

The Fourth Annual Coleen Walker Relays

April 5, 2008 marked the day of the Fourth Annual Coleen Walker Relays in honor of Coleen Walker, a long-time special education teacher in Crosby ISD. The Coleen Walker Relays are a very special event in Crosby because they give special education kids from not only Crosby, but also Huffman and Onalaska, a chance to come out and compete in track and field events.

It was a cold morning at seven o'clock when the Crosby High School JROTC came in to help set up. Without them this event wouldn't have been possible. The JROTC wasn't the only volunteers however; volunteers poured onto the Crosby High School football field from all over to help. It took a little while to set up for the event— but it was all worth it.

The kids began arriving between eight and nine, and their enthusiasm and joy warmed up each and every person at the event. The ceremony began at 9 a.m. with a parade around the track of all the kids with their teachers and volunteers. From there, the events began. First up were the softball toss and the long jump.

At the softball toss, the kids had two chances to throw the softball as far as they could, and they could throw far. Each kid was overjoyed to be outside and just having fun. It was like watching kids in a candy store. In the jumping events, the kids all ran out and jumped in the sand pit just like the track stars would.

Once the softball toss and jumping were over, it was time for the running events. These weren't your typical running events however. There were walking events, running events, and even events for kids in wheelchairs to run in. The kids ran, and ran, and ran (even in the walking events). They couldn't have been happier if they won or if someone else won.

Finally, the event culminated at the awards ceremony. Each and every kid got a medal for participating because they all were truly winners. Every face lit up when their name was called to get a medal. Most ran up to the table, overjoyed and amazed, and took a picture with a new friend. To them, everyone did win and everyone was their friend. That's how it should be; we should all have the enthusiasm and love for others that these kids possess.

Not only were the kids happy, but you could see the joy in all the volunteers, including the teenagers. When you looked at these kids and saw how much fun they were having, and you knew you helped with that, you couldn't help but smile.

Somewhere, Mrs. Walker is looking down with a big smile on her face; she sees what all these volunteers have done to honor her memory and what she loved to do— help special needs children. She, just like the kids, couldn't be happier. Because that is what it is all about— helping kids and making their lives fun and enjoyable.