



Runners come together for a 1.5 mile race to raise money for Camp Twin Lakes, which provides camp experiences for children with serious illnesses, disabilities and other challenges. Devika Rao Special

Skin deep: Atlantans brave the cold for Camp Twin Lakes

Atlanta Santa Speedo Run earns \$50,000 for youths in need.

By **Devika Rao**
For the A.J.C.

In Atlanta's cold weather takeover, it would seem impractical to dress up and run around in a Speedo. However, when dressing up and running around in a Speedo is for a good cause, over 200 people signed up and braved the cold.

Dressed up in Speedos, Atlantans came to run in the 2nd annual Atlanta Santa Speedo Run that took place on Dec. 11 in Virginia Highlands. The scantily clad crowd came to run in support of Camp Twin Lakes, a network of camps providing life-changing camp experiences to thousands of children with serious illnesses, disabilities and challenges.

"Our camps are really to allow children, who may be in a wheelchair or in a circumstance that sets them apart in school, to be in a place where they get to be with kids just like them," said Michelle Krebs, marketing and events manager of Camp Twin Lakes.

The race was co-founded last year by Tom Jung, who thought to bring the idea to Atlanta after seeing the race in Boston.

"I thought it would be a perfect fit for Atlanta as it is not only fun, but a fun way to give something back to the community," Jung said.

Partnering with the Atlanta Santa Speedo Run has helped Camp Twin Lakes spread the word and raise awareness about its program.

"We serve over 8,000 campers in a calendar year and we subsidize 80 percent of the campers' costs," Krebs said. "Events such as these help us extend our camp experiences to more campers."

The 1.5 mile race raised more than \$50,000 for Camp Twin Lakes, which will allow over 60 campers to attend the organization's programs.

Who's doing good?

Each Tuesday, we write about the prior week's charity events such as fun-runs, volunteer projects and other community gatherings that benefit a good cause. To suggest an event for us to cover, contact Devika Rao at doinggoodAJC@gmail.com.