

# Kids run for fun and to help out Saratoga Hospital

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SARATOGA SPRINGS — Nearly 500 participants turned out on a rainy Sunday morning for the third annual Cantina Kids Fun Run, sponsored by Cantina Mexican restaurant and CDPHP.

The event, which kicked off in The Saratogian parking lot, featured races on two courses — a quarter-mile course for children ages 5 through 8 and a mile-long course for those ages 9 through 12 that stretched from Lake Avenue through Congress Park and onto Broadway.

Proceeds from the race, expected to exceed the \$21,000 raised last year, will benefit Saratoga Hospital's new emergency department.

Saratoga Hospital Foundation Special Events Manager Rachel Wheatley said the hospital will decide where to use the funds within the department with the advisement of Cantina owners Jeff and Heath Ames.

STAR 101.3's John Meaney helped emcee the event, which was broadcast live.

Parents joined their children on both courses, some pushing strollers. In addition to the two races, the event featured a student art contest and a raffle.

"It feels good," 12-year-old Tom Conboy, the first-place finisher in the mile-long course, said about running for a cause. Conboy said that although the rain made the course a little slippery, his race went generally well.

"The kids love it," said Meg Hegener, who watched her 5-year-old daughter, Claire, cross the finish line in the quarter-mile run.

"It's a great community event," said Mayor Scott Johnson, who was on hand to speak to the kids before the race and to present awards to the top finishers. "Everyone's a winner here."

Information on next year's event can be found by signing up for the Kids Fun Run e-mail list at [www.cantinafunrun.com](http://www.cantinafunrun.com).