

Keyser, WV (April 20, 2012)

McGettigan, Boddy top inaugural “Conquer the Dam” 5K

Nick McGettigan, 18 of Swanton and Naomi Boddy, 37 of New Creek took first place in the male and female categories of this first year event on Saturday, May 19. McGettigan’s time of 22:24 edged Kevin Simon, 46 of Keyser by 4 seconds. Boddy finished third overall and first for females with a time of 22:55.

Joseph Klink, 17 of Hyndman finished fourth overall with a time of 23:21 and Rob Major, 42 of Swanton placed fifth at 24:14. Jeanetta Gerrish, 29 of Baltimore was the second female and sixth overall with a time of 24:46.

Jennings Randolph Lake provided a beautiful backdrop for this event hosted by Aging & Family Services of Mineral County. Sixty-seven competitors were able to run, walk or a combination of both as they travelled through the park and across the dam and spillway. Normally closed to the public, the passage across the dam and spillway was a key draw for participants from throughout the tri-state area. Runners and walkers from six years old through ninety-two enjoyed a beautiful May morning.

Louie Kitzmiller, race director stated “We exceeded our anticipated turnout and appreciate the fact that the community took advantage of this opportunity to support the Meals on Wheels program.” The Meals on Wheels Program of Mineral County assists people who are homebound by providing a hot, nutritious meal each week day. Designed to help prevent unnecessary institutionalization, this program helps the frail elderly maintain independence and avoid social isolation.

Aging & Family Services expressed heartfelt gratitude to the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to bring about the event. In addition, sponsors, including many area businesses, supported the cause. Chief among them were: M&T Bank, Luke Paper Company, Progressive Physical Therapy, Health Matters Urgent Care, D&L Coal Company, Markwood Funeral Home, Keyser Moose Lodge and Dick Niland, Keller Stonebreaker Insurance. Not only was M&T Bank the primary corporate sponsor, but, seven employees volunteered to help staff this event.

The staff of Jennings Randolph Lake helped this inaugural event run smoothly and plans to continue the race next year are already in the works.