

Long Island Business News



Victoria Robitaille

8,400 participate in Marcum Workplace Challenge

By: Bernadette Starzee July 28, 2017

About 8,400 runners and walkers on 195 company teams completed the 3.5-mile Marcum Workplace Challenge at Jones Beach Tuesday evening.

Accounting and business advisory firm Marcum not only served as title sponsor, but one of its employees took home a title: Victoria Robitaille in the Marcum Technology division was the first woman to cross the finish line, with a time of 20 minutes and 32 seconds.

The first male finisher was Yuki Wakimoto from the NYU Winthrop Hospital team, who broke the 18-minute mark with a time of 17:58.

The first wheelchair athlete to cross was Empire National Bank employee Greg Durso, with a time of 20:24.

The Challenge also awards the fastest finishers in the "Top Dog" category, which includes the senior participating executive from each company.

Tom Fowler of Polar Electro took the male Top Dog title, finishing the race in 21:37. Female Top Dog honors went to Dawn Ehrhart of The Adecco Group, who crossed in 29:06.

Proceeds from the Marcum Challenge will benefit four local nonprofits: Long Island Cares-The Harry Chapin Food Bank, Children's Medical Fund of New York, Long Island Children's Museum and the Nassau County SPCA. Since 2006, the Challenge has raised more than \$700,000 for local charities; revenues from this year's event are still being tabulated.

The Challenge is billed as "Long Island's largest company picnic," with employers from across the Island setting up tents with catered food. Many participate year after year, like Uniondale-based law firm Farrell Fritz, which has sent a contingent to the Challenge for at least a dozen years.

"Our employees enjoy the camaraderie and look forward to inviting their friends and family members to join our team," said Kristina Sornchai, senior marketing associate for the firm. "As a community-oriented law firm, sponsoring this type of event is in line with our mission."

"This was Marcum's 12th year as title sponsor, and in many ways it was our best year," Carolyn Mazzenga, managing partner of Marcum's Melville office, said in a statement. "Even the weather cooperated with a cool evening, perfect for a run."