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# Hoops marathon supports local charity

By Bryan Jessop

Basketball players from around the county hoping to one day play in the NBA have shown their support for the NCA.

The first-ever Hoopin’ Around The Clock fundraiser kept Kingsville’s Migration Hall busy for 24 consecutive hours, all the while offering financial assistance to the Neighbourhood Charitable Alliance. The hall was the site of 24 basketball games of about one hour in length each, bringing in a total of 325 players hailing from across Windsor and Essex County. After each participant paid a registration fee of \$25, the event raised a total of about \$8,100. A combined 2,496 points were scored.

The fundraiser kicked off at 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15 with a game featuring the municipal councils of Kingsville against Leamington. Other games of particular interest to spectators — who were able to watch matches with no admission fees — included Leamington Kinsmen Recreation Complex recreational league players against players from a Windsor-based league, the Essex County OPP against the Windsor OPP, Leamington District Memorial Hospital staff against Century 21 staff, Hub International against Ives Insurance and to conclude, alumni teams from Kingsville District High School against Essex District High School. Other participants included the junior and senior girls’ and boys’ KDHS teams and members of the Kingsville Class, a basketball club geared toward elementary school-age youths.

The basketball marathon was organized by a committee of six led by Matt Isaacs of Hub International in Leamington and HighRise Basketball administrator Reid Innes. Others on the committee include Mark Scherer of Century 21 Leamington, Jack Miner Elementary School teacher Al Affleck, St. Clair College men’s basketball team head coach Jimmy Parsons and Rene Villavecer of Windsor Pinoy Athletics. The group was assisted in the preparation of the tournament by Neighbourhood Charitable Alliance volunteers and KDHS students.

“It was a huge success and all the participants had a great time,” Isaacs stated.

Hub International Leamington — where Isaacs is employed as an account executive — and Leamington Chrysler stepped forward as the event’s primary sponsors. Other supporters included Pelee Island Winery, Spirol Industries, Kent and Essex Mutual Insurance,

*(Continued on page 11)*



They were missing their Stephen Curry and LeBron James type players, but the Municipality of Leamington ruled on the court in a hard-fought battle with their Kingsville counterparts. It was a nailbiter, but Leamington prevailed 35-34 in Friday night’s Hoopin’ Round the Clock game. Members of the local team were, front row, left to right: Allan Botham, Gaspere Graziano, Lucy Simpson, Tracey Pillon-Abs and Danielle Truax. Back row: Councillor John Hammond, George Youssef, Councillor Bill Dunn, Councillor Tim Wilkinson, Councillor Larry Verbeke and Lu-Ann Barreto.

Kingsville Mayor Nelson Santos and Leamington Councillor Larry Verbeke battle for the ball.



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