years participated in a similar fundraiser in Florida. Despite the rain, Fuentes estimates that more than 100 people participated.
Columbia Union Distributes $211K to Homeland Mission Projects

“The territory that comprises our great union is best viewed as a mission field that God has called us to reach,” says Frank Bondurant, Columbia Union Conference vice president for Ministries Development. “Accordingly one of the fundamental core values for our next quinquennium is to ‘impact our communities by revealing the love of Christ, sharing the distinct Adventist message and inviting people to accept Christ as their Savior.’”

In support of this effort, the Columbia Union is partnering with local conferences to designate $211,000 for more than 10 local projects and ministries. Some of the projects include the First church of Montclair, N.J., youth mentoring program, the Atkinson House ministry for homeless men in Coatesville, Pa., and the Reach Philadelphia youth and young adult leadership and evangelism program. Click here to watch an awesome video about what Reach Philadelphia missionaries (pictured) are doing in their community.— Story by Visitor Staff

Click here to see what other programs are receiving funding.

Adventists Help Lead Flood Clean-Up Efforts in West Virginia

Last month, a slow-moving thunderstorm moved into Logan and Lincoln counties in West Virginia and flooded roads, homes and businesses. As government officials organized a disaster response meeting, Shannon Meade, a community volunteer, was pulled in to lead the disaster response team. Meade said, “as soon as I received
this assignment, I immediately thought of Pastor Cesar Quispe. … I realized that we have to get organized by someone that knows how this process should work.” Quispe, who pastors Mountain View Conference’s Logan and Williamson churches, previously told her he would be ready to help in the event of an emergency.

Quispe responded by leading the team in prayer, and then worked with Meade to establish an emergency hotline, print magnets for volunteer vehicles going into the affected areas and recruit volunteers. Over the three-week recovery period, some 146 volunteers—not just Seventh-day Adventists—helped some 1,100 people with food, clothing and clean up.—Story by J. Wayne Hancock

READ MORE

organiza la Iglesia
Martinsville Spanish
La feligresía de la compañía Martinsville Spanish, en Martinsville, Va., se regocijó recientemente al recibir de Potomac Conference un certificado oficial de organización de iglesia. Por años, esta congregación pasó por tiempos difíciles, y oró constantemente pidiendo sabiduría y ayuda. Llegó un momento en que solamente siete feligreses asistían, y perdieron el nuevo edificio que habían comprado, donde adoraban. Con la necesidad de asegurar un préstamo para la propiedad, la tesorera, Isis Moyer, confió en la provisión de un Dios misericordioso y usó su casa como colateral.

Durante esas pruebas, los miembros del pequeño grupo contactaron al pastor José Esposito, director de los ministerios hispanos del Potomac. Esposito viajó con el pastor Fismed Omar para reunirse y ayudar al grupo que deseaba establecer la primera compañía hispana en el área sureste de Virginia.—Historia por Fismed Omar/Blog de Potomac Conference

VEA MAS
Martinsville Spanish Church Organizes

Members of the Martinsville Spanish company in Martinsville, Va., recently rejoiced upon receiving an official certificate of church organization from the Potomac Conference.

Over the years, this congregation endured difficult times and constantly prayed for wisdom and help. At one point, only seven members attended and the newly purchased church building they worshiped in was almost lost. Needing to secure a loan on the property, the treasurer, Isis Moyer, trusted the provision of a merciful God and used her house as collateral. The group grew and more than 150 people attended the service to organize the company as the Martinsville Spanish church. Bill Miller, president of the Potomac Conference, is pictured signing the charter.—Story by Fismed Omar/Potomac Conference Blog

READ MORE

Oakwood Communication Department Honors Brinklow Member

Oakwood University’s Communication Department recently honored Frenita Buddy, a producer at Hope Channel and a member of Allegheny East Conference’s Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md. She is one of two recipients of the fifth James E. Dykes Alumni Communicator Award. Dykes, who served the university for 15 years, created the university’s communication curriculum and started the campus’s radio station.

Buddy said, “I am deeply honored to receive this award, and count it as a challenge to continue to do well in the communication field. My personal motto is, ‘I’m an ordinary girl with an extraordinary God.’”

Professor Patrice Conwell, who coordinates the awards banquet, said they select alumni who “further the field of communication and represent our department as a consecrated communicator for Christ.”

