



The Spirit of the Marathon

For the last 20 years, Team With A Vision has raced the Boston Marathon in support of The Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired. For two decades, blind and sighted runners have toed the line in Hopkinton and for 26.2 miles they have persevered through the heat, the rain, the wind, the hills and this year - the bombs.

We can't let the actions of two overshadow the actions of many. In 2013 over twenty-six thousand runners entered the Boston Marathon. Whether they were racing for world records, personal bests, or charities, twenty-six thousand athletes crossed the starting line in Hopkinton, weaved downhill and into Ashland, pounded the pavement through Framingham and Natick, screamed through Wellesley, conquered the hills in Newton, and greeted the final five miles through Brookline and Boston with smiles on their faces. Twenty-six thousand athletes, all embodying the spirit of the marathon showcased all that was and is great in the world on Marathon Monday, 2013.

This year, we raised \$78,458 to support the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired's statewide network of vision rehabilitation services. These funds makes it possible for us to deliver services to over 1,100 Massachusetts blind and visually impaired residents each year.

None of us will ever forget where we were or what happened at 2:50 PM on Monday, April 15, 2013. Whether you were cleaning up at your hotel, walking through the finisher chutes, or still out on the course, you were at the Boston Marathon. Why? Because we're endurance athletes, and endure we will.

I hope to see you all at the 2014 Boston Marathon.

Keep Running,
Josh Warren

Building New Partnerships

In 2013, Team With A Vision was selected to become a John Hancock Boston Marathon Non-Profit Program Partner. As a member of the John Hancock marathon family, the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired was given two guaranteed entries into the 2013 Boston Marathon, representing both a significant fundraising opportunity and phenomenal exposure for our team and organization.



Please click [here](#) to view a short video featuring Team With A Vision sighted guide, Chad Carr. This commercial was created by John Hancock, and aired on WCVB Boston in the weeks leading up to the Boston Marathon, and during their Marathon Monday Live coverage.



Guide, Niles Gandhi leads visually impaired runner, Richard Marsolais through Brookline, MA.

2013 By The Numbers

- 75 runners, guides, and supporters joined us for our 2013 Pre-Race Team Dinner.
- 41 sighted, blind, and visually impaired runners raced as members of Team With A Vision on Marathon Monday.
- Visually Impaired runner Jennifer Herring, ran her 10th consecutive Boston Marathon and placed for the 10th time.
- Team With A Vision raised \$78,458 to support the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired.
- 1 NPR Radio Host / PBS television personality ran on Team With A Vision as a sighted guide.



A group of teenagers run laps, following the commands of their coaches. Nothing out of the ordinary for an after-school team, or so it would seem. Minor detail: the students are all blind or visually impaired.



Junior Team With A Vision athlete, Anthony Bynum and his guide at the B.A.A. 5K.

Junior Team With A Vision

This year, we created the “Junior Team With a Vision,” a collaboration between Our Space Our Place, an after-school program for blind and visually impaired young adults, YRN, a yoga, running, and nutritional program for young adults, and the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Made up of seven blind and visually impaired young adults from across the Greater Boston Area, participants range from ages 13 to 22.

Twice a month January through March, the Junior Team With a Vision met at the Tobin / Mission Hill Community Center to do running exercises and yoga. Nutritious snacks were prepared and served, and the focus was kept on encouraging participants to think about what it means to live healthy lifestyles and to make healthy decisions.

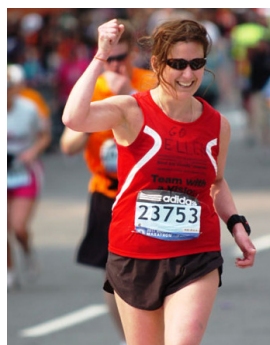
An extension of an existing collaboration between Our Space Our Place and YRN, the team began in January of 2013, run by volunteers. Cheryl Cummings, local visually impaired runner and founder of Our Space Our Place, and YRN co-founders Nichole Bukowski, USATF coach and certified yoga instructor, and Erin Rossi, certified yoga instructor, collaborated with MABVI staff to manage the team.

