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## Pounding the Pavement in Seymour raises funds, spirits



By Patricia Villers

SEYMOUR - The day may have been cloudy but the love and support shown Saturday to survivors of breast cancer brought sunshine to downtown.

The fifth annual Pounding the Pavement for Pink is sponsored by Seymour Pink, a community's fight against breast cancer.

Mary Deming founded the nonprofit organization in 2009 to honor the memory of her mother, Theodosia McInerney, who died from breast cancer at 55.

Saturday's 5K drew 2,400 runners and walkers. And, as of Sunday, raised close to \$66,000 in donations.

I participated for the fourth year as a walker with Circle of Friends, a breast cancer support group from Griffin Hospital in Derby, and we had a blast.

And, true to form, we came in last.

We walk, we chat. We stop for water, we laugh. We take photos, we thank residents for decorating their homes in all things pink to brighten the route, and generally have fun.

Kudos and a big thank you go out to Seymour Pink founder Mary Deming, the board, and all the volunteers that make the 5K a wonderful community event.

See a video of the start of the 5K: <https://youtu.be/8JMospWQt-c>

Learn more about the great work of Seymour Pink FB: <https://www.facebook.com/seymourpink/?ref=ts>



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# United Way kickoff showcases new Emmett O'Brien

By Patricia Villers

ANSONIA - The newly-renovated Emmett O'Brien Technical High School served as a backdrop last week for Valley United Way's 49th annual Community Campaign kickoff.

Iroquois Pipeline Operating Co. sponsored a reception in the school's new cafeteria. Hors d'oeuvres were prepared and served by the school's culinary department students.

Campaign chairman Jimmy Tickey said the fund-raising goal is \$1 million.

Outgoing Valley United Way President and C.O.O. Jack Walsh said it was the 41st campaign in which he participated. He said, "If everybody gives a little, nobody has to give a lot." Walsh will retire in November.



Ansonia Mayor David S. Cassetti, O'Brien Class of 1979, welcomed Valley United Way supporters. He said he was the first O'Brien alumnus to become mayor.

O'Brien Principal Laurie LeBouthillier welcomed the group and said her staff works hard "to provide you with students that are ready for the work force."

Jennifer Olson, Principal of Irving School in Derby, expressed gratitude to the Valley United Way's Corporate Volunteer Council.

She said the Council's Back to School program greatly helped 134 needy students who received assistance in August to prepare for school.



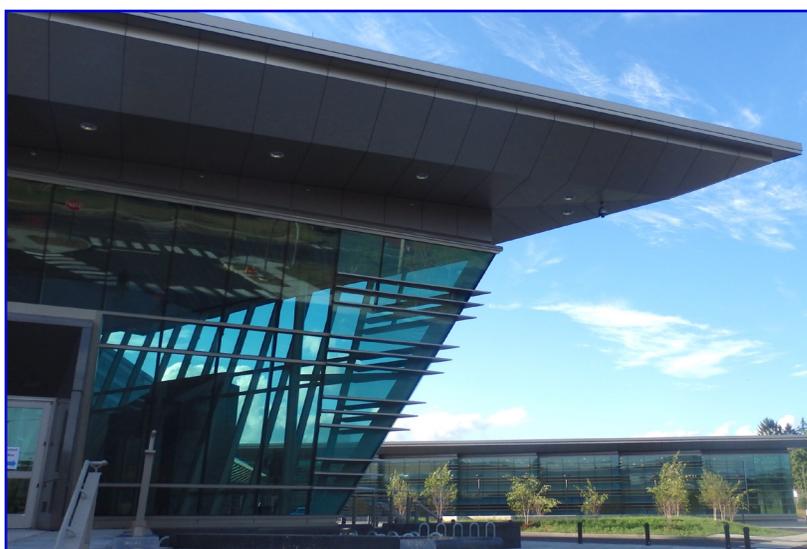
The donation of two sets of new clothing, shoes, backpacks, and supplies to the children has resulted in reduced absenteeism rates, she added.

My husband, Ralph, and I were glad to get an opportunity to tour the new O'Brien building after its receiving \$94.3 million in enhancements.

Since we live around the corner from the school we saw the construction progress during over the past two years.

More impressive than its architecture are its upgraded shops we saw on a tour, including the Electrical, Health Technology, Machining, Information Technology and Hairdressing and Cosmetology.

It was worth the wait.



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