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Stand Against Racism

Eastside YMCA Walks For A Cause

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Rain couldn't stop the word from being spread.

The Eastside YMCA kids and staff marched for racism awareness through the weather Friday, ending at the Joint Neighborhood Project on Second Street.

"The weather's not going to stop this," Billy Torres, Eastside YMCA branch manager, said. "We're going to have to disregard this. The word has to be spread that we have to deny racism."

The young people were joined by representatives of Boy Scout Troop 122, Cub Scout Troop 122, Joint Neighborhood Project, Neighborhood Watch Coalition and A.M. Rotary of Greater Jamestown, as well as county legislators Chuck Cornell and Vickye James.

"It's a good event and we have a good turnout," Torres said. "We have a lot going on."

The YMCA kids were dressed in homemade anti-racism T-shirts and each carried a homemade sign. The Boy Scouts led the parade, carrying a large sign reading "Racism Hurts Everyone."

With honks of support coming from the passing traffic, the parade marched up East Second Street, dodging puddles along the way. When the sopping wet brigade arrived at the Joint Neighborhood Project building, a group emerged to perform a rap and dance on the topic of racism.

"The Joint Neighborhood Project and the Eastside YMCA try to work very closely together, because many of the families that come to Joint Neighborhood Project also go to the Eastside Y," Patty Perlee, executive director of the Joint Neighborhood Project, said. "The kids wrote the rap song and performed it for us, and it was great."

Ms. Perlee said the event showcased young people who are primed to make a difference in the eastside neighborhood.

"The children really are our future," she said. "They're the jewels of this neighborhood. We're just really happy to have them walk on up here today in the rain."

Article Photos



Eastside YMCA representatives, led by Boy Scout Troop 122, march up East Second Street on Friday afternoon as part of their Stand Against Racism event. P-J photo by Dave Emke

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