

The 2012 ING Hartford Marathon Elite Inspiration Team

inspiration

Presented by **ING** 

The ability of an athlete to inspire others isn't purely about their performance.



In an effort to recognize the many amazing personal journeys that compel participants to run the ING Hartford Marathon, the Hartford Marathon Foundation is proud to present the 2nd annual Elite Inspiration Team. These ten honorees have been selected from many nominations of those who have inspired and motivated others.

Log onto www.INGHartfordMarathon.com and read about the **2012 Team: Ten Incredible Personal Journeys. May you be as inspired to run as we are.**



About the ING Hartford Marathon

First run in 1994, the ING Hartford Marathon consists of a marathon, half marathon, relay event, competitive race walk, 5K and children's fun run. The 2012 event will be held on October 13th. An estimated 15,000 participants are expected.

About the Hartford Marathon Foundation

The Hartford Marathon Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization founded in 1994 to create and manage fitness events that inspire people to be healthy and fit. Located in Glastonbury, Connecticut, the Hartford Marathon Foundation organizes nearly 30 annual athletic events, including the ING Hartford Marathon.

For more information, visit www.INGHartfordMarathon.com



Natalia Lamonaca Atlanta, GA Marathon

In December of 2009, Natalia Lamonaca received devastating news: she suffered a recurrent stage III melanoma on the right side of her neck. In 2010, Natalia underwent radical neck dissection surgery, resulting in numbness in her neck

and shoulder, as well as limited mobility and compromised range of motion in her dominant arm. But Natalia was not defeated. After many months of rehabilitation and perseverance, she got most of her strength back and has resolved to run a marathon each year to show others that through hard work, perseverance and determination one can achieve anything.



Steve Anastasio Haddam, CT Half Marathon

Being confined to a wheelchair his entire life has never held Steve Anastasio back.

Rather than give up on hope of leading an athletic lifestyle, Steve invested in a racing wheelchair and has participated in several road races around Connecticut, coming in first place more than once. When Steve is not at his job or training, he can be found at his town's high school cheering on the sports teams. A cornerstone of the Cochinchaug Regional High School community, Steve's endless energy and optimism in spite of his disability inspires athletes and parents alike.

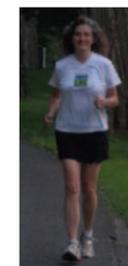


Dara Brooks Bridgeport, CT 5K

In 1992, Dara Brooks experienced every mother's nightmare. Her second child, Tyler, was born with Biliary Atresia, an extremely serious condition that required Tyler to immediately be listed for a liver transplant. Rather than chance the

unknown and wait for a liver, Dara volunteered to donate part of her liver to her infant son. She understood the enormous risk but resolved to do anything to save her son's life. The surgery was a success, but unfortunately Tyler passed away due to additional complications at nineteen months old. Amazingly, in the midst of her unimaginable grief, Dara asked that her son be a donor to help save the lives of other children. Dara has spent the past 20 years volunteering with Donate Life and minority outreach programs. She looks for-

ward to crossing the finish line with her daughter and niece to remember Tyler and raise awareness about organ and tissue donation.



Leslie Schlemmer, New Milford, CT 5K

Leslie Schlemmer, a wife and mother of two boys, always liked to be part of the action. She enjoyed traveling around the Northeast with her husband to watch her sons play ball. However, when she was diagnosed with an autoimmune liver disease in 1999 and her liver slowly began to fail, her body would not let her keep up with the fast pace lifestyle.

Leslie was placed on a liver transplant list in March of 2001 and received the life saving phone call telling her that she would get a new liver in February of 2002. As a volunteer with Donate Life Connecticut, Leslie shares her story with others to save the lives of those waiting on organ transplant lists.



Justin Ordway Southbury, CT 5K

At just six years old, Justin Ordway was diagnosed with Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH) and began a yearlong battle with the rare cancer-like illness, receiving chemotherapy infusions and taking oral chemotherapy treatments

and steroids. Not to be held back by LCH, Justin continued to attend school and played soccer, basketball and baseball. Now a healthy ten year old, Justin is a leader both in school and on sports teams. Selflessly, in lieu of birthday gifts for the past three years, he has requested that family and friends make a donation to Camp Rising Sun or the Histiocytosis Association. Justin is thrilled to run his second ING Hartford Marathon 5K to raise funds and awareness for the American Cancer Society's Camp Rising Sun and the Histiocytosis Association.



Mary Pat Schmitt, Middletown, CT Marathon

Mary Pat Schmitt has been a long time runner. After her January 2012 breast cancer diagnosis she resolved not to let breast cancer slow her down. Despite a double mastectomy and five rounds of chemotherapy she continued to run. Her runs started out just five minutes

long, but Mary Pat persevered. Just three months after her surgery she completed Komen's Race for the Cure, raising \$4,500 for breast cancer research along the way. A former half-marathoner, this year Mary Pat will run in the ING Hartford Marathon as a relay with her husband, family and friends.



Sarah Claffey Moodus, CT Marathon

In 2009 Sarah Claffey, a fourth grade teacher at Macdonough Elementary School, ran the ING Hartford Half Marathon on a whim. The school planned to have a few teachers run the course, picking up and dropping off stu-

dents and colleagues at designated mile marks along the way. Despite having never run a road race before, Sarah completed the 13.1 mile course and along the way discovered her new passion: fitness. She serves as a role model for her school's community; and thanks to her encouragement, many students, parents and teachers regularly participate in road races. Led by Sarah, Macdonough's student running club will participate in the ING Hartford Marathon programs and will cheer her on as she completes her first marathon.



Brian Boyle Welcome, MD Marathon

Brian Boyle has completed 30 endurance events in the past 5 years, an incredible feat for a man who almost died after a horrific car accident in 2004. Brian's heart literally moved across his chest and stopped beating eight times during

recovery, he lost 60% of his blood, and all of his major organs were damaged. However, after multiple surgeries, 36 blood transfusions, 13 plasma treatments and physical therapy, Brian not only walked again, he completed the Hawaii Ironman just three years after the crash. Since his incredible comeback Brian has worked closely with the American Red Cross, volunteering as national spokesperson and hosting blood drives that have recruited first-time blood donors at a rate of over 25%. Brian is excited to run his 10th marathon at the ING Hartford Marathon on behalf of the American Red Cross.

Follow us on  & 