

THANK FELLOW RUNNERS. THANK YOU JACK MARSTON II

OCTOBER 28, 2011

ON OCTOBER 22, 2000 I RAN MY VERY FIRST CHICAGO MARATHON. I RAN FOR THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, IN MEMORY OF MY LATE HUSBAND, WHO LOST HIS BATTLE WITHIN COLON CANCER A DAY AFTER HIS 37TH BIRTHDAY. HE LEFT BEHIND OUR SIX MONTH OLD SON.

I CONTINUED TO RUN THE CHICAGO MARATHON EVERY YEAR AFTER THAT. I RAN FOR CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL HOSPITAL OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, AND I RAISED OVER \$10,000.00. I SKIPPED 2004 BECAUSE I WAS PREGNANT WITH MY SECOND CHILD.

SIX MONTHS AFTER MY DAUGHTER WAS BORN, IN 2005, WHILE TRAINING FOR THE NEXT MARATHON, I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH MELANOMA. WE CAUGHT IT EARLY. I RAN AND FINISHED THE CHICAGO MARATHON.

IN 2006, WHILE TRAINING FOR MY 6TH CHICAGO MARATHON, THE MELANOMA CAME BACK WITH A VENGEANCE. THE TUMOR IN MY CALF WAS SO BIG, I RAN WITH AN ICE PACK STRAPPED TO MY LEG. I WAS STAGED AT IV. MY PROGNOSIS WAS GRIM. WHILE I WAS TRAINED AND READY TO RUN, I SKIPPED THE MARATHON AND TOOK MY FIRST TREATMENT OF IL-2. I DON'T KNOW WHICH WAS WORSE, RUNNING THE 26.2 OR THE CHEMO ☺?

AFTER YEARS OF TREATMENT AND SURGERIES, I ENROLLED IN A TRIAL DRUG THAT HAS KEPT THE MELANOMA AT BAY AS OF TODAY. CANCER PATIENTS TAKE ONE DAY AT A TIME. THAT'S WHAT I HAVE BEEN TOLD ☺.

AT THIS TIME, I WOULD PERSONALLY LIKE TO THANK EACH OF YOU, AND EVERY PERSON THAT SUPPORTS JACK'S FUND. TODAY, I AM A PRODUCT OF YOUR HARD WORK AND DEVOTION TO THIS CAUSE. THE RESEARCH AND THE TRIAL HAVE PAID OFF. MY GRATITUDE TOWARDS JACK & SHARON MARSTON AND THE ENTIRE TEAM IS IMMEASURABLE.

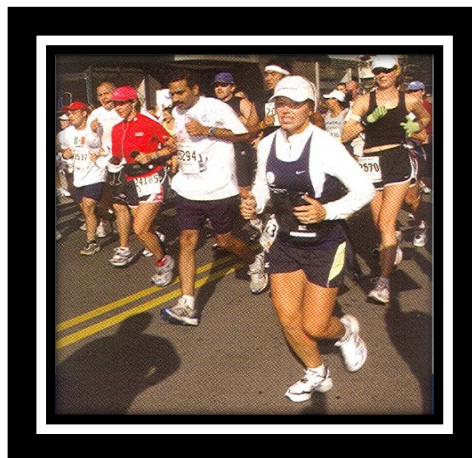
Something to keep in mind as you are pounding the pavement...

NO ONE SAID IT WOULD BE EASY;

THEY SAID IT WOULD BE WORTH IT!

SO, CONGRATULATIONS, YOU HAVE A NEW MEMBER ON YOUR TEAM CAUSE I AM READY TO RUN!!!

GOOD LUCK TO EACH OF YOU, ENJOY THE RUN.



STACY KIRCH-COUP
NEWEST MEMBER OF JACK'S TEAM