

SOCCI STILETTO STAMPEDE

Community Camera: Socci Stiletto Stampede better than ever in Skaneateles, organizers say



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SKANEATELES | Before anyone knew what happened, John Socci started running as fast as his high heels could take him.

He was a nurse on the move Sunday morning, dressed in little but a white nursing cap atop his head and a matching frock. A pair of silver stilettos completed his ensemble.

With a straight 50-yard path ahead of him at the Lodge at Welch Allyn, Socci turned to look back

a few times. Over his shoulder, he saw the 25 or so others clad in heels who were waiting for the race's official start.

They later joined Socci at the finish line of the Socci Stiletto Stampede, finishing amid the cheers of hundreds who turned out in Skaneateles Sunday for the fourth annual fundraiser.

In the end, the stampede was won by Mark Colaneri, who raced in nothing but a star-spangled pair of underwear, a cowboy hat and a pair of glittering pumps.

And though Socci ultimately disqualified himself — "I just wanted to get a good start," he joked — he said he was very proud of the community's turnout, with hundreds attending in honor of his daughter.

Next Sunday will be four years since Auburn nurse Katie Socci was killed by her ex-boyfriend, David McNamara. As part of an effort to raise awareness about domestic violence and preserve Katie Socci's legacy, family and friends have continued organizing the Socci Stiletto Stampede.

That includes both the 50-yard dash and the subsequent 5K run/walk that saw, Socci said, around 350 registrants on Sunday.

"It's been incredible," Socci said of the event. "The Allyn family deserves a lot of credit for offering this and backing the entire thing. The staff is catering it — it's the first time we've had a catered meal. It's a big step up."

The stampede has been hosted previously in the Liverpool area, but [organizers were keen](#) on bringing the event closer to Katie Socci's hometown as a celebration of Katie Socci, not a

memorial, said co-organizer Erin Colaneri.

"People come because of Katie," Erin Colaneri said. "There are a million and one races, but they come for Katie because it's just her spirit. She was magnetic."

The races were followed by a reception at the Lodge where Syracuse agency Vera House displayed a newly made "Silent Witness" panel personalized to Katie Socci's case. Well over five-feet tall, the poster details her story as part of the awareness effort.

Proceeds from the Stiletto Stampede will go toward Vera House and the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, organizers said.

"It's wonderful, and hopefully the fundraiser brings awareness to conversation and important things to honor her memory," said Randi Bregman, executive director of Vera House.

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To see a photo gallery from this event, read this story at www.auburnpub.com