

Ben's Memorial Mile honors DGS student's memory

Event to raise money for mental health research

By **NATHAN LURZ**

nlurz@shawmedia.com

DOWNERS GROVE – Two years removed from the death of a Downers Grove North High School champion runner, his friends, family and community will come together to honor his memory and raise money for schizophrenia during the second annual Ben's Memorial Run on June 17.

Last year, more than 400 people attended the inaugural event in memory of Ben Silver, who died July 2, 2015, at the age of 22.

Runners and fundraisers donated more than \$22,000 for mental health research and support.

Event organizer and Ben's mother, Jamie Silver, said she felt confident this year's event would be even bigger.

"Ben was a lover of fun. ...

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Register for the Ben's Memorial Mile on June 17 at bensmemorialmile.com.

He was really warm, and that spirit of warmth I think is the spirit of Downers Grove," she said. "I see this becoming a family tradition."

Activities include the Ben's Memorial Mile, a memorial walk, the Ben's Costume Mile, a relay race, a kids' half mile, and a little kids' 100-meter dash – all accompanied by music, booths, food, raffles and fun.

Members of the local cross country and track community will be on hand to celebrate the life of Ben Silver, including former competitors, coaches and legendary North Central College coach Al Carius.

Proceeds of the event will go toward suicide prevention nonprofit Hope for the Day, which has partnered with



Children start the kids' half mile race at the inaugural Ben's Memorial Run on the Downers Grove North High School track in 2016. This year's event takes place June 17.

Bill Ackerman - For Shaw Media

Ben's Memorial Mile in this year's event, and the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation.

"Last year was a fantastic

success, and what was so fantastic was that it brought together people from all over," Jamie Silver said. "Cheering each other on, running as

teams, children, adults – it brought back that incredible feeling of track and how fun it is for the families that were there."