
people

104,000 US DOLLARS RAISED AT CHICAGO MARATHON

NEVER GIVE UP

For many years, the LaSalleBank Chicago Marathon has belonged to the world's "Big Five" with about 40,000 runners and 1.5 million spectators. Every year, there is a team of runners representing the world's biggest aid organization for leukemia and lymphoma (the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society) to raise money for the cause. The team took part again this year, in the 28th marathon on October 22, 2006. This time, however, the President and CEO of MAN Ferrostaal Incorporated was among the runners – Uwe T. Schmidt and his wife Marilyn. It wasn't so much the marathon's lure which made the two of them take part. "We came to think about it on New Year's Eve 2005 when we were together with our family and where it's a tradition for everyone to set both personal and professional goals to be reached in the new year. It was that night that my wife and I decided to run the marathon with the sports team of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society," says Uwe Schmidt. A lot of colleagues and their families as well as customers supported their efforts. MAN Ferrostaal AG alone donated 10,000 US dollars.

This sports event raised 2.5 million US dollars altogether. The fund raising campaign of the Schmidt family reached the sum of 104,000 US dollars making it the highest donation collected by a private party.

Uwe Schmidt underlines the importance to find the time helping others despite his highly demanding job and a tight schedule. He does not deny, though, that taking part was also a lot of fun.





"It took over half an hour to get every runner started. The atmosphere was wonderful. We were running through the various colorful parts of the city such as "Little Italy" and "Chinatown". People were celebrating, cheering, playing music – it was a great feeling," Schmidt remembers fondly. Nevertheless, Uwe Schmidt and his wife had to grit their teeth at times. It's no walk in the park to be running five hours non-stop. But giving up was out of the question. "Of course, knees and tendons were sore. But that's nothing compared to people's pain when they have cancer. We have had the privilege of many several people who have beat cancer in recent years, and have been deeply impressed by their determination and spirit. Giving up in anything one has

put their mind to is and was out of the question," Uwe and Marilyn Schmidt confirm in unison.

And so they hope that their efforts and the help of so many other people will contribute to reaching the final goal – a cure for cancer.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is based in Chicago. Their mission is to fight leukemia and other kinds of blood cancer. The society invests the available means not only in research but also in the improvement of the quality of patients' and their families' lives. ■