Buddy graduated from Oakwood in 1999 with a bachelor’s in communication and then went on to earn a
master’s in journalism from Northwestern University (Ill.). She can sometimes be seen co-anchoring *Adventist News Network’s* weekly video news and heard on the *GraceLink podcast* where she tells stories as “Aunt Frenita.”—*Story by Taashi Rowe*

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**Hackettstown Regional Medical Center’s Chapel Named for Administrator**

Forrest Kinzli’s *Hackettstown Regional Medical Center* (HRMC) family in Hackettstown, N.J., recently named HRMC’s chapel the “Forrest Kinzli Chapel.” Kinzli was instrumental in the design of the new chapel, and put a great deal of thought into the stain glass design, which tells the creation story. “The chapel dedication was such a great honor,” said Nancy Kinzli, his widow. “Forrest would be deeply touched—he felt he was part of a family at HRMC.”

As Organization Integrity officer for HRMC, he was responsible for overseeing Pastoral Care, Mission Development and Emergency Management. He did his best to live his life’s mission with vigor and tremendous personal faith, until his enthusiastic journey was cut short in February 2011, as a result of a brain tumor.

Pictured from left to right are Jason Coe, Hackettstown Regional Medical Center (HRMC) president; Nancy Kinzli; and Carl Bannister HRMC’s chaplain and manager of Pastoral Care. HRMC is a member of Adventist HealthCare, which is based in Rockville, Md.—*Story by Lisa Dimiceli*

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**Pine Forge Parent Weekend Highlights Student Successes**

*Pine Forge Academy’s* recent Parent Weekend was a high time for students, faculty and parents. On Friday, six students, including five sophomores, were inducted into the school’s National Honor Society chapter. Following the ceremony were performances by the academy choir.
and Creative Arts Drama Ministry.

On Sabbath the students and their families led Sabbath school and divine service. In the evening, an Honors Convocation was held in which the students who were on the honor roll first semester were recognized.

In addition, Pine Forge Academy Foundation and others gave scholarships in excess of $10,000. The highlight of the weekend occurred Sabbath afternoon when nine students gave their hearts to Christ and were baptized. Justin Thornton, a freshman who was baptized, stated, “After I got baptized I saw life in a different way. I was beginning to live God’s Will. My life changed for the better!” Pictured is Shardae’ Jean-Baptiste who was baptized by Pastor Toussaint Williams.—Story by Noreena Ogidan

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Ohio Welcomes New Associate Superintendent

“I am most pleased to share with you that Alison Jobson has accepted the invitation to ministry as our associate superintendent,” announced E. Jay Colburn, Ohio Conference’s superintendent of schools. “While being an extraordinarily outstanding classroom teacher, Alison has also demonstrated excellent professional leadership ... by providing in-service for her peers on a [variety of] topics,” said Colburn.

Many will recognize Jobson as the recent third-grade teacher at Spring Valley Academy, a Pathways Program presenter and the Ohio SDA Wikispace “instigator” and manager. Others may recognize her as a member of her childhood Xenia, Ohio-church.

Jobson said she was humbled and grateful to be named to this position. “For me, Seventh-day Adventist education has always been more than a job or career—it’s been a calling. The gift of sharing Jesus’ message and His teachings to children and families leaves an indelible impact on you,” said Jobson. She will also coordinate Ohio’s Child and Family Education Ministry. Jobson replaces the recently retired Cindy French-Puterbaugh.—Story by Heidi Shoemaker
End Quote: Christ Calls Everyone to Ministry

“It’s important for Christians to understand that true ministry doesn't start and end with the professional clergy. Christ’s disciples as well as most of the New Testament believers had no formal ministerial training, however, they were passionately committed to sharing Christ's gospel with those around them. As pastors, our role is to teach and train our members to be effective evangelists, authentically sharing the gospel through their own experience.” —Trevor Kinlock, Pastor, Calvary Church in Newport News, Va.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Click here for a complete listing of upcoming events around the Columbia Union Conference.

WASHINGTON, D.C.
April 28-29: Capitol Hill church members will participate in the 23rd Annual U.S. Capitol Bible Reading Marathon. The opening ceremony starts Friday, April 27 and ends on May 1. There will be 90 hours of continuous Bible reading. Capitol Hill church members will read on Sabbath, April 28 from 6-7 p.m., April 29, 8-9 a.m. and 10-10:30 a.m. The reading will be at the United States Capitol’s West Front Steps Plaza in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit, http://www.dcbiblemarathon.org/Home.html or email Saundra H. Austin, Capitol Hill’s prayer/spiritual care coordinator at go2pray@verizon.net.

