

Step Up for Yellow Mountain

Event Held at Lees-McRae College a Resounding Success



Jacob (age 7) and **Ben** (age 3) **Vergara**, tied for walking the **most number of laps in their age group**. The brothers share a room and one shared trophy for **walking three miles** is OK with the boys who live in Charlotte.



Tommy Burleson is flanked by **David Angel**, 7 footers who use to be opponents on the **basketball court** but were working together as volunteers for Step Up for Yellow Mountain. They are standing with the **Calendar Girl team, recruited by Cynthia Phillips** to run and walk to raise money for Yellow Mountain Enterprises in Newland.



Marcy Ollis, volunteer and **Debbie Cable**, board member enjoy the day at Tate Field where the Walk-A-Thon was held on June 25, 2011. **Debbie's son Zack** was one of the most enthusiastic walkers. Marcye, with her many years of experience in the **Avery County Relay for Life** was a terrific help.



Bob Turbyfill helps his good friend **Cynthia Phillips** register for the **Walk-A-Thon** at Step Up for Yellow Mountain. Both Cynthia and Bob are long time workers at Yellow Mountain.



David Angel, former basketball standout from **Clemson University** towers over Charlie Varner as they sell a Yellow Mountain Tin Man.

The **Tin Man** has been manufactured by Yellow Mountain Enterprises for twenty years out of recycled food cans. The charming decoration is a perfect addition to any deck in the High Country.

Building the Tin Man and other crafts are an important job for the disabled adults at Yellow Mountain Enterprises, which as served the Avery County Community for over 30 years.



Rev. Dennis Quackenboss, Pastor at **Mountainside Lutheran Church** collects his trophy for walking the most laps in his age group. Dennis also serves at the **Chairman of the Board of Directors** of the Avery Association for Exceptional Citizens, which operates Yellow Mountain Enterprises.

Dennis **recruited 30+ sponsors** for his efforts and the laps he walked **raise over \$1,000** to help disabled adults at Yellow Mountain Enterprises.

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The **First Annual Step Up for Yellow Mountain** held on June 25th at the athletic facilities of **Lees-McRae College** was both great fun and a productive fund raiser for the Newland-based program serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The event was actually **three separate events** rolled together in support of Yellow Mountain Enterprises.

A **Silent Auction** began first as an on-line event and culminated with the final bidding occurring on-site at Lees-McRae College. Over 170 individuals items and

services were donated by organizations and businesses throughout the High Country and the Southeast.

A **Walk-A-Thon** was also held throughout the morning with trophies being awarded to different age groups in both female and male categories. Many of the clients from Yellow Mountain Enterprises participated in the walking event, walking multiple laps around Lees-McRae College's excellent track.

A **5K Race** was also a part of the event. The race was advertised across the Southeast and drew many runners want-

ing to test their abilities in the cool and beautiful mountains of Western North Carolina. **Trophies were also awarded** in age groups for the run in both male and female categories.

All of the proceeds from the events will support the programs and services provided by the Avery Association for Exceptional Citizens, which operates Yellow Mountain Enterprises and the Avery County Group Home.

The photograph album on this and the next page will give you a taste of the fun at **Step Up for Yellow Mountain**.



The Avery County High School ROTC expertly presented the colors during the opening ceremonies while **Diana Wilcox** sang the Star Spangled Banner.

The sun was bright but the air delightfully cool for the day's activities, a welcome change for those who came to the mountains to escape the heat.

The **Second Annual Step Up for Yellow Mountain** is schedule for **June 23, 2012** to continue to take advantage of the weather.



David L. Tate, Executive Director of the Avery Association for Exceptional Citizens can be seen at the start of the Walk-A-Thon walking arm-in-arm with his **93 year old mother, Margaret Tate**. No trophy was awarded to the oldest walker, but Mrs. Tate, who walked three laps would easily have won the award. **Tommy Burleson**, seen in the background, volunteered as one of the official lap counters for the event.



Bob Tate, local contractor walks laps with **Tammie Daniels**, Administrative Assistant at the Avery Association for Exceptional Citizens, which operates Yellow Mountain Enterprises.



Runners of all ages can be seen at the start of the 5K Road Race. The challenging course left the **Lees-McRae College** facilities and ran up the road past **Grandfather Home for Children** and **Wildcat Lake** to the **Arbor Dale Presbyterian Church** and back again.

Marlyn Vergara (age 2), the youngest and shortest walker **receives her trophy** for her age group from 7 foot Tommy Burleson (sorry for cutting off your head Tommy).

Little Marly is the granddaughter of Executive Director David L

