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**NOVA's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual NO BULLYing Run – A Great Day for Running  
*Proceeds to support NOVA anti-bullying programs in local schools***

**DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY, PA** — NOVA's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual NO BULLYing 1-mile Fun Run/Walk and 5-mile Run, took place on June 9 and attracted over 400 registrants. Held at Doylestown Township's Central Park, the event helped to raise both awareness for the effects and consequences of bullying on our young people and funds for programs that support NOVA's efforts to combat bullying through school-based prevention education programs. Major event sponsors were Penn Community Bank (Title Sponsor) and Munich RE (Diamond Sponsor).

The event kicked off with a 1-mile fun run/walk through Central Park with many families and groups participating. The winner of the 1-mile fun run/walk was Shawn Esler. Following the 1-mile event was the 5-mile run through Central Park and Doylestown Township. Matthew Brown and Melissa Palermo were the first-place male and female winners for the 5-mile run.

In addition to the run/walk, there were activities including arts and crafts, a moon bounce, a photo booth, demonstrations by Action Karate and East/West Karate schools, as well as raffles for a variety of items. Children and adults also had the opportunity to participate in the Commitment Wall to End Bullying by writing and attaching notes to the wall that affirm their commitment to be kind and respectful to others.

The event is a project of NOVA's Young Professional Advisory Board, a comprehensive board preparation training initiative for young professionals who are interested in serving on nonprofit boards. This program teaches participants how to leverage their leadership skills to become effective board members. To learn more about the Young Professional Advisory Board, please contact Mandy Mundy, Senior Director of Programs and Services at 215-343-6543.

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## **ABOUT NOVA**

Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA) supports, counsels and empowers victims of sexual assault and other serious crimes in Bucks County and works to prevent and eliminate violence in society through advocacy, training, community education and prevention programs. Founded in 1974, NOVA is a non-profit 501(c)(3), community-based organization operating out of three offices in Fairless Hills, Jamison and Perkasio. Services are made possible through the financial support of federal, state and local government grants and contracts, corporations, foundations, and private donations. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. For more information, go to [www.NOVABucks.org](http://www.NOVABucks.org).

## **Editor's Note: Photo Captions**

Photo 1: Melissa Palermo (left), the first-place female winner in the 5-mile Run receives the glass bull trophy from Mandy Mundy (right), Senior Director of Programs and Services at NOVA. (Courtesy of Bucks County Aerial Video.)



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Photo 3: Shawn Esler is the proud first-place male winner of the 1-mile Run/Walk. (Courtesy of Kylie Richards Photography and Design, LLC.)



Photo 4: Young Professional Advisory Board members from left to right: Olivia DiGirolamo, Ally Kadel, and Candace Yaeger help out at the volunteer check-in table. (Courtesy of Morgan Cooper, NOVA Board Member)



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Photo 5: Matthew Brown, (center) the first-place male winner of the 5-mile Run, crossing the finish line with Mandy Mundy, Senior Director of Programs and Services, NOVA (left), and Jill Mann Development Associate, NOVA (right) Courtesy of Bucks County Aerial Video.)

