

Going for gold

Scholarship relays are local businessman's way of giving back

BY JENNIE MILLER
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Robert Shumake wasn't the fastest kid growing up. But he loved running. He loved competing.

He learned a great deal from participating in athletics as a high school student — discipline, focus and perseverance. And now a successful Southfield businessman, Shumake feels he has a personal duty to give back, to provide students today with the opportunities he didn't have in his youth.

"I didn't grow up with a silver spoon in my mouth," he said of his time on Detroit's east side and graduating from Denby High School. "We were a poor family. We didn't have a house. To be able to go from not having a home to being an advocate in business is a dream come true. Because I have so much success, I believe that — I made a pact with God years ago that if I



Photo by Philip Southern

Robert Shumake and Nikita McGuster watch the children race at the fifth annual Robert Shumake Scholarship Relays April 24 at Renaissance High School in Detroit.

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