

2020 Boston Marathon – Town of Natick Fundraising Non-profit Organizations

It is the Town's intent to utilize the funds raised by Natick's Boston Marathon runners to support local projects, programs and services that benefit Natick residents. Our selected charities for the 2020 Boston Marathon are listed below. Runners must raise a minimum of \$6,000 in support of one of these charities. The deadline for meeting this fundraising goal is May 31, 2020.

Embrace A Family 2 Entries - Embrace A Family (EAF), a program of the Rotary Club of Natick, strives to help individuals and families in Natick who are battling cancer. Their goal is to support Natick families who incur overwhelming hardships due to a cancer diagnosis. Funds donated to EAF go directly to Natick residents for non-medical expenses and support such as transportation to and from doctor's appointments, groceries, dietician/nutrition support and guidance, child care, utility bill assistance, gas cards, housecleaning, wigs, companionship and other assistance to help ease the strain on a family. Visit www.embracefamily.org for further information.

Family Promise – 2 Entries (FPM) - FPM is a nonprofit organization providing a community response to the issue of family homelessness. It is a grassroots effort that utilizes a network of volunteers to provide shelters for families while professional staff offer the essential guidance needed for long term sustainability. The program includes the Family Promise Metrowest Shelter with a network of volunteers providing support; transitional housing offering resources to families as they move back into the community and Steps for Success, a comprehensive employment program supporting families as they further their education and work towards sustainable careers. For further information please contact Sue Crossley at director@familypromisemetrowest.org or 508-318-4820.

Keep Natick Beautiful – 1 Entry – Keep Natick Beautiful conducts multiple town cleanups to improve Natick's roadways, woodlands, trails, and waterways including many public venues, open space and the Cochituate Rail Trail. Additionally, Keep Natick Beautiful maintains various recycling and trash bins around Town, as well as other beautification efforts. For more information contact Pat Conaway at pat@keepnatickbeautiful.org

Kids Connect – 2 Entries -This after school tutoring program offers educational support and skill building along with encouraging self-confidence and the ability to learn how to learn. The target population includes children with learning disabilities, ADD, and processing challenges. The \$50/hour fee is adjusted according to the family's ability to pay; several students do not pay anything while many others receive a reduced rate. Funds raised through the Boston Marathon will be used to underwrite those students unable to pay. Email debras@kids-connect.org or call 508-652-4211 or for further information.

Natick Center Associates – 2 Entries - Natick Center Associates (NCA) is in partnership with the Town of Natick to cultivate a lively and diverse downtown neighborhood by enhancing the cultural, economic and social life of our community. NCA's private-public partnership represents innovative cultural voices from merchants' and property owners, to arts and cultural organizations, local artists

and concerned citizens. Together we work to build capacity for cultural programming and creative spaces, and to foster creative partnerships, pivotal to the continued renaissance of Natick Center. For further information, please contact Athena Pandolf at info.natickcenter@gmail.com

Natick Community Organic Farm – 2 Entries - NCOF was conceived in 1975 as a means of supplying much needed summer jobs to local young people at risk. NCOF is one of the only farms in the state that is both certified organic and community based; the farm operates through a partnership with the Town of Natick and its Conservation Commission. Unique to the Farm's mission, NCOF works with teens and young adults in the community, providing jobs and educational opportunities to learn about organic farming. Funds raised by Natick's Marathon runners will support several programs to enhance classroom learning for students in Pre-Kindergarten to Second Grade; these programs are aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework to provide an enrichment resource to educators. Call 508-655-2204 or visit www.natickfarm.org for further information.

