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Race for Hope: Central Pennsylvania teams raise money to fight brain tumors

Published: Sunday, May 20, 2012, 8:40 AM

pn By **BARBARA MILLER, The Patriot-News**

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Two teams with ties to the Mechanicsburg area were among the top fundraisers in the May 6 **Race for Hope in Washington, D.C.**, which raised \$2.3 million for brain tumor research.

Jeremy Smith, a senior at Cumberland Valley High School, helped raise a record \$45,000 for Team Pamela Sue. The team is named for the daughter of Lionel Chaiken of Frederick, Va., a friend of the Smith family. Chaiken started the race in honor of Pamela Sue, who died from a brain tumor in 1995 at age 31.

The team placed seventh in fundraising, said Smith, who was the team captain and team member for nine years.

Next year, Smith said he'll be closer to Chaiken to help with fundraising, since he will be attending American University in Washington, D.C. "For the foreseeable future, I'm going to stay involved," he said.

He also ran in the 5K race, finishing in under 24 minutes and among the top quarter of runners.

Smith said he is motivated not only by Lionel Chaiken, but also by several others close to his family who have died from brain tumors — an aunt who died five years ago and a friend of his mother who died two years ago.

The other team with a local tie is led by Camp Hill native BethAnn Telford, 43, of Washington, D.C., who's Team BT raised the second highest amount in the race: \$102,000. Telford, also a Cumberland Valley High School graduate, raised \$49,000, which was the third highest among participants. Chaiken was right behind her in fourth place, having raised \$41,000.

Telford, who is under treatment for a brain tumor, also was second among 41 female runners in the survivor category, and missed first place by 5 seconds.

Last year her team raised \$73,000, Telford said.

She dedicated this year's run to 5-year-old Anya Zvorsky of New Cumberland, who has been fighting a rare form of brain cancer for two years. Zvorsky and her family attended the race and participated in survivor events with Telford. Anna got to go on stage with BethAnn and David



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Provided photo

BethAnn Telford, right, with Anya Zvorsky, 5, of New Cumberland, at Race for Hope.

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Cook, a former "American Idol" star who also has a team in the race in memory of his brother, who died several years ago from a brain tumor.

Telford also successfully completed her third Boston marathon in April, which she also dedicated to Anya.

"I finished, but it was tough" due to the record warm temperatures that day, Telford said.

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