



Gloucester
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Charity run at Washington Lake Park set to commemorate fallen son on Mother's Day

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WASHINGTON TWP. Five years ago, the Anderson family was able to turn something very tragic into something positive.

After Brian Anderson died on Mother's Day at the young age of 21, his family and their close friends decided to honor his memory every year on that very same day.

This year will be no different.

This Sunday marks the 5th annual "BA5K" at Washington Lake Park.

Last year, more than 700 people showed up a tremendous showing of support for an event that was expected to draw only 50 participants in its first year. So far this year, 500 people have registered.

The event celebrates the life of Anderson, a 2002 Washington Township High School graduate who was studying to be an engineer at Villanova University when he died suddenly of an undetected heart arrhythmia.

He was two weeks shy of graduating from college in just three years.

A rare genetic disorder called Brugada Syndrome affected his heart's electrical rhythm, causing it to stop. The disorder is a form of Long QT Syndrome, which causes the death of more than 1,000 children and young adults in the United States every year.

To keep his memory alive, the walk is held every year on Mother's Day. Proceeds from the event are used to form two scholarships a \$5,000 scholarship for a graduating Washington Township High School senior who exudes some of Anderson's qualities, said Krish Welsh, a friend of the family and the event organizer.

Another \$3,000 scholarship is also created each year for a Villanova engineering student. Additional funds go to the Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndrome Foundation, and genomic research at the Mayo Clinic, Welsh

said.

Anderson would have turned 26 just a few weeks ago.

"This is something the family really enjoys," Welsh said. "It's a celebration of what Brian stood for when he was alive. It's just so wonderful. They feel so good to have so many people around them supporting them, to do so much in his name."

The event includes a one-mile kids' fun run and a 5K run and family walk. Registration begins at 7 a.m. on Sunday with the race starting at 9 a.m., and the walk starting right after. The kids' fun run starts at 10:15 a.m.

Admission is \$15 prior to the event and \$40 for a family of up to five people. Registration the day of the event will be \$20 a person and \$45 per family.

Prizes will be awarded to the top male and female finishers, along with the top male and female finishers in the following age groups: 14 and under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, and 70 and above.

Registration forms are available at www.ba5k.com. Online registration is available at www.runtheday.com.

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