



Saint Viator Cross Country Team Works Chicago Marathon

October 18, 2010



Saint Viator's boys' cross country team worked with volunteers from Team SALUTE to make the Chicago marathon more enjoyable and rewarding for thousands of runners.

Saint Viator High School's boys' cross country team found a way to combine their two passions --- running and service --- by volunteering at this year's Bank of America Chicago Marathon.

The 21 prep runners rose before dawn on Oct. 10 to travel by bus into the city. They reported to Team SALUTE, founded by Will and Mary Beth Beiersdorf of Arlington Heights, who led a group of supporters who ran to aid military families.

Saint Viator's team members pitched in to unload tables, tents, signs, coolers, ice, water and giant sleeves of cups before taking their place curbside to cheer on the nearly 45,000 runners who

participated.

The runners included veterans, amputees, cancer survivors and recreational runners, who lined up behind the elite division and inspired the thousands of spectators along the route, as well as the volunteers who cheered them.

"The Chicago Marathon is not your average event, it is layered with success stories," says Wendy Barrett of Team SALUTE. "But this group of cross country runners was not your average teenage boys.

"They came, they gave back, they made a difference and then they went home," Barrett adds. "And they did not go unnoticed. We at SALUTE are extremely grateful for all of their efforts for America's military families."

The boys' cross country team was just the latest in a series of unsung efforts by Saint Viator athletic teams.

In September, the girls' volleyball team raised more than \$2,000 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast cancer research, while the girls' swim team helped stock shelves for the Greater Wheeling Area Youth Organization's resale shop in Prospect Heights.

"It's all part of our theme for the athletic department this year," says Saint Viator Athletic Director Tim Carlson, "which is, 'Victory in Service.' "