

*Dave Reich*

WHO: Dave Reich

WHAT: Runners Against Destructive Decisions aka RADD

WHY: District court judge Dave Reich has been a judge since 2006. "When I started, most criminal cases involved drugs and alcohol. Typically, when these people come to court, they either plead guilty or are found guilty. They get sentenced to a chemical dependency evaluation, are ordered not to drink or use drugs, and then put back into the same environment that got them into trouble in the first place," explains Judge Reich, "I shouldn't be all that surprised when they come back again, some of them over and over.

After watching this for years Judge Reich decided something needed to happen to break the cycle of crime, courts and jail. Inspired by a new found love of running and the story of Leane Guerrero Lafrance, a reformed meth dealer who went on to run an addiction treatment center in Fargo, Judge Reich started RADD in 2014. Participants come from drug court and treatment centers and are given RADD as an alternative option to community service and classes.

The Santa Run started as an event that RADD participants could take ownership of. The funds raised are used to break down barriers to running. "We buy shoes, clothes, and pay entry fees for those that can't afford them," Judge Reich explains. They bring speakers to the run like Dick Beardsley as an educational piece for participants.

Jack is one of RADD's success stories. He'd been in correctional centers, in and out of prison and addiction centers his whole life. Jack has run with the group for 4 years and ran his 10th half marathon last fall. RADD is raising money to send Jack and another runner to Ecuador in October to run a full marathon.

RADD is a way for Judge Reich to give back. "I make decisions that have significant impact on people lives. People with addiction commit crimes because of addiction and that's what keeps them coming back to court. If we can break the addiction, this was a way to do that," he explains. "It just takes a couple people like Jack to make it all worthwhile," says Judge Reich.

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