



## WellLife Network and the New York Mets Walk for Wellness

On Your Mark, Get Set . . . GO!

Photo Album

**“ We chose to partner with WellLife Network because of their wide-ranging, invaluable services benefitting the people and communities of Queens and Long Island.”**

*Edward Probst, President  
Vanguard Insurance Agency*

WellLife Network joined forces with the New York Mets and a dynamic mix of key community advocates on April 2, 2017 to raise awareness and funds for New Yorkers faced with developmental disabilities, mental health and addiction challenges. Mr. Met led the charge as more than 200 runners gathered at the iconic Flushing Meadows Corona Park for the first annual WellLife Network 5K Walk/Run.

### A Race Dedicated to WellLife Network Families

This year's 5K race was dedicated to the more than 25,000 families who rely on WellLife Network each year for specialized care. The race also served as an overwhelming testament to the New Yorkers committed to care for and empower their community's most vulnerable population, with runners participating from all over Queens, Brooklyn and Long Island.

One of those race participants was **Dane Kanable**, a local Queens resident with Downs Syndrome. Leading up to the race, Dane took his message to social media, letting others know why he chose to walk in this year's WellLife Network 5K and enthusiastically inviting others to help him raise money for New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

### Friends and Family Raise Over \$8,000

Other award-winning participants were **Lauren Gasparine** of WellLife Network and **Brian Rooney** of **Mutual of America**, who won 2nd and 3rd place for the most money raised leading up to the race. **Lexi Tucker**, who ran for WellLife Network, won *1st place* in the women's overall category. Together, more than 24 staff, friends and family members raised more than **\$8,000** for WellLife Network's essential programs. Some of those programs include assisting with the renovation of WellLife Network's residential homes as well expanding art therapy programs to day habilitation centers across New York City and Long Island.

WellLife Network would like to recognize the key corporate partners and advocates who made the 5K Walk/Run such a success. The race itself was organized and run by **Generosity Series**, an industry leading fundraising and racing platform that champions the causes of nonprofits nationally.

As a part of their ongoing initiatives to give back to New York, **Vanguard**, a leader in customized Employee Benefits Solutions for businesses and non-profits in the tri-state area, sponsored WellLife Network in the race. “We support fundraising events for non-profits because they provide an important opportunity to raise awareness and funds for a worthy cause, while also building relationships that will make a positive impact on our community,” said Edward Probst, President, Vanguard Insurance Agency.

WellLife Network would also like to recognize the generosity and support of the **New York Mets** (for sending their mascot, Mr. Met to entertain the runners) and the employees at **Mutual of America** and **Aflac**, who all contributed to making the race such an outstanding success.

Crossing that finish line was a team effort and WellLife Network looks forward to continuing to prioritize its fast growing network of local partners and supporters in the community.

To sign up for WellLife Network's future 5K events or to learn about other upcoming events near you, you can subscribe to the WellLife Network E-Newsletter by going to <http://www.WellLifeNetwork.org/subscribe>.