



Plano Pacers Running Club, Inc. Hall of Fame

The Plano Pacers Running Club was formed in 1978 by the City of Plano Parks and Recreation Department and a group of thirty local runners. The objectives of the Running Club were the promotion and encouragement of healthful jogging and distance running. The objectives were supported by stressing the fun and exhilaration of running and its contribution to physical fitness, weight control and health. The club was directed to stimulate and maintain motivation among runners by increasing communication among runners and prospective runners. The club's plan was to publish a newsletter, hold regular meetings, fun runs, races, running clinics and related programs. The club would also mobilize their influence to promote the development of trails, tracks and running support facilities within the city.

The Plano Pacers Running Club has successfully operated as a family-oriented organization for three decades. A great number of runners and non-runners have contributed to meeting the objectives defined by the City of Plano and the founding members. Starting this year, 2009, The Plano Pacers Running Club will establish a Hall of Fame to recognize those individuals who have made significant contributions to the club.

The Plano Pacers Running Club, Inc. would like to recognize Donna Smith, posthumously, for her outstanding contributions to the club. Donna Smith was an employee of the City of Plano's Parks and Recreation Department who spearheaded the founding of the club. From an initial gathering of just four people to discuss the concept of a running club, Donna led the charge to launch our club. She spread the word among local runners that the Plano Parks Department intended to help organize and support a Plano running club. Donna's enthusiasm to support other runners outweighed her own desire to run, as she consistently volunteered and worked at club events. Recognizing the sacrifice Donna made in giving up her own running to support the club, the club held the Donna Run in the fall of 1979 so that she could run. Donna helped the club operate by securing coolers and cones, running elections and helping with the selection of the club name and logo. She would coordinate with the Parks Department so that Plano Pacers could use the department's van to travel together to races, such as the Cowtown Marathon in February 1980. Donna's initiative and dedication established the foundation of our club as it grew from 20 members to over 100. She held the club together as it took off during its first two years, and through four administrations. She was involved in publicity for the club, membership, trophies, t-shirts, parking, equipment, prizes, and every other possible facet of the club. Bill Fatt, in our June 1980 newsletter, noted that without Donna, he doubted there would be a Plano Pacers' Running Club. Our club mourned Donna's death in a boating accident in May 1980.

Through her involvement in every part of the club from A to Z, Donna made significant contributions to meeting the objectives of the Plano Pacers Running Club, Inc. For all the reasons documented in this letter the Plano Pacers Running Club takes great pride in naming Donna Smith a charter member in the Plano Pacers Hall of Fame.

James Royal, President

Date