

Going the distance to fight autism

By Meredith Gorton

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Mansfield - In the United States, autism is becoming one of the most prevalent disorders facing our nation's youth. One man who is putting up a fight for this cause is Mansfield resident Marc Turgeon who will run the 112th Boston Marathon Monday, April 21 to increase autism awareness.

Turgeon's son, Alec, suffers from PDD-NOS (Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified), which is on the autism spectrum.

"Now 3 1/2 years old, Alec's progress has been tremendous thanks to programs such as Early Intervention and the LADDERS program," Marc's wife, Tracey said.

Dorry Brown, director of the group language therapy program at Robbins Speech, Language and Hearing Center at Emerson College, has also played a major role in Alec's treatment, Turgeon said.

Part of Massachusetts General Hospital, Learning and Developmental Disabilities Evaluation & Rehabilitation Services (LADDERS) is a clinic designed to provide services in the evaluation and treatment of children and adults with autism.

"They're really great people there," Turgeon said of the clinic. "They do a lot for a lot of families."

In his second consecutive year running for the Friends of LADDERS Marathon Team, Turgeon has already raised \$6,000, far exceeding his goal of \$5,000.

"Last year I raised just under \$8,000 which included a grant of \$1,000 from my company (the Genzyme Corporation)," Turgeon said. "The rest I raised from family, friends, and co-workers."

Although this is only his second year running for LADDERS, Turgeon is no stranger to the Boston Marathon.

In 2004 and 2005, he ran as a member of the Dana-Farber Marathon Team to raise money for cancer research.

"Before when I ran for Dana Farber, I raised money so I could run the marathon," Turgeon said. "Now it's something more personal, the emphasis has shifted."

To make an online donation to the LADDERS program, go to www.firstgiving.com/marcturgeon. To donate by check, please make the check payable to Friends of LADDERS and mail to 61 Elyse Road, Mansfield, MA 02048. To learn more about the LADDERS program, visit www.ladders.org.

Marc Turgeon's Sponsorship Page

Page Creator: Marc Turgeon

Event: Boston Marathon

Event Starts: Apr 21st 2008

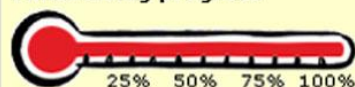


Boston 2007, Mile 24 with Alec & Poppa

Fundraising target: \$5,000
So far I have raised: \$8,076.00

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Fundraising progress



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My personal message:

Thanks for visiting this page and making a donation to my Boston Marathon run.

April is Autism Awareness Month. Please visit LADDERS.org or AutismSpeaks.org

Thanks to all who have donated. Your support has been tremendous.

While I am disappointed with my time--I had to walk in the last 5 miles due to cramping throughout both legs--I am extremely proud of the generosity shown by all our friends.

Thanks again for your support and God bless.

Marc

About my nonprofit:

[Friends of Ladders, Inc](#)

LADDERS is an interdisciplinary program designed to provide services in the evaluation and treatment of children and adults with autism, pervasive developmental disorder and related disorders. We strongly...

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Paula	4/23/2008	\$100.00	
Tim Sheahan	4/22/2008	\$25.00	NICE JOB
Cecilia Fairley	4/22/2008	\$50.00	
Amy Neach	4/21/2008	\$25.00	Way to go, Marc!
Paul Elson	4/21/2008	\$131.00	Good Luck Marc. Alec is lucky to have a Dad like you!
Levesque Family	4/21/2008	\$100.00	Don't try to keep up with the Kenyans. Good Luck!
Heather Kenney	4/20/2008	\$50.00	Good luck tomorrow!
Linda McCord	4/18/2008	\$25.00	
H	4/18/2008	\$100.00	Good luck - your friend from SWAA
Peter Ventola	4/18/2008	\$25.00	Go Marc!!!!!!
Angela Walter	4/18/2008	\$50.00	Best wishes to you and Alec, Marc - what an awesome thing to do!
Scott, Sandy & Alison Jennings	4/18/2008	\$25.00	Good Luck Marc! Thanks for running for such a great cause
Kathleen Bruce and OJ			Marc, Thanks for running for such a great cause, the Brown's