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Navient raises \$19,000 during second Ladders & Laces 5K and Jeans BeCause program to support Hanover Township Fire Department

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., April 24, 2017 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Northeastern Pennsylvania residents were awake early yesterday to show their support for the Hanover Township Fire Department. Volunteers for Navient's second Ladders & Laces 5K race and Jeans BeCause program raised \$19,000 to assist in the construction of a new firehouse for the fire department.

A photo accompanying this announcement is available at

<http://www.globenewswire.com/NewsRoom/AttachmentNg/5f3149b9-515a-45fe-9e03-231fe77b1fed>

"Another year has gone by since we were honored with the proceeds from the first Ladders & Laces 5K race, sponsored by the fine folks at Navient. Each day, we think about their generosity. They are a fantastic organization and the proceeds raised for us have helped us tremendously in staying successful in providing the best emergency services to those who live, work and travel through Hanover Township," said Joe Temarantz, department chief, Hanover Township Fire Department. "The funds have been utilized to purchase updated equipment and have also allowed us to purchase items needed for the long awaited new fire headquarters, which is well underway. When we are out in the public helping people at all hours, it can be a thankless job. We truly can't express how much we appreciate the fact that Navient and all its employees take the time to think of us."

About 140 participants turned out for the race with their headphones and water bottles, with some runners in shorts and t-shirts enjoying the spring weather.

The 3.1-mile competition extended through Lasley Avenue, New Commerce Boulevard and Stewart Road, ending at Robinson Circle.

In addition to the 5K, employees raised funds to support the local firehouse through Navient's popular Jeans BeCause program. The program allows participating employees a "pass" to dress casually for the month in exchange for volunteer donations.

"We are so proud of yesterday's turnout and all the hard work of our volunteers and employees who have made this possible for a second year in a row," said Lisa Stashik, vice president, Navient. "We are grateful for the dedication and commitment of the Hanover Township Fire Department to our area, and this is our way of saying thank you."

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