

Freeze for Food Final Report
March 3, 2018 Event
Submitted by Kate Schachter

Wisconsin's winter weather seldom disappoints participants in the Freeze for Food 5K/10K fundraiser. On March 3, 2018, 174 runners and walkers turned out in balmy 42°F weather to support food security projects. Since an actual 179 people pre-registered, their pre-registration fees also gratefully support Open Doors for Refugees, who received \$5,533.

The sunny weather and SE wind at 12-15 mph off Lake Wingra did not hinder the racers in the least. Clear sidewalks made for manageable footing. A first for this year, police presence at the corner of Knickerbocker provided a safe crossing for the runners and stress-free driving for the traffic. Congratulations to the many winter-hardy Midwesterners and to these first-place finishers in each gender category (full race details available at [ItsRaceTime](#)):

	Name	Gender	Age	Time
5K	Herbert Sizek	M	23	18:48.5
	Katy Jinkins	F	22	23:18.2
10K	Ryan Pewowaruk	M	23	36:36.4
	Emily Raykovich	F	34	42:36.1

This was the 37th annual Freeze for Food, which has now raised over \$89,000 since 1982 for the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin-Madison to donate to groups, including past recipients Oxfam and the Colombia Support Network. Numbers of participants have climbed as well, from 45 runners and walkers in the first year to a high of 282 in 2016. The event attracted people not only from all parts of Wisconsin, but from around the Midwest: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Michigan – as well as international students.

Promotion for the event plus the refugee connection resulted in coverage from both WISC TV (Channel 3) and [WKOW \(Channel 27\)](#) television stations for their nightly newscasts.

Scores of volunteers showed up to make the day successful. This year the RPCVs of Madison Calendar Committee covered \$2,000 of race expenses. Event coordinators Tom Felhofer, Stephanie Shelton, Kate Schachter and Madeline Uranek wish to thank the generous sponsors of the fundraiser who helped support this endeavor, through donations or goods in kind: Capital Richter Insurance, Felhofer CPA, Hotel Red, Monroe Street Family Dental, Old National Bank, and Willy St. Co-op.

Open Doors for Refugees, a group formed in 2016 to support and welcome refugees to Madison, is the beneficiary of \$5,533 raised by the 2018 Freeze for Food. The dollars are specified to be used for food relief to Madison's recent refugee population. While Jewish Social Services and Lutheran Social Services have federal contracts to assist refugees during their first three months, the 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 is there to help with community backing.

Following the U.S. President's Executive Orders which will limit the numbers of refugees accepted for resettlement in the U.S., Open Doors for Refugees hopes to help those who've arrived not just this year but in the past several years, and to remain visible to advocate that both Madison and the U.S. take in its share of the world's estimated 65 million refugees.

Watch for details for the 38th annual Freeze for Food, set for March 2, 2018. Follow the event on [Facebook](#).