

## SCENE REPORT

# Fun for a Cause at the Flutie 5K

By JOE R. PARZYCH

**BERNARDSTON** – Yours truly, the photo beat guy, reported from the scene of the Flutie 5K for Autism, held at Pratt Field in Bernardston on Saturday by the United Arc of Franklin County. Many participated in running and walking for autism, and everyone had a great time and raised a lot of money for a good cause.

There was food, music, and fun for everyone to enjoy.

Last year I donated my photography – a photo of the Franklin County Fair – to the United Arc raffle in honor of my late aunt Christine Parzych, a native of Gill who passed away in 2022.

Christine was born with Down syndrome and was an artist and a fan of Sesame Street and the Muppets. She loved all kinds of music from the '70s, '80s, and '90s – she was a fan of Guns N' Roses – and traveling. She was loved by her family and many friends, and par-



PARZYCH PHOTO

*Ninety-three participants ran or walked in the 2025 Flutie 5K last Saturday. Gabriel Ramirez of Greenfield, at right, won first place with a time of 8:15.8.*

*Full results are available at [www.runsignup.com](http://www.runsignup.com).*

ticipated in the Special Olympics.

She attended Deerfield Academy and many other schools, and was part of United Arc and Pathlight. My late grandmother and grandfather, Edna Carleton Parzych and Joseph A. Parzych of

Gill, both volunteered as founding members of the United Arc of Franklin County board of directors. My grandfather, who owned and operated an excavating company, dug the foundation of United

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Arc's offices on Summer Street.

The United Arc advocates and provides supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including apartments in Greenfield. The Arc is nationwide, and has many agencies at the local, state, and federal level. The Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism empowers families and individuals affected by autism.

To learn more about the United Arc and the Flutie Foundation, check out [www.flutiefoundation.org](http://www.flutiefoundation.org) and [www.theunitedarc.org](http://www.theunitedarc.org). Please support them – they are awesome organizations. The United Arc is always looking for people to volunteer.

*Joe R. Parzych has 27-plus years of experience as a freelance photojournalist and writer. His unique photographic storytelling provides an autistic perspective to everyday objects that people overlook in our community.*



PARZYCH PHOTOS

*Abore: Volunteers look on as runners round the cones.*

*At right: United Arc CEO Fred Warren gives a heartwarming hug to event and communication generalist Sandra Vecchio.*

