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Olmsted Falls & Olmsted Township community blog

Special thanks: The community showed its giving spirit by making the .5K Santa Walk (yes, that's .5K, not 5K) more spectacular than last year's event on November 23, 2018.



The .5k Santa Walk in Olmsted Township raised \$8,000 to bring awareness, prevention and treatment for substance abuse.

The walk and after event that were held at [Fat Little Buddies](#) featured 92 walkers and raised \$8,000, which is twice as much as last year. Organizers said the success was due to the generous donations of prizes, talent and time by many local businesses, supporters, family and friends. An email said Lea Heidman and Brian Malone are "truly humbled" by the generosity of the tavern and the Olmsted community. The two created the charity, [Fighting for Alyssa](#), in 2015 following the sudden death of their 21-year-old daughter, Alyssa, of a heroin overdose. Donations from such events help the organization fund programs to fight this growing epidemic in local communities. "The fabulous staff at Fat Little Buddies (FLB) were warm hosts, and the FLB patrons and guests were extremely generous. Supporters who could not join us supported by buying raffle tickets or donating in advance," they said in the email. They also wrote that more kids' fun and focus will be on next year's agenda. It is times like these that the Bulldog spirit certainly shines in our community.