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## **CURLEY, HELMER LEAD THE WAY ON RECORD-SETTING DAY AT SAINT FENNESSY 4K**

*721 Finishers Mark Largest-Ever Field in Event's History*

**(HERMANTOWN, MINN.)** --- John Curley and Anna-Britta Helmer were the first across the finish line on Saturday, leading the way on a record-setting day at the 2024 Saint Fennessy 4K.

After setting a new registration record with 850 participants signed up, 721 of those crossed the finish line Saturday morning to set another record for the St. Patrick's Day-themed event, now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year.

Duluth's John Curley won the event for the second time, finishing in a time of 12:18 that was the second-fastest in event history and nearly two minutes better than the runner-up Mark Goettel. Curley also won the event in 2022 and is the first two-time men's winner in the event's history.

Anna-Britta Helmer was the women's winner on Saturday, finishing in 16:31 and just one second ahead of last year's winner, Sasha Wahman. After running together the entire race, the two friends celebrated their 1-2 finish with a cartwheel shortly after crossing the finish line.

Ammie O'Connor was the non-binary winner, finishing in a time of 27:32.

For any questions or interview requests, please contact Marketing & Public Relations Director Zach Schneider via phone at (218) 343-9874 or via email at [zach@grandmasmarathon.com](mailto:zach@grandmasmarathon.com).

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### ABOUT THE YOUNG ATHLETES FOUNDATION (YAF)

Created in 1990, the Young Athletes Foundation (YAF) works to support the growth and development of youth athletics throughout northeast Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin by assisting community members and local businesses to provide pathways of opportunity for kids to live active and healthy lifestyles.

The YAF offers community support in a variety of ways, including our Grant Program, Running Shoe Program, and UMD Eleanor Rynda Scholarship Fund. The organization also hosts several kids' events throughout the year including Wednesday Night & Saturday Morning at the Races.

The YAF's mission is helped and funded by various road races throughout the year --- the Saint Fennessy 4K, Fitger's 5K, Park Point 5-Miler, Minnesota Mile, and North End Nightmare 5K.

Since its inception, the YAF has contributed more than \$1.3 million to area nonprofit youth athletic organizations.

