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Winthrop University

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Krispy Kreme Race Nets More than $20K for York County Children

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA — Hundreds of doughnuts have made a difference in the lives of children across York County.

Nearly 300 runners participated in the Krispy Kreme Race - Run 4 Reading Challenge on Feb. 28. The race, a collaboration between the Early Learning Partnership of York County and Winthrop University, invited runners, casual walkers and families to tackle the 4-mile loop around campus and downtown Rock Hill. Halfway through, runners ate a dozen Krispy Kreme doughnuts and then completed the race. One hundred community people, many of them Winthrop students, also volunteered to help at the event.

The race netted approximately $21,000 for the partnership’s three programs:

* *Born to Read:* A visit to new program-participating mothers provides them with baby’s first book, a tote bag, bib and information about community resources.

*Reach Out and Read:* Pediatric doctors and staff in this program give a book to children who come in for well visits and also guidance to the parents.

*The Dolly Parton Imagination Library:* Families with newborns and children up to five years old receive by mail each month new age- and language-appropriate books.

“Children need to be prepared to succeed the moment they start school,” said Teresa Creech, director for the Early Learning Partnership. “From birth, children are wired to learn. ELP helps to ensure that all children develop the emotional, social, cognitive, and physical capacities and skills they need to succeed in school and life.”

She hopes the race will be an annual event. Next year’s race is tentatively set for Feb. 27, 2016.

For more information on the partnership, visit the website or contact Creech at 803/323-2180.