

# Annual 'Steel City Duck Derby' raises thousands for nonprofit agencies

By Thomas Leturgey  
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Thousands of Pittsburghers were on hand for the Third Annual Partners for Quality "Steel City Duck Derby" at Allegheny Commons Park on the North Side.

For weeks, interested donors had the ability to "adopt" one rubber duck or up to 100 before organizers poured 10,000 of them from a bridge into Lake Elizabeth. Accompanied by music and a dancing duck mascot, "racing" enthusiasts could then "cheer on" the scores of bath toys as they were shooed toward a tube at the far end of the small lake in the city's oldest park by a volunteer with a leaf blower.

There, volunteers scooped them up for prizes ranging from a \$100 restaurant gift card to \$2,000 cash and a \$500 gift card to a nearby restaurant.

In addition to the main event, those in attendance enjoyed live entertainment, visited game tables, face painting stations, as well as the community group offerings and food trucks.

All proceeds from the event benefited Partners For Quality family of nonprofit agencies. The agency provides administrative management for organizations that serve individuals

with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as behavioral health challenges.

According to their website, "Serving Allegheny County since 1975, Partners For Quality, through its subsidiaries, supports about 5,000 people annually and employs more than 1,000 across its organizations. Partners For Quality subsidiaries have earned accreditation from The Council on Quality Leadership, The Council on Accreditation, and the Sanctuary Institute (for trauma-informed care). The Partners For Quality Family of nonprofit agencies includes: Allegheny Children's Initiative, serving children and families with behavioral health challenges; Citizen Care, which provides residential and community-based supports and services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; Exceptional Adventures, an agency that provides travel opportunities to individuals with disabilities; Milestone Centers, serving individuals with developmental and behavioral health challenges, including two Health Care Quality Units in Butler and Warren which train professionals in 18 counties; and Partners For Quality Foundation, which raises funds for all



Some 10,000 plastic ducks were "let loose" on Lake Elizabeth for the Partners For Quality 3rd Annual "Steel City Duck Derby." Photo credit Marion Leturgey.

services throughout the family of agencies."

The agencies have offices and personal care homes in McKees Rocks, Penn Hills and the South Side.

"We are thankful for all who

donated and showed up today," said Maggie Rothenberger, President, and CEO of Quality for Quality.

Nearly all 10,000 rubber ducks were adopted on Saturday and residents from all four corners

of Allegheny County came out for the family-friendly event. In recent months, the agency has had a Celebrity Bar Ter event, as well as a Comedy N and a Bob Pompeani-hosted Classic is scheduled for