

Motivation by miles: Jolivette chasing world record, raising awareness of cystic fibrosis

BY JOE ARNOLD • The Eagle-Gazette Staff • June 9, 2010

PICKERINGTON -- Kalyn Jolivette's 24th birthday will be unlike any other she's had. She'll start the day on the track at Pickerington North shortly after sunrise. Five hours and 26.2 miles later, Jolivette hopes to cross the finish line with a Guinness world record in hand.

Jolivette, a Coshocton native, will attempt to run 11 marathons in 11 days at Pickerington North's track, and she hopes to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

If she completes the event June 19, Jolivette will become the first woman officially recognized for running 11 marathons in as many days.

"Running is a passion of mine, and I think this is the best way I can help," Jolivette said. "The crazier things people do get the most attention. I could run a 5K, but it wouldn't bring as much attention to cystic fibrosis."

Jolivette, an Ohio State graduate who is in medical school at the State University of New York at Buffalo, became aware of the disease after childhood friend Kim Rollins was diagnosed with it. The disease, which affects the lungs and digestive tracts of 70,000 people worldwide each year, later took the life of Rollins' older sister.

Jolivette later met Barb Phillips, a Toledo woman also battling the disease. Phillips became part of Jolivette's motivation for completing her first major cystic fibrosis awareness campaign in 2007 -- a 34-day, 700-mile run through each of Ohio's 88 counties.

"I was proud that she not only finished, but she did what she set out to do," said Kalyn's mother, Faye Jolivette. "She formed it, got everything ready and then completed it. It was for such a good cause."

With Faye and a friend following her every step, Kalyn ran an average of 21 miles per day in 2007. She spent most nights in a tent pitched by the road

side or inside the family's car.

Her latest running crusade, which begins today, will cover about 288 miles in 11 days. It's a step up for Kalyn, who has run in five previous marathons, and whose training routinely includes 100-mile weeks.

"At times I like (running) more than other times," she said. "I think it has become part of my lifestyle."

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation officials have set a tentative goal of raising \$10,000 from Kalyn's marathons. Without having taken a step, however, Kalyn said the event already has raised more than \$2,000.

"She's the kid with the heart of gold," Faye said. "She always finds a good cause and goes to work."

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Kalyon Jolivet, an Ohio State graduate, will run 11 marathons in 11 days at Pickerington North's track to raise money and awareness for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. If she completes the event June 19, Jolivet will become the first woman officially recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records for running 11 marathons in as many days. (Submitted photo)

Source: Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

RUN WITH KALYN

- WHAT Run with Kalyon: A Fundraiser for Cystic Fibrosis
- WHEN 3 to 8 p.m. June 9; 7 a.m. to noon, Thursday through June 19
- WHERE Pickerington North High School
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HOW TO DONATE

Those wishing to donate to Kalyon Jolivet's cause can do so in many ways. Donors can run laps with Kalyon for a \$5 registration fee for the June 10-13 marathons.

The registration fee for the June 14-18 marathons is \$10, and registration for the potential record-breaking day is \$25.

For more information or to donate, visit formstack.com/forms/?962074-SKSflbnnHu

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WHAT IS CYSTIC FIBROSIS?

Cystic fibrosis is a life-threatening genetic disease that causes mucus to build up and clog some of the organs in the body, particularly the lungs and pancreas.

Source: Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

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