



The first Charity Run in 1987 was proposed by Mr. Chuck Wilson, known for his sportsmanship and acting. For the past 25 years as chairperson, his contribution in the run has spread to nation wide.

YMCA Charity Run-25 years of Caring

Approximately 30 years ago, due to certain circumstances, I was thrust into a position of public recognition. The results of this public attention were both positive and negative, but as a result when I was approached by an old acquaintance to use this position to help those less fortunate, I thought that this was an opportunity to accomplish something of genuine benefit to mankind.

I am not a particularly religious person and my relationship with God has always been intensely personal, but I felt that here was an opportunity to use my abilities and position to do what it had been intended for me to do.

I prepared a plan for a charity run. Initially there was a certain amount of reluctance, however, after some persuasion, the YMCA agreed to give me a chance.

The first Charity Run was conducted around the Imperial Palace with about 4 weeks' preparation and was very successful with 27 teams. I still remember conducting the first pre-run warm-up exercises with a 10-year old girl with both arms and legs encased in metal braces. I think that little girl taught everyone there the meaning of courage and reinforced our resolve to continue the Charity Runs.

We have come a long way in 25 years. The YMCA Charity Runs are held annually in 16 cities, with thousands of participants, supporters and volunteers. We have provided a great deal of financial aid which has helped uncounted numbers of mentally and physically challenged children. A tribute to the care and concern of all those volunteers who have truly demonstrated the dictate of Love for your fellow man.

If God is watching, I'm sure he is smiling on all of those who have participated these past 25 years.

Thanks to all of Charity Run Volunteers for all that you have done.

September, 2011

Charles Wilson