

Dear OSNY,

I am an avid runner and at this time of year I would normally be training for the New York City Marathon. This year, I am doing something different. On October 28, I will be running in the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. But I won't be tackling the 26.2 miles by myself! I have joined a fabulous team of individuals dedicated to creating awareness and raising funds for the Alzheimer's Association. Now I am asking for your help.

I have been touched in many ways by Alzheimer's disease. My great-aunt and namesake, Rena Brown, was struck by this illness, as were my grandmother Jean Lyman, my grandfather Leo Strappazon and my second cousin Ray Strappazon. The toll of Alzheimer's disease is steep - today, five million Americans suffer from the illness and this number is expected to grow to 16 million by 2050. I have seen first-hand how difficult it is to live with the disease, as well as the challenges of caring for loved ones suffering with Alzheimer's disease. I am running in memory of my special family members and for my future family - hoping that with improved research, we can beat this disease.

To help fight this battle, I am asking my friends to assist me in raising funds by sponsoring my participation in the Marine Corps Marathon. My goal was to raise at least \$1,500 as part of a group of volunteers - Team Memory Makers - that is running in the marathon. I have already reached my goal, but I am trying to go well above my original goal. Your financial contributions will benefit the Alzheimer's Association, which provides hope and help to individuals facing the daily challenges of Alzheimer's - including those diagnosed with the disease, their families and their care partners. In addition, the Alzheimer's Association is the largest non-government provider of Alzheimer's research.

Please help me in my race to raise funds that will help those with Alzheimer's disease and their loved ones. If you would like to make a donation, the deadline is Thursday, Oct. 18.

Thank you in advance for your support and I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

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