



Service and Shivers in USD Color Run

By Sarah Wetzel
For the Plain Talk

Runners shivered in the sub-60 degree weather Saturday morning as the first ever USD Color Run took place. The event was sponsored by the USD Social Work, Pre-Med and Pre-Physician's Assistant clubs.

"It is a non competitive run," said Kayli Raye Kuhl, a member of the Pre-Physician's Assistant Club. "Kids, families, and adults of all ages are encouraged to come."

According to Emily Jasper, co-president of the Social Work Club, this event has been a long time in the making.

"We kind of conceptualized it last year," Jasper said. "After elections we were trying to figure out what could draw people. I've done a color run and I know they're a lot of fun. We figured this would be more fun than doing your average race."

The run got off to a good start despite the chilly temperature and overcast skies.

"The weather isn't the greatest today but that's a hazard of the midwest," Jasper said. "It's kind of just how it goes."

"It starts at the Lee Med building and we will be going around campus making pit stops," said Kuhl. "At each pit stop we make we will have a celebration of color, which is in the form of a colored powder. The powder is made from corn starch and food coloring so it is safe, and will wash out."

According to Jasper, the idea was for runners to get as colorful as possible.

"We set it up as when they're going through [the stations] they have color thrown at them," she said. "Hopefully the motion helps it stick. There's five stations so we have five different colors."

Following the race was a color contest to see who ended up the most colorful. It ended up in a tie between Madi Krause and Josh Johnson. Johnson also finished the race first in a time around 15 minutes.

Part of the preparations for the race included making the colored powder.

"We made the colors ourselves," Jasper said. "You take a box of cornstarch and stick it in a bowl. We found that if you add water first then food coloring it works best. I think a cup to two cups of water is what we were using and the color was just how bright you wanted it to be. It was really fun to make. We got to make a mess but it cleans up really well."

Like all first-time events, it was a learning experience for the organizers.

"I think it would have been better to wear dark colors," said Danny Mullin, President of the Pre-Physician's Assistant club. "The color shows up better."

The event coordinators had advertised encouraging participants to wear white, realizing afterwards that it showed up better on dark.

According to Jasper, it is unsure if the run will become an annual event.

"It depends on how many people we



Participants in the USD Color Run have colored chalk thrown at them by volunteers in this event aimed at raising food and funds for the food pantry Saturday.

(Sarah Wetzel)

have in the social work club again," she said. "A lot of the time most of the people who are in it are the core students and after our junior year we go into field placement and often we graduate after that. We try to get to the intro classes to keep the vibe going and more people interested in it."

Despite the difficulties Jasper said she is committed to fighting for the continuation of the Social Work club.

"We've actually had a pretty good

turnout this year," she said. "The past couple of years the leadership hasn't quite been there. Me and Amber both decided that we wanted to make this club something. This is a legacy for us just knowing we're giving back to the university in a way that's good for us."

The service element is what makes events like the Color Run worth it for Jasper.

"It's really empowering," she said. "I like giving back."

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41% to 36 %: drop in the state's share of school funding (now 49th in the nation)

2 out of 3: districts forced to opt out and raise property taxes

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92 percent: increase in college tuition & fees.

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Clay County Food Pantry Facts

- 5,400 people served in 2013 and demand is growing.
- Approximately 50% of people served are children.
- For every \$1 donated, 5 lbs. of food go to the needy.
- The Pantry currently has a shortage of food and needs your help!

Bags will be left on Vermillion residence doors on October 24th. The pick up date is on October 31st, 5pm-9pm.

Americans on average spend **\$12.50** on a fast food meal. That instead would equal **62 lbs.** of food for the Clay County Pantry!!!

Items Needed Most:

- Cash
- Canned Meat and Fish
- Canned chili and beans
- Peanut butter and Jelly
- Cold Cereal
- Spaghetti sauce
- Canned soup
- Canned fruit
- Baby formula and food
- Rice
- Noodles
- Flour

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