



Freeze for Food Final Report
March 2, 2019 Event
Submitted by Lauren Troxtel, Race Director

Wisconsin's winter held out this year for the participants in the Freeze for Food 5K/10K fundraiser. It was around 24 degrees outside with winds from 1-6 mph. Many runners came prepared with ice clips on their shoes since the running path was slick with ice. On March 2, 2019, 185 runners and walkers turned out to support food security projects. Their registration fees and your sponsorship support Open Doors for Refugees, who received \$5,800.

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	Julian Gary	M	14	18:24.5
	Julia Barnes	F	22	21:39.2
10K	Jeffrey Butterworth	M	28	36:47.6
	Julia Barnes	F	22	45:17.1

This was the 38th annual Freeze for Food, which has now raised over \$95,000 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 Illinois, Minnesota and Virginia – as well as international students. We welcomed a number of refugees who participated in the 5K and

10K race event. Several refugee children also tried ice skating on the lagoon for the first time ever! We were especially pleased to welcome an Ethiopian adoptee who first ran in 2015 and placed first in his age group, then returned this year to place 2nd in his age group (<21), and 3rd overall, despite fighting a cold!



Promotion for the event resulted in coverage from both [NBC15](#) and [WKOW \(Channel 27\)](#) television stations for their nightly newscasts.

Dozens of volunteers showed up to make the day successful. This year the RPCVs of Madison Calendar Committee covered \$2,000 of the \$3,073 in race expenses. Event coordinators Lauren Troxtel, Tom Felhofer, Stephanie Shelton, Kate Schachter and Madeline Ura-neck wish to thank the generous sponsors who helped support this endeavor, through donations or goods in kind: Capital Richter Insurance, Felhofer CPA, Monroe Street Family Dental, Old National Bank, Festival Foods, Panera Bread, Colectivo Coffee, Einstein Bagels, Forever Bagels, Movin' Shoes 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 \$5,800 raised by the 2019 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 newcomers 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 that has slashed the number of refugees accepted for resettlement in the U.S., Open Doors for Refugees helps 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 39th annual Freeze for Food, set for March 7, 2020. Follow the event on our [Facebook](#) page, FreezeForFood.