**NEWS RELEASE** Contact info:

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El Dorado County Students Run For The Gold!

Over 200 students from across El Dorado County ran 1K/2K/5K races on Saturday, September 26, during the Run for the Gold! – a fundraising race benefitting the Boys and Girls Club Western Slope. Students in grades 1-8 traversed courses on Union Mine High School’s picturesque campus and were applauded by the audience at the finish line.

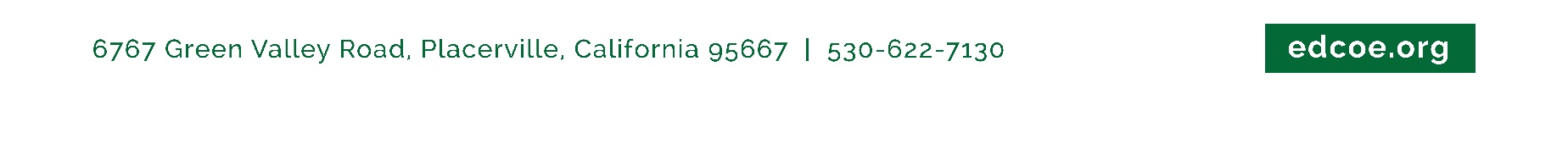
Every student who completed the course received a gold medal. AnnaKate Allen, Silva Valley Elementary School first-grader expressed, “This is my first gold medal. Today is a day I will never forget. I am going to go home and have good dreams about it!”

Jenn Daniels brought her first-grade son who attends Blue Oak Elementary School, “Israel and I had an absolute blast and felt fortunate to have taken part in an event that was put on by the love and support of local businesses within our community to benefit the Boys and Girls Club!”

“We designed this race to be all about the students – registration, commemorative t-shirts, and runner bags were free-of–charge,” Boys and Girls Club Western Slope Executive Director Sean McCartney explained. “We are pleased to announce that this was the second successful year of this event, and we thank everyone who helped to make it happen.”

The Run for the Gold! was done in partnership with El Dorado County schools and the El Dorado County Office of Education (EDCOE). County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ed Manansala, ran the 1K race himself and joined Sean McCartney at the finish line to hand out medals. “The community was out in force today, and the students ran strong! Today was a great day for the Boys and Girls Club.”

Proceeds raised will be used for Boys and Girls Club Western Slope’s new building and scholarships to ensure every child has the same opportunity to attend the Club. A generous grant from Wells Fargo Bank allowed four participating schools to be chosen at random and receive a $2,500 grant. Those schools included Sutter's Mill Elementary School, Jackson Elementary School, Indian Creek Elementary School, and Mountain Creek Middle School.

For more information about the Boys and Girls Club Western Slope, visit http://www.bgce.org/ For more information about EDCOE, visit www.edcoe.org