



It's been a busy fall for us here at Breaking the Chain Through Education. Our biggest event of the year, our **7th Annual Fundraising Dinner**, is just weeks away on Wednesday, December 7th at The Wilshire Grand in West Orange. **Please join us for a fabulous online auction and Ghanaian market, a delicious buffet dinner and an inspirational presentation!** [Purchase Tickets](#)

Our silent auction opens this Sunday morning, November 20th online featuring 50 fabulous prizes including handbags, restaurant gift cards, theatre tickets and more. The auction concludes during the Dinner, but winners need not be present. [Bid in Auction](#)

Our event also features a raffle for **Hamilton on Broadway** tickets! Your chance to win the perfect gift for the theatre lover on your list. Enter to win 2 house seats to see Hamilton on Broadway (NYC, London, Australia or a touring company date in North America). Value \$898. Winner chooses 2-3 dates, at least 21 days in advance. Tickets must be used by 6/7/23. \$25/ticket. Only up to 500 tickets will be sold. Winner need not be present to win. [Purchase Raffle Tickets](#)

Our **5th Annual Sam Liss Memorial 5K** was held last month. Enjoy this recap:



It was a crisp Sunday morning in late October. Temperatures were just a few degrees above freezing, and the sun was just peeking over the horizon. A good morning to curl up underneath the quilt. Why were over 300 people gathering on the ballfields behind the Metuchen High School building?

The occasion was the 5th annual Sam Liss Memorial 5K race. The event, named after Sam Liss, a member of the Breaking the Chain Through Education (BTCTE) chapter at MHS who died of cancer in 2017, has become a signature event in the Metuchen community calendar.

The mission of BTCTE, which is dedicated to rescuing children in Ghana from the horrible effects of forced labor, was very much on the mind of the student volunteers. "I'm very willing to sacrifice a few hours of sleep to help others. It's a small price to pay," said Sarah Lifton, an MHS senior. "You have a real sense that you're helping," said Hannah Soden, a second-year volunteer who has belonged to BTCTE since elementary school.

The importance of BTCTE's mission did not detract from the festive atmosphere that Sunday morning. In addition to the many serious runners wearing running shoes and bright, yellow bib numbers were participants with less ambitious goals over the 5,000-meter course. They ranged in age from 7 to 82, not counting the little ones being pushed along the route in their strollers. Many participants belonged to teams, the largest of which was from Temple Emanuel-EI in Metuchen, where Sam Liss attended. Parents, kids, and even dogs sported brightly-colored Halloween costumes.

One recurring theme among the attendees was the sense of community engendered by BTCTE. Anna Pierson, a senior, exclaimed: "It's great to be part of the community!" "There's a big sense of community," said Natalie Stoecker, an MHS junior volunteering for the fourth time. "We're all on the same team," said Annabel Fedun, a junior at MHS. "I'm helping my community," said Michael Zetino, an MHS junior who DJ'ed the event.

The event sponsors, who together contributed over \$30,000 to BTCTE, were as committed to the cause as the students. David Sachs, a local attorney and member of the BTCTE Board of Directors, was on the school grounds bright and early. "It's a wonderful cause. We watched these kids in Ghana going from having virtually nothing to getting an education and a trade. Some have started their own businesses." As with the students, he noted the strong sense of community: "Everybody's in this together. It's one of those little things that helps restore your faith in humanity."

Events of this size don't just happen. "I can't be thankful enough for all of the time and effort the volunteers put in," said Evan Robbins, founder and president of BTCTE. "The children of Ghana are especially appreciative of all the effort people have put into this event."

The winners of the costume competition (with students as volunteer judges) were a family where the father was dressed as a chocolate chip cookie, the mother as a carton of milk, and the baby as Cookie Monster. The race was won by Norbert Kuter of Newark, New Jersey (overall) and Karen Logan of Metuchen (women). But in a larger sense, all 300+ participants and volunteers were winners.



Thank you to all who support BTCTE!
If you would like to donate, please [Click Here](#).

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