

Bryson Blanton

Charlotte Firefighter Pedro Muniz wasn't supposed to be at the ball fields. His kids had already played earlier, but they wanted to get in a little more practice. While he was there with them, Pedro heard Engine 37 and Ladder 26 heading out, checked the call on his phone and saw it was for a 13-year-old in cardiac arrest.



He looked across the fields and saw the boy down. Pedro jumped a fence and ran 150 to 200 yards to help. What happened next was a race to keep Bryson Blanton alive. Pedro helped with CPR and airway care until Charlotte Fire crews arrived and continued the lifesaving work. Bryson survived, later waking up, talking and walking after doctors found a heart condition that had gone undetected.

For Pedro, a firefighter on Rescue 11 at Firehouse 11 and a father of four, the moment hit even harder afterward. His oldest son is also 13.

On that day, Muniz was not on duty. He was not in uniform. He was not assigned to the call. He was a dad at baseball practice. But when he heard the sirens, checked the call and saw a child down across the fields, years of training and instinct took over. Muniz ran toward Bryson because that is what the moment required.

And because he did, a 13-year-old boy's story did not end on a baseball field.

[Read the full story.](#)

Ruthie O'Brien

A Father's Story:

In May of 2026, 17-year-old Ruthie experienced a brain event. After many steps forward and back, Ruthie was able to return home with her family on September 22nd.

This is a journey we never expected. It has moved us in a way we never knew we could be moved. It has tested and grown our faith in an Eph 3:20 way. We have prayed, fasted, called others to prayer. We have called on the name of Jesus without ceasing. We have searched for Him every moment of every day. We have searched for signs. He has given them. The signs are all around us, that He is coming!

When Ruthie's journey first began, I read a passage from Matthew 9:22, the first part of the story references a Jewish synagogue leader named, Jairus, who had sought out Jesus to come heal his daughter, who had died. Jesus met him. Jesus healed her and brought her back to life.

The question I had for God, "who is Jairus"? He wasn't even a "Christian"! You healed his daughter!



The Lord answered me. Jairus was desperate. He discarded all he knew about "religion" and tradition and by faith, left his grieving family to find THE ONE, he had heard about. THE ONE who I'm sure he had heard teach. THE ONE who performed miracles. THE ONE who met those willing to meet Him. THE ONE.

He knew Jairus' own faith needed to grow during the journey to his house. What he was about to witness would change him forever. It wasn't just about his daughter. It was about him, and everyone else down the path to his house that needed their faith to rise and encounter Him.

Several weeks ago, God confirmed to me while I was studying Mark 2:1-12, that Ruthie's healing will take place and we are to go home. We explored other hospitals and facilities that could possibly accept Ruthie and help her progress. He gave me peace, that it will not be another facility, but HIM, and we as a family are to carry her during this time! We were to go home!

We come out of the wilderness. Changed lives. Ruthie's, ours, countless others and so many more to come. For His glory. For His kingdom!

St. Matthew's 5K Run/Walk October 24, 2026

9:00 AM 5K Run/Walk
10:00 AM ½ Mile Fun Run



9275 Bringle Ferry Road
Salisbury, NC 28146



When:

October 24, 2026

5K Run/Walk 9:00 a.m.
Fun Run 10:00 a.m.

Where:

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
9275 Bringle Ferry Road
Salisbury, NC 28146

Course:

will start and end at St. Matthew's.

Registration:

Early registration through
Mail in: October 23
On-line: October 24
www.runsignup.com

Pre-registration:

\$20 5K Run/Walk
\$10 ½ mile Fun Run

Race Day Registration:

\$25 5K Run/Walk
\$10 ½ mile Fun Run

***Timing and Scoring will be done
by the Salisbury Rowan Runners.***

Shirts:

5K Run/Walk participants will receive a
Dri-Fit Technical T-shirt.
Pre-Registered ½ mile Fun Run
participants will receive a cotton T-
shirt.

Contact Information:

Kelley Williams – 704-213-0137
kellybwilliams@gmail.com

www.runsignup.com

Awards:

5K Run/Walk
 Top 2 Overall M/F
 Top 3 Age Group M/F
½ mile Fun Run
 Top Overall M/F
 Medals to all other Fun Run
Finishers

Ages:**5K Run/Walk**

10 & Under, 11-15, 16-19, 20-24,
25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44,
45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64,
65-69, 70-over.

**This 5K Run/Walk is an approved
Thrivent Action Team Event. They
have donated \$250 for refreshments.**

St. Matthew's 5K

By 10/23 10/24

____ 5K Run/Walk \$20 \$25
____ Fun Run \$10 \$10

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Age on Oct 24 _____

____ Male ____ Female

Shirt Size: (circle)

Adult: S M L XL XXL

Youth: XS S M L

Please make entry fee payable to:

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Waiver: In consideration of acceptance of this entry, I, the undersigned, intending to be legally bound, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrations, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the Salisbury Rowan Runners and St. Matthews Church, Rowan County and all sponsors, contributors, and their representatives, successors, and assignees for injury or illness which may result from my participation. I attest that I am in proper physical condition to compete in this race and understand the risks associated therewith. I also give my permission for the administration of medical aid in case of emergency. I further give my permission for the free use of my name, voice recording, or picture in any broadcast, telecast, or any other account of this event for any legitimate purpose. I understand that if the race is cancelled because of circumstances beyond the control of the race committee or sponsors, including, but not limited to hazardous weather conditions or government ban, my entry fee will not be refunded. _____