

Congratulations to our July Volunteer of the Month

Martin Chen!

Martin has been volunteering with Atlanta Track Club since the early 1980's. He started out volunteering at the AJC Peachtree Road Race in high school, but over the years has been able to help with many other events. He usually volunteers for 5 or 6 events throughout the year with Atlanta Track Club, and he's striving to add more events to that list. Thank you for all that you do for your community, Martin!



1. Do you remember your first time volunteering with Atlanta Track Club? If so, what event was it and what brought you back again?

I remember running the AJC Peachtree Road Race and helping pour Budweiser Light in Piedmont Park.

2. What is your favorite Atlanta Track Club event? Why?

The Invesco QQQ Thanksgiving Day half marathon is my favorite event, it's the one day where I really need to get a run in first to justify eating an inordinate amount of food.



3. What is one of your best memories from volunteering at any race?

This year at the Peachtree Junior when my friend, Liam D., completed the course in 16:57. It was more than four minutes faster than his time last year! He and his mother were so proud of his achievement.

4. What is your favorite thing about volunteering with Atlanta Track Club? What brings you back?

My favorite this is helping people achieve their running goals. Everyone has a different story about why they run and compete and it's wonderful to hear them. Something that brings me back is knowing Atlanta Track Club is more involved in the local community rather than just hosting large running events like the Peachtree Road Race. I believe in the mission of the Atlanta Track Club and want to be part of it.

5. Do you have a favorite volunteer assignment? If so, explain.

I enjoy being a pacer for the longer running events.

6. Do you do any volunteering in the community beyond Atlanta Track Club? If so, what other organizations do you volunteer for and why?

I am a USA Swimming official, and I officiate local and national swim meets. If you or your child swam a Dynamo, Georgia LSC, masters, or national meet in the past eight years, there is a good chance that you saw me on the pool deck.

I am also involved with Back on My Feet, a national organization that combats homelessness through the power of fitness, community support, essential employment, and housing resources. Since December 2011, I have ran with Team Salvation Army at 5:45 a.m., twice a week (we meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays).

I am doing these things so I can try to make a difference in my community.

7. What do you do for a living?

I am retired. I was an attorney with the federal government for a number of years enforcing civil rights laws.

8. Do you have any advice or words of wisdom for any new Atlanta Track Club volunteers?

Enjoy the experience. You meet some really wonderful people in our community.



9. Tell us something interesting about yourself - an interesting fact or story that will help us get to know you...

I am really boring, lack a sense of humor, and likely to put you to sleep with my monotone voice.