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PRESS RELEASE
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What: RPCV-Madison Report on Freeze for Food – 5K/10K walk/run fundraiser
Where: started at Vilas Park Shelter, Madison WI
When: was held Saturday, March 4, 2017
Race Results: ItsRaceTime, <http://results.itsracetime.com/>

Freeze for Food Reports Warm Outcome

Wisconsin’s winter weather seldom disappoints participants in the Freeze for Food 5K/10K fundraiser. On March 4, 2017, an almost record number 273 properly-dressed runners and walkers turned out at the 36th annual event in comparatively balmy 36°F weather to support food security projects. Open Doors for Refugees, a group formed to support and welcome refugees to Madison, is the beneficiary of the estimated \$6,138 that was raised by the event.

The event attracted people not only from all parts of Wisconsin, but from around the Midwest: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Michigan – and this year international students as well. We welcomed 20 high school students, in the US through the Council for International Educational Exchange ([CIEE](http://www.ciee.org)) and US Department of State programs.

The brisk 18 mph ESE wind off Lake Wingra and overcast skies did not hinder the racers. Congratulations to the many winter-hardy racers and to these overall first-place finishers (full race details available at [ItsRaceTime](http://www.itsracetime.com)):

	Name	Gender	Age	Time
5K	Michael Nueninghoff	M	20	19:39.3
	Susanna Ciucci	F	16	22:41.7
10K	Travis Bashaw	M	37	35:27.6
	Krista Jahimiak	F	31	38:23.1

The RPCV-Madison group absorbs most expenses for this event from the proceeds of their International Calendar (www.rpcvcalendar.org) to directly benefit food security projects for Open Doors for Refugees. Over the years, the Freeze for Food has raised over \$78,000 for international non-profits that focus on food security programs. Details of previous races and a more in-depth report can be found at <http://rpcvmadison.org/activities/freeze-for-food>

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The Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin-Madison promote peace and understanding in our global community. The group holds monthly meetings, social events, sponsors fundraisers like the Freeze For Food, produces an award winning international calendar, the 'we all' posters, and have donated more than \$1million to local and international charities since 1980. The Freeze for Food alone has generated over \$78,000 in fundraising.

rpcvmadison.org and rpcvcalendar.org



Open Doors for Refugees was formed in 2016 to help refugees in the Madison area. Despite federal contracts to assist refugees during their first three months, new-comers struggle for many years after their arrival with finding living wage jobs, finding affordable apartments, learning English, learning to drive, and other, less tangible issues of cultural adjustment. Open Doors for Refugees also plans to remain visible to advocate that both Madison and the U.S. take in its share of the world's estimated 65 million refugees.

<https://www.facebook.com/OpenDoorsForRefugees/>

2017 Photo:

The six students shown here were part of the Council for International Educational Exchange (CIEE) group, hailing from a wide range of countries under U.S. Dept of State grant programs: [FLEX](#), [YES](#), and [CBYX](#).

*Fabienne Ehresmann, CBYX, Germany
Mohammed Medhioub Azziz, YES, Tunisia
Ameer Yacoub, YES, Gaza
Emilia Keric, CBYX, German
Abdul Salam Majeed, YES, India
Alperen Kul, YES, Turkey*

Contact Annalisa Barrie (annalisabarrie@gmail.com) at CIEE to host an international student. Placements for the 2017-2018 year are being set now!

