

RUNNING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Five runners will cross the Boston Marathon starting line in Hopkinton on April 15th, all dedicated to raising money for need-based college scholarships for Wellesley residents on behalf of the Wellesley Scholarship Foundation (WSF). “This is an exciting opportunity for our organization to gain greater community visibility,” said WSF President Sarah Pedersen.

Inspired to run and committed to providing college-bound students with financial aid, the runners have responded to a challenge put forth by the Town of Wellesley. While these runners are not Wellesley residents, they have close ties to the Boston area and have a personal connection to the critical need for college financial assistance. President Sarah Pedersen was thrilled about the response and said, “It has been exciting to attract interest from runners beyond Wellesley who share our goal of providing scholarships to college-bound students.” Each runner has committed to raising \$2,500 for WSF’s permanent fund and, if they do not meet this goal, to pay any remaining shortfall themselves.

This year, the Town of Wellesley received twenty invitational numbers from the Boston Athletic Association to distribute as desired. After reserving several each for the Fire and Police Departments, the Selectmen also allocated “charity” numbers to benefit several Wellesley non-profits. Getting official entries to the prestigious Boston Marathon is very difficult, even for qualified runners. This alternative to participate in the Marathon was available to runners who agreed to raise money for town charities and was advertised on the Town’s internet site. Fortunately for WSF, five runners living in nearby Charlestown to as far away as the southern shores of Connecticut and California committed to the challenge.

Scott Lucy lives in Stonington, Connecticut, where he was born and raised. This will be his second Boston Marathon, having run previously in 2011. Scott has great memories of his college years in Boston at Suffolk University where he ran cross country and achieved “Male Rookie of the Year” award. Since then, he has continued to run and he enjoys competing in half-marathons. This is Scott’s first charity race. As he searched for a charity entry to the Marathon, Scott reminisced, “I myself remember how difficult paying for college alone can be, and I am in full support of this cause!” Scott worked to pay his entire college education and he recognizes its importance in his life today. He has been busy fundraising door to door and via friends and relatives.

A second runner, Christopher Fincke, has many ties to Boston, having grown up in Winchester and Concord, and now living in Charlestown. Boston will be his first marathon. Christopher began running after college and he has competed in other charity runs, notably New Balance’s grueling “Reach the Beach Relay”. When asked about his decision to run on behalf of WSF, Christopher recalled great memories of his college years at Skidmore (Class of 2008) playing on the soccer team, however, he noted, “I am now paying off my college education in the form of loans.” Christopher works for McGladrey LLP, an assurance, tax and consulting firm in Boston. To help him reach his fundraising goal, the firm’s employee charity fund will make a substantial donation. He is also reaching out to friends and

family. Residents can help cheer on Christopher, in his green Skidmore shirt, as he runs through Wellesley.

Another Charlestown resident, Elizabeth Bradley, is a more recent college graduate. She graduated from Boston University (BU) two years ago and loved her college experience. She is now working at a local hospital and this will be her first marathon. Elizabeth was also attracted to WSF while looking online for charity numbers because she appreciates the value of her BU education. Elizabeth runs with a close friend and was fortunate to recently move her training to warm, sunny Florida where she competed in the Sarasota Half Marathon, a beautiful 13.1 mile course. She is fundraising with family and friends.

Cory Mosunic lives in Easton, Connecticut. She was drawn to compete on behalf of WSF because, "I have such fond memories of Boston where both my husband and I received graduate degrees at Tufts University." Cory keeps ties with the area by following Boston newspapers, where she read about the opportunity to run for WSF in the Boston Marathon. She has already completed four marathons and actively competes in triathlons. Cory hopes to run to finish at a 4:30 – 4:45 pace.

From the farthest distance away, Martha Blackwell will be returning to familiar territory in Wellesley, where she lived for three years. She states that even though she is in California now, she still feels like Wellesley is an important part of her life. Martha has a very high opinion of Wellesley schools, saying "The Wellesley School District is exceptional ... I know, because I've now been in three other top-rated public school systems in this country... giving the students such a strong foundation to carry with them throughout their higher-education years." She affirmed her strong commitment to WSF saying, "I do believe so many truly talented high schoolers are overlooked by colleges and universities for scholarship money and, in many cases, these students have to compromise their goals just because they didn't fall into one classification or another. What you are providing for Wellesley seniors is the ability to follow their dreams." Martha hopes to translate her enthusiasm into dollars and she confidently exclaimed, "I have no doubt I'll be able to raise the \$2,500 and hope to surpass it!"

Gifts of any amount for WSF are welcome. "All donations will help current and future students from Wellesley fund their college educations by boosting WSF's endowment," explained WSF President Pedersen. "This effort will help us wrap up a successful capital drive, *Campaign for the Future*, and will enable students to pursue their dreams of a college education."

To sponsor one of the Wellesley Scholarship Foundation Boston Marathon runners, donors may:

- mail checks payable to WSF (with Boston Marathon in memo line) to WSF at PO Box 81207, Wellesley, MA 02481; OR
- donate on-line at: <https://www.fundraise.com/wellesley-scholarship-foundation-inc/wsf-boston-marathon-fundraising-page>.

Sponsoring one runner at \$1/mile will cost \$26.20 and sponsoring the entire team at \$1/mile will cost \$131.00.