



The "Let's Get Runnin'" program was honored in the "Community Winner's Circle" at Suffolk Downs on Saturday, June 4. From left to right: Dan Hatfield and Adam Normandin of "Let's Get Movin'," Umana Middle school 6th grade student Saul Granados, jockey Ryan Barber and Suffolk Downs' Chief Operating Officer Chip Tuttle.

Let's Get Runnin' program honored

Members of "Let's Get Runnin'," a youth walk-to-run program developed through the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center in partnership with the Mario Umana Middle School in East Boston and the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, were honored in the "Community Winner's Circle" at Suffolk Downs on Saturday, June 4.

The running program, part of the health center's overall "Let's Get Movin'" initiative, aims not only to improve physical fitness and health, but also to instill values like teamwork, self-confidence, leadership, and goal-orientation.

The running program is led by Dan Hatfield and Adam Normandin.

This year, 12 sixth-grade boys participating in "Let's

Get Runnin's" pilot group have completed over 900 miles and improved their mile times by an average margin of over five minutes.

The program, which was profiled in the Boston Globe and on Neighborhood Network News, will be re-implemented and expanded for East Boston children in the coming year.

The "Community Winner's

Circle" was established in 2008 by Suffolk Downs to honor individuals and groups who have dedicated themselves to worthy causes in the local community.

Each "Community Winner's Circle" recipient is recognized by the track in a winner's circle ceremony and with a contribution to a cause of their choice.