NEW JERSEY
April 28: Annual Bike Blessing at Montclair Church. The First church of Montclair in New Jersey is hosting its fifth annual motorcycle blessing from 3-5 p.m. The T.R.U.T.H RIDERZ Motorcycle Club is organizing the event. Non-riders are also invited. For more information, contact Remy at (973) 951-4172 or Fortune at (973) 952-7058. You may also email truthriderz@gmail.com. The church is located at 15 Elmwood Ave in Montclair.

MARYLAND
April 27-28: Esmie Branner will speak at the Remnant Adventist church in Silver Spring, Md. Branner is a professor of psychology and author of "Beyond the Veil of Darkness." She will speak for
vespers April 27 at 7:30 p.m.; 11 a.m. service on April 28, followed by a fellowship lunch at 1 p.m., then a presentation at 3 p.m. she will also sign copies of her book at the Potomac Adventist Health Book and Food Store on April 29 from 2-4 p.m. The church is located at the Transfiguration Episcopal church at 13925 New Hampshire Ave. For more information contact Lalitha Isaac at (301) 828-7857.

**OHIO**

**May 18-20: Ohio Conference’s Men’s Gathering** will include a weekend of spiritual activities, work and play designed around the theme “Manhood in a Christian Context.” It will be held at Camp Mohaven in Danville. Visit [ohioadventist.org](http://ohioadventist.org) for details.

Having trouble viewing this email? Click here to read it online. For more news and up-to-date information from the Columbia Union Conference, visit [columbiaunion.org](http://columbiaunion.org)

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**Stay Connected:**

Taashi Rowe, *Visitor News Bulletin* Editor  
5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045  
Email: [visitor@columbiaunion.net](mailto:visitor@columbiaunion.net)  
Website: [www.columbiaunion.org](http://www.columbiaunion.org)  
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Sligo Adventist School's third-grader Isabella Fuentes, placed first in her grade during the first “5K Race/Fun Run for Christian Education” in Takoma Park, Md.

Runners Raise $13,500 for Takoma Park Schools

Story by Taashi Rowe
Published 4/25/12

“I never ran this far before,” said Keiffer Edwards, a fourth-grader at Sligo Adventist School (SAS) in Takoma Park, Md., after participating in a 3.1-mile fun run. Why did he run? “I wanted my mom to be happy,” he said, holding up a first-place trophy.

There was another reason Edwards participated in Sunday’s “5K Race/Fun Run for Christian Education.” This inaugural fundraising race, which took place at Sligo Creek Parkway, brought in $13,500 for student scholarships at Sligo Adventist School and John Nevins Andrews School (JNA), also located in Takoma Park.

The idea to get parents, students and teachers involved in a healthy, fun activity as a fundraiser was the brainchild of Alvin Fuentes, an assistant professor of health, physical education and wellness at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park. Fuentes, also an SAS parent, had been involved in a similar program at a school in Florida, and wanted to replicate it here. “Over the 12 years of that program, we helped over 300 families and raised over $200,000,” he said.

That was reason enough for Larry Rich, SAS principal, to start organizing the run. “We started planning in October, and created awards for children who raised the most money,” he said. “It really took a village to pull it together.”
Cavel Melbourne, JNA principal, said she recognizes that “cost is definitely a barrier for some parents wanting to send their kids to [Seventh-day] Adventist schools. So as educators, we need to do whatever we can to help our families.” She added that this was also the perfect opportunity to partner with SAS.

The kids seemed to have a ball. Although they didn’t have to pay to run, they were tasked with getting their friends and family to donate at least $20. And when it came to the day of the race, there were awards for both genders from preschool to the eighth-grade and, of course, for adult participants.

“It was tiring but exciting,” said Carina Ming, a JNA fourth-grader who ran with her brother, Cameron, a third-grader. When asked why she participated, she said, “I wanted to help other kids who are not as fortunate as me to be in a Christian school.”

Heather Lunsford, the Home and School leader at SAS and mother of two SAS students, was most inspired by how many people participated. “It just shows how excited people are for the cause of Christian education,” she said. “I’m so glad my children get to come to such a great, uplifting and encouraging school.”

Despite the light rain, Fuentes estimates that more than 100 participated in the race.
Columbia Union Distributes $211K to Homeland Mission Projects

Story by Visitor Staff
Published 4/19/12

The territory that comprises our great union is best viewed as a mission field that God has called us to reach,” says Frank Bondurant, Columbia Union Conference vice president for Ministries Development. “Accordingly one of the fundamental core values for our next quinquennium is to ‘impact our communities by revealing the love of Christ, sharing the distinct Adventist message and inviting people to accept Christ as their Savior.’”

