

A standing ovation to all of you! What an amazing experience for the youth of Evanston! I only wish you could have heard the parent comments on the sidelines. We were blown away by the dedication, organization, and enthusiasm displayed by everyone wearing a yellow volunteer shirt. I had three participants in my family. When I tucked my youngest into bed the night of the triathlon, he looked at me and said, "THIS was the best day of my life". When I asked him why, he said it was "cool so many people came together and all you had to do was your best"! So, really the thanks needs to go to the mastermind behind this event which I believe was Craig Strong.

What an amazing role model! I am so grateful my children had this experience and count on our family for future support of this event in any way necessary. Craig, you have no idea the impact this event had on so many children. I wonder if you saw the final minutes of the senior group swim. One boy was slowly, struggling to complete his laps. He was the last child in the pool. Every breath he took was labored. The parents all began cheering and clapping for him. Then the junior participants chimed in. ALL of them yelling for this boy to keep swimming and cheering him on. When he finally exited the pool, the place went nuts. This kid had a HUGE smile on his face and he just started running to his bike. It was so sweet to see all the junior triathletes fully supporting this boys efforts. I saw the boy and his father at Starbucks yesterday. His dad said he had never scored a goal in soccer, never had a hit in baseball, but at the triathlon he was able to do the same sport as all the other kids! Needless to say that little boy was not the only proud one that day!

So, thank you for providing the city of Evanston with one of the most amazing events ever! It was remarkable and we continue to talk about how well run it was. Next year I bet you will have double the participants. All the parents are just praising your efforts!