When we decided to form the Junior Team With A Vision earlier this year our goal was to break down barriers, try new things, and encourage students to live healthy, active lives. On Sunday, April 14, 2013, members of the Junior Team With A Vision ran in the B.A.A. 5K. Each student who finished the race felt a great sense of pride in what they had accomplished, and as each student crossed the finish line, Cheryl, Nichole, Erin, and all of the staff at MABVI shared that feeling of pride and accomplishment.

Leading the Charge

This year, Team With A Vision raised \$78,458. Seventeen athletes sent letters to friends and family members, threw parties in their homes and at local bars, organized road races and raffles, and one even shaved his head! Leading the charge were three runners, who together collected over \$23,000 to support MABVI's statewide network of vision rehabilitation services.

2013 Top Fundraisers



Ellen Goldberg— \$10,325
Four time Team With A Vision member and 2013 Top Fundraiser. Ellen has raised \$27,509 for MABVI in the last four years!



Tracy Wasden— \$7,350
Vice President of the Gibney Family Foundation, mother, wife, advocate, & runner, Tracy boasts a marathon PR of 3:46:11.



Chip Bergstrom— \$5,625
Vice President of Enrollment and Marketing at Bay State College, Chip first ran the Boston Marathon at age 18.



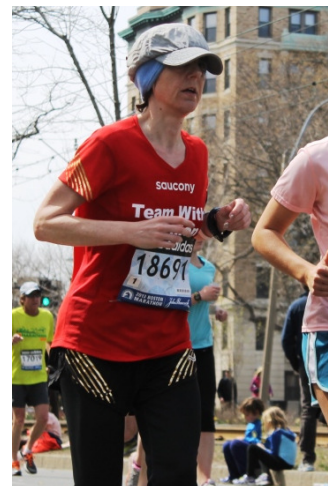
Leaders of the Pack

This year the Boston Athletic Association registered one of the largest visually impaired fields in the history of the Boston Marathon. Forty athletes from seventeen states and three countries came to Boston to compete in an exciting, growing division. Twelve of those runners raced as members of Team With A Vision, and three of those twelve took top places in the Men's and Women's Visually Impaired Division.

Jennifer Herring— 2013 marked Jennifer Herring's tenth consecutive Boston Marathon. Finishing with a time of 3:44:54, Jennifer secured third place at this year's race and found herself once again, for the tenth consecutive time, placing in the top three of the Women's Visually Impaired Division at the Boston Marathon.

Amy McDonaugh— Amy McDonaugh blazed through the course at a 6:33 pace, finishing with a time of 2:52:05. Only minutes off of her personal best time, 2:49:19. Amy placed in first place in this year's Women's Visually Impaired Division.

Aaron Scheidies— Aaron Scheidies returned to Boston this year to defend his title in the Men's Visually Impaired Division at the Boston Marathon. Aaron conquered the course at a 6:16 pace, finishing with a time of 2:44:31. This not only secured a first place finish for Aaron in the Men's Visually Impaired Division, but it was also a new personal record!



Jennifer Herring at mile 24.5 of the Boston Marathon.

Mike Merino's Race Report

Woodlands, TX— My Boston marathon experience was more than just the race. As a blind person, people always have trouble relating to what it is like to lose vision and how to live life with a positive outlook. Being surrounded by blind and VI athletes around the country was an amazingly therapeutic experience for

"...we don't focus on the tragedy of vision loss but dig deep into the human spirit and turn that tragedy into a beautiful thing."

me. They're a courageous group of people. It was great to hear how others deal with the loss of vision and that although life can be frustrating at times, it can be very fulfilling. We also exchange tricks of the trade.

I also found the guides to be very gracious. Most were amazing athletes that have accomplished goals in running most people can only dream of. They all had a common thread in that running wasn't just about achieving personal goals, but a vehicle to be a part of something bigger than themselves.

Being guided is an exercise in placing faith in someone else's hand. Which overall has been the greatest gift of

going blind - it keeps the ego in check and adds a huge dose of humility. I am able to see people's true kindness more than others.

As for the race itself, the Boston marathon is like none other - I see why it's like Wimbledon is to tennis or the Masters is to golf. The historic course was challenging, the crowds were uplifting, and the other runners were amazing.

