

Miles for Meaning: Brace Up and Race Up 5K—Sarah Greenbaum '24

Sarah Greenbaum, a freshman at Northview High School, has faced the physical and emotional challenges of scoliosis, a condition that causes the spine to curve abnormally. During her treatment, she received a Higgy Bear, a stuffed animal designed for children with scoliosis, which became a source of comfort and now serves as inspiration for her to make a difference.

Miles for Meaning: Brace Up and Race Up 5K. Inspired by the impact of Higgy Bears, Sarah and two friends—one of whom also has scoliosis—are launching Miles for Meaning, an organization dedicated to hosting races that support nonprofit causes. Their first major event, “Brace Up and Race Up 5K,” aims to raise funds to donate Higgy Bears to children in hospitals across Atlanta and neighboring states. Funds will be collected through participant entry fees, with 100% of proceeds going directly to the cause. To cover race expenses, the team has secured—and is actively seeking—sponsors, ensuring that all money raised by runners supports children in need. By organizing this event, Sarah and her team hope to bring both awareness and comfort to young scoliosis patients.

With the help of this grant, Sarah will be able to purchase race bibs and rent timing equipment, making the Brace Up and Race Up 5K more professional and appealing to runners who track personal records (PRs). A proper timing system will also allow the race to be registered on RunSignUp, increasing visibility and participation.



Any remaining funds, along with additional fundraising efforts, will help cover police presence, a requirement for race routes, and overall safety. With these resources in place, the event will attract more participants, run smoothly, and successfully raise funds to provide Higgy Bears for children with scoliosis—helping them feel seen, supported, and less alone in their journey.

Sarah’s dedication to turning her personal struggles into a force for good is a testament to her resilience and unwavering commitment to helping others. By creating Miles for Meaning and organizing the Brace Up and Race Up 5K, she not only lifts up children facing the same obstacles she once did, but also exemplifies the values of kindness, perseverance, and service instilled in her at The Davis Academy. Her journey proves that even the hardest challenges can be transformed into opportunities to make a lasting impact.

For over a year, I had to wear a brace, and it felt like being trapped in a hard shell. It wasn't just uncomfortable—it was a constant reminder that I was different. I struggled to feel good about myself, and even simple things, like eating, became difficult. But then I got a Higgy Bear—a little stuffed friend with a brace like mine. Suddenly, I didn't feel so alone, and that small emotional comfort made a big difference."

Amalia Haviv '18
Nutrition Education

Maya Laufer '18
Foster Care Support

Zoe Bober '16
Services at
The Refuge House

**Josh Isaacs '18
& Alon Rogow '18**
Pressure Wish

Isabelle Mokotoff '16
SteadyScrib

Caitlyn Pinkser '19
Positive Mirroring

Leah Tuck '15
A Spark of Art

Annie Marcus '22
Annie's Homeless Bags

Harris Unell '22
Recycling Tennis Balls

Noah Diamond '21
Pergola Restoration Project

**Summer Folbaum '21
& Noa Kadoori '21**
Loaves of Love

Zoe Gordon '22
Curvy Girls Scoliosis