In support of this effort, the Columbia Union is partnering with local conferences to designate $211,000 for more than 10 local projects and ministries. Some of the projects include:

- **Life Skills Academy** – a youth program from the First church of Montclair, N.J. Church members work with at-risk teens and teach them leadership skills and equip them with practical skills for independence.

- **Atkinson House** – a ministry for homeless men located in Coatesville, Pa., which provides them with meals, lodging and job placement assistance.

- **Baby Blessing Project** – a ministry providing resources to assist teen and young adult parents led by the Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md. The program assists young parents in the physical, social, emotional and spiritual development of their children.

- **Salisbury University** – a public campus ministry for young adults on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.

- **Church Planting Projects** in Appomattox, Va.; Cleveland, Ohio; Teays Valley, W.Va., Westminster, Md.; Hightstown, N.J., Bayonne, N.J.; and Kearny, N.J.

- **Charleston, W.Va.** – Local church revitalization and a citywide evangelistic initiative.

- **REACH Philadelphia** – a program that engages youth and young adults in literature evangelism and local church leadership. This year they will focus on planting a church in Philadelphia.

- **Mission to the Many** – a Pennsylvania Conference initiative that includes the recruiting and training of young adults to serve as local missionaries in two local companies.

- **Community Praise Center** – a multi-site campus project for this Alexandria, Va., based church with an eye on placing the first branch in Leesburg.

- **The Lynchburg Virginia Prison Ministry** pilot program, which features a video conferencing session.
visitation center to assist inmate family members

For more information on these projects or on how you too can ‘experience the mission’ contact Frank Bondurant at fbondurant@columbiaunion.net

Life Skills Academy participants learn to shop using a budget and a list.

Stewart Pepper, pastor for the Charleston (W.Va.) church, baptizes Richard and Kerra Layne. The church plans to expand their evangelism outreach this year.
Adventists Help Lead Flood Clean-Up Efforts in West Virginia

Story by J. Wayne Hancock
Published 4/25/12

Last month, after two weeks of periodic rain throughout southern West Virginia, a slow-moving thunderstorm moved into Logan and Lincoln counties. The downpour probably lasted about three hours. "The storm came on sudden, and it was fierce," recalled Ernest Burgess who lives in Logan, W.Va. "The rain came down very hard and lightening was everywhere. Then it turned into hail, and there was mud sliding off the mountains."

The severe storms flooded roads, homes and businesses. Pamela Kazee, who lives in Switzer, couldn't believe her eyes when she saw Mud Fork, usually a lazy little creek, turn into a river that spanned more than two football fields. "I'd never seen it like that before," she said.

During the downpour, Cesar Quispe, who pastors Mountain View Conference's Logan and Williamson churches, went to Mayor Serafino Nolletti's office in city hall and asked what he could do to help. Quispe was thinking the community might need the resources of an Adventist Community Services/Disaster Response team or the new Better Living Center and church in Logan to house victims of the disaster. However, city officials told him they needed to handle the initial stages of recovery and would call him as needs arose.

As the storm went on, media outlets reported that rivers and creeks left their banks. State highways officials said that Thursday night (March 15) 11 roads and bridges in Logan County were closed due to high water, washouts and rock falls. Logan County emergency dispatchers stated mudslides trapped several people in their vehicles and homes in the Mud Fork area. No injuries were reported. The Logan campus of the Southern West Virginia Community College was flooded, with many cars in the parking lot almost submerged. Water was also reported in the Logan Regional Hospital emergency room.
Later as government officials organized a disaster response meeting, Shannon Meade, a community volunteer and director of the Logan Family Resource Network, was pulled in to lead the disaster response team. Meade said, “as soon as I received this assignment, I immediately thought of Pastor Cesar Quispe who after the grand opening of the new Better Living Center … took the time to show me the store. He and his wife showed me how they had set up the store as an emergency shelter with cots in case the community needed it to be deployed.”

“I called Pastor Cesar,” she continued. “It was a Sunday. I knew he didn’t have church services. I believe it was a divine thing because his name was the first that came to my mind. I told him that I needed his help.”

Quispe said, “You know I was waiting for someone to call me.”

Meade then invited Quispe to an organization meeting that evening. “The flood happened on Thursday and there was not much that he could do at that particular time,” Meade said. “We really did not [yet] have an organized system. We really needed what the Seventh-day Adventists had to offer in terms of short term recovery expertise and the implementation of a brand new volunteer program in a disaster situation.”

