

9/4/08

Race a milestone for physical therapy patients

By Nicole Hollimon Fayette Neighbor News Editor



Chris Manley

Marietta resident Justin Campagna works with physical therapist Sheila Ford at Center IMT Atlanta in Fayetteville.

Advertisement

Saturday's Toga Trot 5K will be an important day for the employees and clients of Center IMT Atlanta, a physical therapy facility in Fayetteville.

"These are all clients who were told they would never, ever walk," said Dr. Sue Leger, the facility's general manager and the event's title sponsor.

Organized by the Peachtree City Rotary Club and the Atlanta Southern Crescent Alumnae Panhellenic Association, proceeds will benefit the Association's Scholarship Fund and the Rotary Polio Eradication Fund.

Ms. Leger said several of her clients were itching to participate in something.

"They want to be able to walk across the finish line, whether they're walking with their cane or walking with their walker," said Ms. Leger.

For client and Marietta resident Justin Campagna, the race will represent how far he has come since a serious car accident left him with a severe spinal cord injury – a major blow to an athlete who loved running the 100 meter dash in high school.

"It's exactly five years to the day of the accident and he was not supposed to live," said Ms. Leger.

Though none of the center's clients can complete the 5K or the one mile walk/run, they can do something.

"I want each of my guys to get a plaque – Justin's will say 100 meters," Ms. Leger said.

She hopes the race will be a "great experience" for them.

"For me, it's about these guys," said Ms. Leger. "It's such a big deal for us."

The Peachtree City Toga Trot will be held Saturday at 8 a.m. at the Phi Mu National Headquarters, 400 Westpark Drive in Peachtree City. Race day registration is \$25.

Information: www.togatrot5k.com