

August 10, 2011

Walking Competition Winner: Who Went the Distance?

AGI-Forest City is tasting the victory of de-feet. With an 80 percent completion rate among its walkers, the North Carolina-based facility claims the top spot among the nine locations participating in American Greetings first [companywide Walking Challenge](#).



Coming in a close second, with a 77 percent completion rate, was the Danville plant. Ripley and Osceola were third and fourth, respectively. See the chart below for final rankings.

All in all, the 2,617 associates who participated in the eight-week Walking Challenge logged a staggering 1,127,024,872 steps. Nearly 1800 associates—that's 70 percent—successfully completed the challenge!

As the winner, AGI-Forest City will receive a trophy to keep at its facility until the next Walking Challenge winner is named. The next challenge will be in November. But rather than kick back, associates are encouraged to kick it up a notch and keep walking. The goals of the November Walking Challenge will be more aggressive!

“We encouraged diligence from the beginning, and issued frequent reminders via emails and through supervisors and other associates. We also periodically used the PA system to make announcements. We kept associates up-to-date on the challenge results, and their competitive drive was contagious! Everybody was talking about walking!” said **Bonnie Page**, EHS Administrator and co-director of the Walking Challenge at AGI-Forest City.

The thrill of winning the Walking Challenge was rivaled only by the many health-related benefits associates derived through increased walking. “We had associates who lost weight, who brought cholesterol down significantly—by 30 or more points. Associates engaged their family members to walk with them. Some stated for the first time ever their spouses walked and encouraged them! This initiative had the best participation so far of all our Wellness initiatives,” said **Chris Hutchins**, Human Resources Coordinator at AGI-Forest City.

Congratulations to all who completed the challenge—and to those who gave it their best shot.

Watch imAGine and plant bulletin boards for ongoing and upcoming walking and Wellness programs.

Final Rankings	Total Participants	Number of Participants who completed	Completion Percentage
Forest City	119	95	80.0%
Danville	257	197	77.00%
Ripley	57	43	75.00%
Osceola	325	239	74.00%
Bardstown	249	175	70.0%
Greeneville	259	175	68.00%
World Headquarters	1043	685	66.00%
Papyrus-Recycled Greetings	83	52	63.00%
Sales & Service	225	135	60.0%
Total	2617	1796	70.0%