



Sabrina Patterson Memorial Marathon seen as a success

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Approximately \$15,000 raised for domestic violence as nearly 90 runners participate

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The family of Sabrina Patterson were an inspiration on the weekend.

Over the last three months, the family has been organizing a memorial marathon in Sabrina's name. And on Saturday, about \$15,000 was raised and almost 90 runners showed up to walk, jog or run in her honor, all wearing purple - the official colour of domestic violence awareness.

"I wanted to see a sea of purple today and if you look around you definitely can see a sea of purple," said Denise Murphy, Sabrina's sister. "We have about at least 100 people in purple shirts."

The story of Sabrina Patterson's disappearance, and the discovery of her body by the side of a road near Shenstone a few days later, sent shock waves through south-eastern New Brunswick last fall. Her former boyfriend has been charged with Sabrina's murder.

The case is scheduled to go before the courts in July.

But Saturday was a day of healing, said Murphy.

"Sabrina was a victim of domestic violence and we just really felt a marathon would be a healing thing for us, just to be able to plan this and hopefully help someone else later," she said.

Murphy was all smiles as she finished the last of her five kilometres, with children all around her. The marathon was held at the Tantramar Veterans Memorial Civic Center in Sackville. People could choose to run a 5K, 11K, 21.1K or 42.2K.

Murphy and her brother, Dave Patterson, organized the event and decided proceeds would go to Crossroads for Women- an organization women who are experiencing domestic violence can turn to.

Tina Thibodeau, Executive Director of Crossroads for Women, was at the event, wearing purple from head to toe and giving some information on Crossroads for Women.

"The main program is a transition house," Thibodeau said. "A shelter for women, if they are escaping abuse they come to us, they can stay with us for up to 30 days."

"There is a second stage shelter where they can stay in an apartment for up to a year and we follow them and we help them with the transition and help them get back into the community."

The organization also travels to schools in the area to speak on healthy relationships and has a crisis line 24/7.

"It's not for everyone, a shelter. But you can come visit us 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We're there to help do the transition, or just to talk if you need to talk," she said. "Often we'll say we're thankful for the women we meet at Crossroads and we pray for the women we don't."

Dale Patterson said it was the perfect organization to send the proceeds.

"It's something that happens a lot and some people don't know theres a place to go, that there's a way out but there really is," he said. "We just wanted more or less to let people know that there's a way out, that they don't have to put up with that."

Thibodeau said she was inspired when the family told her they wanted to proceeds to go to the organization.

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