Another rockin' year for SADD Mansonville

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THE SCOOP MABLE HASTINGS

ince 1987, the Mansonville chapter Sof Students Against Destructive Decisions has been going strong in Potton. Nine hardworking young people from aged between 12 and 18 make up the 2015-16 board of directors. This committee initiates, organizes, hosts and raises funds for a variety of events in the community throughout the year.

Last Saturday, the nine SADD members collaborated with some of the members of the Former Youth Involvement committee, older youth volunteers who still contribute greatly to the



Yossi, Amanda and baby Quinn Salama with dog Kai participated in Saturday's SADD fundraiser in Mansonville.

secutive hours raising funds through donations made by businesses and individuals in support of SADD.

Participants who rocked included three-week old Quinn Barnett Salama the daughter and first child of FYI members Amanda Barnett and Yossi Salama (pictured). Other rockers included oneyear old Peyton Johnson, daughter of FYI member Jessie Lee Johnson, who brought her own pint-sized rocking chair to join in the fun. The group enjoyed four hours of games, a lunch prepared by Eleanor Paige, Judith Ball, Julia Hastings, Laurette Rouleau and Jason Forget and a lot of group building time and fun.

This year's event raised \$2200 once all of the money was counted. Some of these funds raised will be used to create 18 youth a music room in the basement of the vouth centre. SADD and FYI thanks the many donors who gave so generously. The top fundraisers were Norma Clifford, volunteer and FYI community member, and Dawson Lassemba, a firstyear SADD member.

This year's SADD board includes Yanni Barnett, Alexander Cardinal, Cassidy Chapman, Alexandra Charby, Natasha Charby, Alexander Fidler, Daw-



Some of the youth members of this year's Mansonville SADD group gathered at the

son Lassemba, Sahara Jacob O'Reardon and Jacob Woodard.

SADD meets every Friday evening at the youth centre from 6-7 p.m. Upcoming SADD events include animating activities at the Baluchon fundraising dance this Friday evening at the French elementary school in Mansonville.

If you would like to support the Mansonville SADD or to find out more about any of the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre programs, visit www.cabmn.org or call the Youth Centre at 450-292-4886.

Kathrine Switzer launches global 261 Fearless, Inc. for women world wide



A RUNNER'S MIND

CHRISTINE BLANCHETTE

athrine Switzer, the first woman to finish the Boston Marathon back in 1967, has created the "261 Fearless Ambassador Program" that recently launched with 250 women representing 18 countries. These ambassadors are using their passion for running to connect with one another and help Switzer to identify needs in local communities.

Here is my interview with Switzer, who reveals how the 261 Fearless running began and where it's going.

Q: When did this idea to have a 261 and empower them.

Fearless running global movement come about?

A: "261 happened organically. About three years ago, people from around the world began sending photos of wearing 261 race bibs on their backs despite what they wore on their front. They said it made them feel fearless because of what I did in Boston in 1967, running with that bib number and finishing despite being attacked by the race official (who tried to physically remove Switzer from the Boston Marathon race course). They also inked it on their arms. But when I got photos of their 261 tattoos I had to take it seriously. So 261 became a symbol and declaration of fearlessness. In just one year we have harnessed this extraordinary feeling into a global movement of empowering women through running with a series of clubs, a unique training method, a women's marathon and 200 - plus extraordinary ambassadors who are spreading the word for us. Our mission as fearless women is to reach out to fearful women

A: Ambassadors, Events, Clubs, massive social media. Also, we are partnering with other clubs and with events.

Q: What are the benefits of becoming a 261 Fearless Ambassador?

A: Many of these women will help create running clubs throughout the world - which will enable us to invite so many more women into the world of running. We are able to thank our ambassadors with special deals from our brand partners.

Q; How successful is the group?

A: These women truly are the trail blazers who will assist 261 Fearless bring running to women all over the world, even to areas and countries where women (have) few rights.

Q: What do you hope to achieve?

A: (We) will come to the Americas, Scandinavia and Australia and New Zealand in 2016 and grow in Great Britain and central Europe. As we create

Q: How are you getting the word out? our state of the art website that will boast multiple safe portals for women to become members and communicate privately, we will begin our global reach to areas where women have fewer rights and less opportunities - the internet and cell phones will allow communication with 261 Fearless communities to these more remote areas to occur.

Q: Where do you see this movement in the next year?

A: This first year is a tough year, starting up always is. But in one year, we will have private grants and endowments to keep our team afloat, and at least one major sponsor, and we predict 100 certified trainers, 50 new clubs, 50 partner clubs and 25 Partner events throughout the globe... ballpark!

The inaugural U.S. 261 Fearless Train the Trainer Retreat will be held in New York to coincide with the New York City Marathon, a race Switzer won in 1974.

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