Overall, a memorable experience that I will treasure. People can focus on the tragedy of the race, but like my fellow blind and VI athletes, we don't focus on the tragedy of vision loss but dig deep into the human spirit and turn that tragedy into a beautiful thing. I know the spirit of Boston will do the same. - An excerpt from [The 27th Mile](#), *Going the Extra Mile To Support the Victims of the Boston Marathon Bombing*.

NEVER AGAIN

Ok, terrorists, you win:

I'll never do it again.

I'll never pass up the opportunity to participate in the biggest, highest-profile races.

I'll never forfeit a chance to celebrate the human spirit through shared experiences.

I'll never have regrets about my individual performance - I'm blessed to be out there.

I'll never forget the outpouring of love your cowardice has prompted.

I'll never take my health, fitness or family for granted.

I'll never forget Boston 4/15/2013.

Thanks for opening this blind man's eyes .

-Erich Manser, Boston, MA



Mike Merino racing with his guide, Ray Charbonneau.



**Team With A Vision is the Official
Boston Marathon team of:**

The Massachusetts Association for the
Blind and Visually Impaired
200 Ivy Street
Brookline, MA 02446

Phone: 617-732-0241

E-mail: jwarren@mabcommunity.org

Find us Online at:

Twitter: @TeamWithAVision //
@TheMABVI

Facebook: www.facebook.com/mabvi
Website: www.mabcommunity.org

See you in December!

Save The Date: December, 8, 2013

Are you looking for a fun, fast and friendly marathon to run later this year? Check out the United States Association of Blind Athletes' National Marathon Championships at the California International Marathon!

In 2012, 37 guides and 31 blind or visually impaired runners from the U.S., Canada, China, and New Zealand participated in the event, running either a full-marathon or racing as members of a relay team.

Similar to racing with Team With A Vision in Boston, the USABA is able to provide on the ground transportation, lodging support, assistance recruiting local guides, and pre-race networking opportunities with other runners!

For more information about the CIM, please contact Richard Hunter at rhunter988@att.net // 916-608-1936.



Team With A Vision's, Erich Manser speaks to WCVB-Boston's Dorothy Krysiuk on training for the Boston Marathon in the Winter. Erich is currently training for this fall's Ironman Arizona.

Closing remarks from NPR's Peter Sagal:



Peter Sagal, host of the NPR news quiz, Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me, and PBS' The Constitution, runs down Beacon St.

An excerpt from, Peter Sagal: Eyewitness to Bravery, Horror

We turned onto Hereford and William didn't stop. He danced around a traffic cone

like a man sighted and took the left turn onto Boylston like a man reborn, and as we ran that famous interminable canyon to the finish I kept urging him on as I waved my arms to whoop up the crowd, shouting, "A quarter mile! Three hundred yards! Two hundred! Can you see it yet, William?"

"Yes!" he yelled, and we crossed the line in 4:04, and I was as proud of him as I've been of anyone I've ever known, and happier with this marathon – my slowest – than any other I've ever run. I told him he could stop running – he hadn't realized he'd crossed the line – and I put my arm around William and enumerated his praises and we shuffled, slowly, into the finishing chute.

"You need some water?" I asked William.

"I don't want anything," he said, "Until I get that medal."

Read the full article at <http://www.runnersworld.com/races/peter-sagal-eyewitness-bravery-horror>

Follow these links to more stories by or about this year's Team With A Vision runners:

- [Boston Marathon bombings won't define my first marathon](#), by Whitney Eulich
- [Why I'll run the Boston Marathon again in 2014](#), by Ray Charbonneau
- [Legally blind Hamilton woman will run the Boston Marathon next](#)

[week](#), by Joyce J. Persico

- [26.2 Miles Without Eye-sight: Meet the Fastest Blind Female Marathoner in the U.S.](#), by Hilary Milnes
- [Legally blind runner hits the Boston Marathon with a celebrity guide](#), by Andrea Ball
- [Legally Blind Austin Man to Run Boston Marathon—With a Special Guest \(Update\)](#), by Matt Largey
- [Exceptional Women Podcast. Featuring Amy McDonough](#)
- [Running with a blindfold opened her eyes](#), by Katy Moeller
- [Arlington Runner Guides Blind Runner Away from Explosions](#), by Ray Charbonneau