Natick High School – 2 Entries - Natick High School is raising money to create a cultural exchange program for students. Natick High School has a long-standing partnership with a school in The Gambia, West Africa and are exploring opportunities in Latin America. Over sixty students at Natick High School are actively involved in the Change the World Club dedicated to building authentic connections across cultures. The students in the club are very interested in growing and sustaining these partnerships. The money will help grow the programs to impact more students at Natick High School. There will be two service trips per year to West Africa and Latin America and the funds will help to offer scholarships to low-income students who would otherwise not be able to participate. For more information contact Principal Brian Harrigan at bharrigan@natickps.org

Natick Service Council – 2 Entries - For over 50 years, NSC has served Natick's most vulnerable and economically disadvantaged residents as a center for advocacy, referral, case management, information, and job skills training. Guided by the motto "Neighbors Helping Neighbors," they help clients meet basic needs for food, housing, and health care with the goal of promoting self-sufficiency. Funds raised by Natick's Marathon runners will be used to support a significant increase in client assistance programs, with emphasis on ensuring that NSC clients stay safe and warm in their homes. Specifically, the funds will be used to expand financial assistance for rent, home heating fuel and utilities. In addition, the funds would allow NSC to expand the availability of perishable foods (vegetables, fruits, lean meats, and dairy products) in support of NSC's "heart healthy" food pantry initiative. Call 508-655-1791 or visit www.natickservicecouncil.org for further information.

Parents Association for the Handicapped, Inc. (PATH) – 1 Entry – The Parents' Association for the Handicapped, Inc. was organized in 1983 for the purpose of raising funds in support of the therapeutic recreational programs offered by the Town of Natick, in particular, Camp Arrowhead and the Skyline Programs. Children, teens and adults with special needs are offered a safe, nurturing environment in which to build physical and intellectual strength, life skills and personal relationships. PATH helps defray the expenses of staff, equipment, transportation and training to keep the programs affordable. For more information contact Kathy Danielson at danielson277@verizon.net

Patrick's Promise Foundation – 1 Entry - Patrick's Promise foundation is a tax exempt charity honoring the tragically short, but amazing life of Patrick Sibley; 2010 Natick High School graduate who went on to play NCAA Division I volleyball. The goals of the Foundation are to keep the energy, joyful spirit and life philosophies that were Patrick's alive. The Foundation would like to pay forward to others all that Patrick has shared; we can achieve healthier, happier and more balanced lives through hard work, determination, wise nutrition and true friendship. In the spirit of compassion, the Foundation will strive to keep alive Patrick's daily commitment to all his friends and family; "I've Got Your Back." The Foundation will sponsor all programs that support healthy habits, physical activities, and educational initiatives, including anti-bullying awareness, for underprivileged children and young adults. For more information please visit the Foundations website at www.patrickspromise.org or contact us at PatricksPromise@gmail.com

SOAR – 1 Entry - SOAR Natick (Supporting Outreach and Addiction Recovery) is a Natick based organization formed in 2014 as a support group for parents with children suffering from addiction. SOAR later began working on outreach activities in the community to help educate about addiction and reduce the stigma often associated with it. SOAR Natick hosted speaker events with Chris Herren and with Cory Palazzi, partnering with SPARK Kindness and Natick ACTS (now Natick180) on many events focused on addiction. SOAR Natick was simply a community group. For more information please contact Cheryle Lucenta at soarnatick@gmail.com

Spark Kindness, Inc. - 2 Entries - Spark (which stands for Successful, Positive, Authentic, Resilient Kids) began in Natick 5 years ago as a local grassroots bullying prevention effort called Natick Parents Against Bullying and Cyberbullying. Co-founded by parents Michele Woolard and Christine Fortune Guthery, the organization eventually expanded to become SPARK Kindness, with a broader and more proactive mission to promote kindness and resiliency on a community-wide scale. SPARK Kindness is unique because it takes a proactive approach to building a community that promotes dignity and respect for all. For the past three years, SPARK has coordinated over 40 parent programs and events in Natick with over 3,000 participants/attendees. SPARK Kindness is currently run entirely by volunteers. For further information please contact Christine Guthery at cguthery@sparkkindness.org or 508-651-2734.

STRIVERS Running Club for Girls - 2 Entries - STRIVERS Running Club for Girls is a Natick based program established in 2009. The mission of the STRIVERS is to develop strong, confident, athletic and community-loyal young women. This is achieved through the process of training and completing a 5k road race with a supportive team environment. To date, over 500 girls have successfully completed our program with 80% of our members running an average of three years as a STRIVER. The runners donate service hours and lead numerous community outreach projects from food drives, back pack collections, and town wide clean ups in an effort to demonstrate the positive impact a group of runners can make on their community. For more information, please contact Colleen Phelps at colleenHphelps@comcast.net