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Quinnipiac community comes together to remember Thomas Godbout at 5K event

By BRYCE INFALD
Staff Writer

Members of the Quinnipiac University community gathered Sept. 19 for a 5K fundraiser event to remember a Quinnipiac student who passed away in 2025.

The event was created to honor Thomas "Tommy" Godbout, a member of the class of 2028, who passed away from leukemia. It was run by the 1929 Fund, and the money donated by participants will be used to create a scholarship in Tommy's name. Junior political science and economics major Jack Raso played a significant role in organizing the event.

"Our goal was just to bring together the Quinnipiac community to come together for a good cause," Raso said. "This is an event that was really to raise money for a scholarship under Tommy Godbout's name; you know he's a student who passed away…from cancer and we really wanted…an event to bring everybody together behind a great cause and spread the word about the 1929 Fund."

The race started at the bobcat statue on the Mount Carmel Campus and ended outside of the Recreation and Wellness Center. In addition to the students who attended, Tommy's family took part in the event and was surrounded by supporters.

"Tommy, our son, had a long battle with leukemia, and one of the things that me and my wife talked a lot about was we hope he…at least (makes) it to college and it was great to see that even in a short amount of time…that he spent at college he made an impact and made a lot of friends," Peter Godbout, Tommy's father, said.

Members of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity, which Tommy was a member of, attended the event to support Tommy's family and honor their friend. Some of them also made speeches to honor their friendships with Tommy.

"(It) was (an) emotional day, but we had a lot of family support and (we) got to know a lot of Tommy's buddies over the last year and change and it felt real great to see them again and help them support us and pick us up," Peter said.

This event was made possible by a joint interest by Beta Theta Pi and the 1929 Fund to honor Tommy's legacy.

"I think Jack (Raso) had a real interest in getting awareness for the (1929 Fund) and really trying to partner with the Beta group on such an important opportunity to remember their brother," Chief Experience Officer Tom Ellett said.

Ellett helped connect the two groups to make the event a reality.

"I did a ton of work this summer with public safety, with facilities just planning the map, getting the website set up, that was with alumni, and it was a really team effort among all of Quinnipiac's offices and members of the fund and members of Beta Theta Pi to come together and set it up, but it's been at least a year in the making," Raso said.

Over 160 people attended the 5K, which helped raise scholarship funds. To raise additional money, baseballs signed by Yankee players Paul Goldschmidt and Anthony Volpe were raffled off.

"It's tough to get 160 people on a Saturday morning of a three-day weekend; you got people going home, you got people who don't want to wake up that early, but we had a great turnout, and it seemed like everyone was having a good time. The race went well; the memorial ceremony went (well) also," Raso said.

Ellet described how the event demonstrated that Tommy formed a community on campus and left a lasting positive impact.

"I think it was great because it goes back to how important we all are for each other to get through…tough times and I think it speaks volumes to how much he impacted their (lives) here while he was here," Ellett said.

While not official yet, the 1929 Fund hopes to host other 5Ks in the future.

"I think we'd love to do a 5K in some capacity year after year as a fund and even tie it to Tommy again in the future as well," Raso said.

The 5K gave Tommy's family and friends, along with community members, an opportunity to come together to keep his memory alive.



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Members of Quinnipiac University gather for a 5K event on the Mount Carmel Campus to honor Thomas "Tommy" Godbout, a student who passed away in 2025 on Sept. 19.



TYLER MIGNAULT/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac students run in Tommy's honor.



TYLER MIGNAULT/CHRONICLE

Junior political science and economics major Jack Raso thanks everyone in attendence and kicks off the event.



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Left to right: Tommy's family Jack, Jill, Peter, Penelope and Elise Godbout attend in memoriam of their late son/brother.



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Participants in the 5K run past the DOME,