

Thanks for making hike-bike event free

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Editor,

The Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership (GHACP) Rails to Trails Committee held its 8th annual National Trails Day Hike & Bike event on Saturday, June 11 at the Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails (GHRT).

Donna Palermo, chairperson of the Civic Partnership introduced Rev. Jim DeRamus, who gave an invocation and Memorial Tree Dedication followed by words from state Rep. Tara Toohil, Hazleton Mayor Joe Yannuzzi and Dennis Demara, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

This Civic Partnership has so many people and businesses to thank for this completely free event, including:

The Hazleton Health and Wellness Center for partnering with the GHACP, The Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, UGI, Henkel (Dial), Rev DeRamus, Luzerne County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Superior Mortgage, Hershey, Quaker Oats, Hazle Park Meats, Otis Spunkmeyer, George Hayden Inc., Terrana Law Firm, Wal-Mart, the Hazleton Garden Club, Steve Stamatopoulos, Leadership Hazleton, Biros, Hollywood Diner, Comfort Inn, Blasko Candies, Tony Pacelli, Wire Guys, Thomas Family Markets, Capriotti's, Giant Food, Sam's Club, Weis Markets, Heritage Fresh Foods, McAdoo Boyers IGA, Gould's IGA, Tomhicken Water, Cedar Bikes, Danny's Produce, Sue Nasrani, Robert Sagan and Atty. Joe Ferdinand and GM Attorneys at Law.

The following organizations and activities added to the festivities with their displays and activities: McCann School of Business, Creation Station, Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails, Luzerne County SPCA, Cedar Bikes, Free Bike Helmets for Kids , Frances Dorrance Society for Pennsylvania Archeology, Eckley Miners Village, Live Well Luzerne County, Wyoming Valley Wellness Trails Partnership, Hazleton Health and Wellness, Tara Snyder (Creative Children), Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Susquehanna Greenways Partnership, Friends of the Nescopeck, Boy Scouts of America, Carl Frankel and Ray Youngblood for the Environmental Education Walk, Joe Stefanoski, the Geocache Hunt, Office of Surface Mining/Volunteer in Service to America and Michael Bloom who helped put the event together.

The Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails Volunteer Committee who not only did all the work to make this a successful event, also continues to work to maintain and expand the GHRT to its goal of connecting with the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.

Susan Nasrani, chairwoman,

Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails Committee