



On Saturday and Sunday, February 28 & March 1, the Gasparilla Distance Classic Association and City of Tampa welcomed more than 20,000 runners and walkers to Downtown Tampa and Bayshore Boulevard. These were incredible numbers and while the Association celebrates the participation record, because of the huge numbers, there were challenges...challenges that impacted many.

The Publix Super Markets Gasparilla Distance Classic 15K & 5K enjoyed a growth of 2,000 runners and walkers, most of which registered the week before and on Race Day. This type of a "Late Registration" increase had never been experienced before...32% is huge.

The same situation occurred with the Gasparilla Half Marathon & Marathon Relay. There was an increase of more than 2,000...48%.

Following Race Weekend, it was determined that nearly 4,000 didn't receive a shirt, Official Finisher's Medal or both! Orders were placed and six weeks later, the long process of labeling, stuffing envelopes and applying postage began and has been completed.

Please know that we too were disappointed with the situation that was faced and at the same time, excited that there were so many that wanted to participate in the 2009 Publix Super Markets Gasparilla Distance Classic Race Weekend Events.

Unfortunately and regardless of the truthful and very real reasons, the shortages did for some, lead to a poor reflection of the organization. Some have gone so far as to question the Association's integrity.

However, as the Executive Director of the Gasparilla Distance Classic Association, I can assure you that under the wonderful but challenging circumstances, the organization did the very best that it could, and looks forward to taking steps to insure improvement in 2010.

In closing, thank you all for a successful 2009 and a special thank you to those that remained patient and understanding.

Susan ☺

P.S. Some shirts and medals have been returned to our offices due to incorrect or incomplete addresses. If you're still waiting on delivery, please contact us via email at gdca.registration@verizon.net.