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Good Things Happening

By Allen Howard

Jim Anderson will be on Fountain Square on March 30 in a wheelchair to participate in a 5K walk in the Mercy Heart Mini-Marathon. His mission involves fighting heart attacks and strokes. Friends and family refer to Anderson as: "Anderson Miracle Man."

The name fits because Anderson, 57, of Anderson Township, was born with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a heart disease. He has spent 105 days in and out of the hospital in the last 15 months. He has been relying on a pacemaker for 15 years.

"Participating in the mini-marathon is my way of giving back," said Anderson, who gives talks before nursing groups about his life. He said he has learned that the kind of heart ailment he has skips one generation. He said he inherited his grandfather's genes and he expects his grandchildren will inherit his genes. "I am participating in this mini-marathon for my grandchildren. I may never see them, but whatever I contributed to heart research may help them and others," he said.

The Anderson family has formed a team to participate in the Heart Mini-Marathon. They are calling it "Team Andersquad," in honor of the "unbreakable" Jim Anderson. Team Andersquad is raising funds for heart and stroke research.

Anderson recently suffered two strokes. The first left him with aphasia, the loss of the use of words, and the second one caused a spinal cord injury that left him paralyzed from the waist down. He has recovered from aphasia and is regaining movement in his legs.

"On March 30, friends, doctors, and family will take turns pushing me around in the wheelchair," Anderson said. "Our team has already received pledges for \$12,000. We have set our goal at \$20,000."

To help, call 513-231-7491.

Scholarship deadline

High school seniors at Badin, Fairfield, Hamilton Ross, New Miami, Talawanda, Edgewood and Lakota East and Lakota West have until Friday to apply for scholarships from the Hamilton Community Foundation.

Visit www.hamiltonfoundation.org or call 513-863-1717

Auction for sick children

A Bachelor/Bachelorette Auction, presented by Adventures For Wish Kids, will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Jaspers, Mount Lookout Square.

Honorary chairman is Shayne Graham of the Cincinnati Bengals. Emcees are Regina Russo and Frank Marzullo of Fox Television Channel 19.

There will be silent auction items.

Tickets will be available at the door for \$20 per person.

All proceeds will benefit local children with life-threatening illnesses and their families.

Mecum heads youth network

Robert Mecum, president and CEO of Lighthouse Youth Services, has been chosen chairman of the board of National Network for Youth.

The network is the primary national voice and advocate for runaway and homeless youth. Lighthouse Youth Services is a safety net for children and young adults which includes the youth Crisis Center, available and fully staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for runaway and homeless youth 10-18 years old.

Mecum has served as director of Lighthouse Youth Services since 1978. During his tenure, the agency has moved from serving 16 youths a day in two residential programs in Cincinnati to a statewide organization serving 450 children, youth and families in residential programs.

Game to help women's shelter

This March Madness will be in Milford. It is a charity community basketball game organized by a father and daughter, Dennis Boone and Ali Boone.

The game is at 8:30 p.m. March 1 at the Milford Junior High School.

The admission is \$2 and all proceeds from admission, concessions, donations and Split the Pot will be donated to the YWCA House of Peace, Clermont County's battered women's shelter.

There will also be a collection for donated cleaning supplies.

Dennis Boone will coach a girls' varsity team, Scandalous, and Cindy VanSyoc will coach the G-Unit, a boys team.

Female and male staff members at the school will play each other at halftime.

For more information, call Christy Carey Boone, 513-575-1643; 513-543-9135 or 513-683-1048.

If you have a story about a student, resident or volunteer group that's making a difference, contact Allen Howard at 513-768-8362, ahoward@enquirer.com or 513-768-8340 (fax). Or go online to Cincinnati.Com and click on GetPublished!