

## Walking, Running, and Raising Toward a Cure

### Whelan Brothers Receive Excellence in Civic Engagement Award

With dedication and motivation 5th and 2nd graders Larry and Charlie Whelan organized fundraisers at McBrayer Elementary School to help fund research to cure multiple sclerosis.

For their efforts, the boys recently received an "Excellence in Civic Engagement Award" at Morehead State University's Constitution Days celebration. The Morehead-Rowan County Chamber of Commerce and the MSU Center of Regional Engagement sponsored this recognition program.

"The boys have shared with their classmates and school community about the disease and impact it has on families," says Rhonda Banks, McBrayer Elementary principal. "They have, with the help of their parents, organized contests between classrooms and individuals to raise money to support the Multiple Sclerosis Walk."

"Everyone brings in money to their homeroom bucket because the room with the most money gets a pizza party," Charlie says.

The brothers also participate in the local MS Walk. Their dad, Rick Whelan, chairs the event. Rick is effected by relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis. Not only has the disease



impacted the boys' lives, it also inspired them to bring awareness to others and motivated them to raise money to support MS research.

"I enjoy raising money at school and running at the MS Walk because it goes to find a way our dad can get better," Larry says.

"I walk a lap at the MS Walk and go get a donut," Charlie says. "Then I walk another lap and get another donut and do that over and over again."

Thanks to the boy's fundraising efforts, McBrayer Elementary School raised over \$500 and qualified as a 2008 community sponsor for Morehead's Walk for Multiple Sclerosis. The Whelans thank all those who contributed to the \$23,000 that was raised locally. Donations will continue to be collected until the end of October.