

Over 40,000 Women Participate in Ireland's Largest Charity Event

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More than 40,000 women yesterday ran, jogged and walked their way through Ireland's biggest charity event.

The annual Flora Mini-Marathon 10km trek through Dublin's south inner city helped raise much needed funds for charities right around the country.

Among the many famous faces who participated this year was actress Amy Huberman. The popular actress was raising funds for her chosen charity Concern.

Participants raised almost €14m for hundreds of charities last year, when the race was won by Dublin runner Linda Byrne in 34 minutes 29 seconds.

Since it started in 1983, some 780,000 women have collected close to €137m.

Organisers said women of every age, size and walk of life from every county in Ireland took part in the popular event.

The event also attracts entrants from all over Europe, Australia, New Zealand, United States, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Japan.

Event spokeswoman Jackie Wright said: "It's the biggest single-start all-women's road race in the world. It began with just over 8,000 women and basically they have taken it on and made it what it is."

This year's winner was Caitríona Jennings from Donegal, who lives in Chapelizod, Dublin, in a time of 35.29. She pipped Siobhán O'Doherty from Nenagh, Co Tipperary, whose time was 35.31.

(Sources: Evening herald, Irish Times)

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