

Denver Team In Training Participants Running to Save Lives

Nearly 100 Denver-metro Team In Training® participants are preparing to run for a cure in the Denver Marathon and the Nike Women's Marathon on Sunday, Oct. 18.

Oct. 9, 2009 - [PRLog](#) -- Denver, Colo., – Nearly 100 local Team In Training® (TNT) participants are preparing to run for a cure in the Denver Marathon and the Nike Women's Marathon in San Francisco Sunday, Oct. 18. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Rocky Mountain Chapter TNT program will have 61 participants in the Denver Marathon and 36 participants the Nike Women's Marathon. TNT participants run in honor of people who have battled, or are battling, leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma.

"I am truly inspired by these dedicated TNT participants who are running and walking to save the lives of Coloradoans affected with blood cancer," said Rebecca Russell, executive director for the Rocky Mountain Chapter of LLS. "They have already made such an accomplishment, two-weeks before the marathons they are well on their way to raise \$300,000."

Catherine Bernard is one of the 36 participants who will be running the Nike Women's Marathon, this will be her second TNT event. Bernard is running in honor of her six-year-old son Mason, who was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in May 2005. "I was inspired to get involved with Team In Training when my good friend Cheri said she was going to train to run a half marathon and honor Mason," said Bernard.

In January 2008, after nearly three years of treatment, doctors found leukemia cells in Mason's spinal fluid. He started an additional 104 weeks of more intense treatment, which includes chemotherapy and radiation. He will be finished with treatment in March of 2010. A first grader at Creekside Elementary School in Centennial, Mason is the eldest of three children and enjoys riding his motorcycle and his bike, jumping on the trampoline, playing Xbox and swimming.

"Having Mason named the Team In Training Hero was such a motivating factor for me," Bernard stated. "It amazes me each week when I come out to train, that so many people have taken on Mason's cause and are running and walking for him with the hope that one day soon a cure will be found and other children will not have to go through what Mason has so far in his life."

Dr. Tom Bolan has recruited a group of his colleagues to participate in the Denver Marathon. His group is running in honor of his 15-year-old daughter Allison, a two-time leukemia survivor. Their group will join 61 other TNT participants at the Denver Marathon.

"If the months of hard work and dedication prevent even one parent from ever having to go through the pain of seeing their child suffer from a blood cancer, then it will all be worth it," said Bolan. "What we experience with our training, even when running 40-45 miles per week is nothing compared to what these kids go through in their battle against this devastating disease. The amazing thing is, most of them do it with a smile on their face. The least we can do is raise money and be stiff and sore for a few months a year to help find a cure for lymphoma and leukemia!"

Bolan's daughter Allison, a freshman at Cherokee Trails High School in Aurora, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia when she was two and underwent three years of chemotherapy. Less than a year after being cleared, she relapsed at the age of five. She went through the entire chemotherapy protocol again and had to have a bone marrow transplant. Allison has been living cancer-free for seven years and

enjoys music, her friends and dance. She is a junior Bronco cheerleader and aspires to become a Bronco cheerleader when she is older, like her sister Rebecca Bolan.

TNT is the world's largest endurance sports training program. The program provides training to run or walk marathons and half marathons or participate in triathlons and century (100-mile) bike rides. Since 1988, more than 380,000 volunteer participants have helped raise more than \$900 million.

The Rocky Mountain Chapter's TNT program, covering Colorado and Wyoming, has raised nearly \$17 million since its inception in 1992. They have trained over 5,000 athletes in that time and participated in over 30 different endurance events across the country and the world.

The enormous success of this program has helped make possible advances in blood cancer therapies and treatments that have prolonged and enhanced the lives of hundreds of thousands of patients.

For more information about TNT and the Rocky Mountain Chapter of LLS visit <http://www.teamintraining.org/rm/> or contact Anisa Robinson at (303) 984-2110 or anisa.robinson@lls.org.

About The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, headquartered in White Plains, NY, with 66 chapters in the United States and Canada, is the world's largest voluntary health organization dedicated to funding blood cancer research and providing education and patient services. The Society's mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. Since its founding in 1949, the Society has invested more than \$600 million in research specifically targeting leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma. Last year alone, the Society made 4.2 million contacts with patients, caregivers and healthcare professionals.

For more information about blood cancer, visit www.LLS.org or call the Society's Information Resource Center (IRC), a call center staffed by master's level social workers, nurses and health educators who provide information, support and resources to patients and their families and caregivers. IRC information specialists are available at (800) 955-4572, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET.

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