Even though Meade was chosen to lead the disaster response team, she said, “I am the type of person that knows my limitations. What I did at that very first meeting was look at Cesar and I realized that we have to get organized by someone that knows how this process should work.”

Quispe responded by leading the team in prayer, and then worked with Meade to establish an emergency hotline, print magnets for volunteer vehicles going into the affected areas and recruit volunteers. Quispe called on J. Wayne Hancock, EdD, Mountain View Conference’s director of Adventist Community Services (ACS)/Disaster Response, who then contacted all ACS leaders and pastors in the conference. Over the three-week recovery period, some 146 volunteers—not just Adventists—came from many faith-based organizations, including Mormons, Catholics, Methodists, Baptists and Assemblies of God.

“We actually closed the Better Living Center during the weeks immediately following the flood,” Quispe said. “The Better Living Center did provide a few blankets and some clothing and a few food baskets … but they needed church members’ manpower.” He estimates that some 1,100 people were helped.

Logan and Williamson members worked side by side with other volunteers to distribute flood buckets; deliver personal care kits, food and clothing; and remove mud and debris from homes. The Salvation Army and the Red Cross provided food. Lowes home improvement store provided supplies and the National Guard dump trucks hauled away pounds of debris. The storms also prompted Governor Earl Ray Tomblin to head to Logan County to assess the damage. The clean
up took about four weeks and then it was turned over to long-term recovery teams.

Meade concluded, “I am very impressed with the work ethic, the talents, capabilities and perseverance of Adventist ministers. I am also appreciative of the effective leadership [that] the Adventist Community Services/Disaster Response team showed to me personally.”
La feligresía firma la carta de la iglesia de Martinsville.

En esta página compartimos historias emocionantes de cómo Dios está obrando en las iglesias hispano hablantes. ¡Necesitamos su ayuda en mantener actualizada esta página! Le invitamos a enviarnos sus historias y noticias en inglés y español a Visitor@columbiaunion.net.

**Se organiza la Iglesia Martinsville Spanish**

**Historia por Fismed Omar/Blog de Potomac Conference**

**Publicada el 17 de abril de 2012**

La feligresía de la compañía Martinsville Spanish, en Martinsville, Va., se regocijó recientemente al recibir de Potomac Conference un certificado oficial de organización de iglesia.

Por años, esta congregación pasó por tiempos difíciles, y oró constantemente pidiendo sabiduría y ayuda. Llegó un momento en que solamente siete feligreses asistían, y casi perdieron el nuevo edificio que habían comprado, donde adoraban. Con la necesidad de asegurar un préstamo para la propiedad, la tesorera, Isis Moyer, confió en la provisión de un Dios misericordioso y usó su casa como colateral.

Durante esas pruebas, los miembros del pequeño grupo contactaron al pastor José Esposito, director de los ministerios hispanos del Potomac. Esposito viajó con el pastor Fismed Omar para reunirse y ayudar al grupo que deseaba establecer la primera compañía hispana en el área sureste de Virginia.

El grupo creció con la ayuda del Señor y bajo el liderazgo del pastor Omar. Más de ciento cincuenta personas asistieron al servicio para organizar la compañía como la iglesia Martinsville Spanish, la cual tiene ciento dos miembros. La feligresía todavía agradece a Dios por responder a sus oraciones y por el apoyo de la administración de Potomac Conference.
Bill Miller, presidente de Potomac Conference, firma la carta de la iglesia de Martinsville.
Members sign the Martinsville church's charter.

Martinsville Spanish Church Organizes
Story by Fismed Omar/Potomac Conference Blog
Published 4/17/2012

Members of the Martinsville Spanish company in Martinsville, Va., recently rejoiced upon receiving an official certificate of church organization from the Potomac Conference.

Over the years, this congregation endured difficult times and constantly prayed for wisdom and help. At one point, only seven members attended and the newly purchased church building they worshiped in was almost lost. Needing to secure a loan on the property, the treasurer, Isis Moyer, trusted the provision of a merciful God and used her house as collateral.

During those trials, the small group of members contacted Pastor Jose Esposito, Potomac’s director of Hispanic Ministries. Esposito traveled with Pastor Fismed Omar to meet and assist the group in their desire to establish the first Spanish company in the southern Virginia area.

The group grew with the help of the Lord and under the leadership of Pastor Omar. More than 150 people attended the service to organize the company as the Martinsville Spanish church, which has 102 charter members. Members are still thanking God for answering their prayers and for support from the Potomac Conference’s administration.
Bill Miller, president of the Potomac Conference, signs the Martinsville church charter.