



Joe Andruzzi Foundation Announces 2014 Boston Marathon® Team

*Forty-eight “Team JAF” runners to tackle 26.2 mile Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.)
Marathon course to raise money for cancer patients & families*

BOSTON, MA (January 21, 2014) – The Joe Andruzzi Foundation (JAF) has announced it once again will be tackling cancer with each stride when 48 “[Team JAF](#)” runners take to the streets of Boston this April for the [118th Boston Marathon](#)® – all to raise money in support of the Foundation’s mission of providing help, hope and a reason to smile for patients and their families.

Team JAF – a diverse group of cancer survivors, athletes, veteran marathoners and those running in memory of loved ones – has more than doubled its roster of runners, including many pledging to fundraise on behalf of the Foundation in exchange for a Marathon bib number through the [2014 John Hancock® Non Profit Program](#).

Ten runners on Team JAF received victim or “profoundly impacted” bibs, given to those directly affected by last year’s tragic Marathon bombings. Additionally, twelve Team JAF runners who were not able to complete last year’s race due to the bombings have received “deferment bibs” and will return to Boston to complete what they were not able to last April.

“Our goal for the 2014 Marathon is to finish what we started last year – to run in honor of those who cannot, those who were not able to finish last year, those significantly impacted by the tragic bombings and the first responders by their sides, and for cancer patients and their families throughout the region who so desperately need assistance,” said Joe Andruzzi, Foundation President, Super Bowl Champion and cancer survivor. “I know firsthand how important teamwork and perseverance can be when striving towards a goal, and we’re so fortunate to have such a dedicated and cohesive group fundraising on behalf of our Foundation this year.”

Runners' fundraising will once again be led by [CharityTeams](#) nonprofit consultant Susan Hurley, who helped the Foundation exceed its 2013 goal by raising more than \$172,000 in the face of tragedy. Team JAF – sponsored by [East Commerce Solutions, Inc.](#), for the second consecutive year – have already raised [more than \\$115,000](#) towards the Foundation to date.

All funds raised by Team JAF through Marathon Monday, April 21, 2014, go towards alleviating cancer’s financial burdens on patients, as well as funding critical pediatric brain cancer research at Boston Children’s Hospital.

The Foundation will also return to [Forum Restaurant](#) on Boylston Street for its Marathon watch party, where the team and JAF supporters also gathered in 2013. This year’s event is of special significance to the Foundation and Forum, as it will celebrate the resiliency of Team JAF, the venue and the City of Boston in the wake of the 2013 Marathon bombings – one of which occurred immediately outside of the 2013 watch party.

The event will once again raise money for the Foundation while offering a spectacular view of the finish line. Full event details will be posted to the Foundation's Twitter and Facebook pages in the coming weeks.

The Foundation's executive director, Jen Andruzzi – who found herself in the position of a first responder last year, helping victims on Boylston Street – will join Team JAF to run her first Marathon this April.

“My role with the Foundation has always been to set a tone to move our mission forward, and now I get a chance to do that literally,” said Andruzzi. “My desire to run with Team JAF this year is predicated on a longstanding Foundation motto – to ‘pay-it-forward’ – and I’m excited to cross the finish line in honor of all our runners, volunteers, employees and supporters, as well as the victims and medical professionals that were profoundly affected by last April's tragic events.”

In addition to fundraising, Team JAF runners will also spread the Foundation's [\(Up\)Beat philosophy](#), which stresses the importance of a positive attitude in the face of adversity. That message is embodied in Joe Andruzzi, who attributes it to helping him overcome a non-Hodgkin's Burkitt's lymphoma diagnosis in May 2007. Since its inception, the Joe Andruzzi Foundation has assisted more than 1,000 individuals and families, and has contributed more than \$400,000 to the pediatric brain cancer research of Dr. Mark Kieran at Boston Children's Hospital.

Donations to Team JAF can be made through the Foundation's [Crowdrise page](#). Supporters can also track Team JAF runners throughout their Marathon training process via the Foundation's [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts, the [Foundation's blog](#), and the [#TeamJAF](#) hashtag.

For more information on the Joe Andruzzi Foundation, visit www.joeandruzzifoundation.org.

About The Joe Andruzzi Foundation

The Joe Andruzzi Foundation was founded in 2008 to help cancer patients and their families make critical mortgage, rent and utility payments during financially-challenging times, and to fund pediatric brain cancer research. It also provides patients with social and emotional support and acts as a general resource for families. Joe Andruzzi, a former offensive guard with the New England Patriots, was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's Burkitt's Lymphoma in 2007 and was treated at Boston's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women's Hospital. Disease-free less than a year later, Joe dedicated his life to supporting other cancer patients and funding life-saving research. The Joe Andruzzi Foundation is Joe and his wife Jen's second philanthropic effort; in 2003, they started the C.J. Buckley Brain Cancer Research Fund at Boston Children's Hospital in memory of C.J. Buckley, a young man with an inoperable brain tumor who touched their hearts before losing his battle in 2002. The fund supports much-needed, innovative research into the molecular nature of pediatric brain tumors, novel treatment therapies and alternatives to multiple surgeries. The aim is to contribute to the growing knowledge base of available brain cancer cures, making treatment more widely available to all.

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