

RACE DAY SPEECH 2011

So here we are: YEAR 2. Thank you all for coming. I would like to take a moment and thank our sponsors, who have funded the race. First and foremost, our PRESENTING SPONSOR: Tri-Coastal Design. Additionally, in Roseland, Regal Bank, Fox Rothschild, Farmer Funeral Home and Rothstein Kass. We are so excited to have the support of our town. Another new sponsor is Pro-Form Sports Medicine and Wellness, in Rutherford, NJ.

A huge thank you to the boroughs of Roseland and Essex Fells...specifically the police departments of both towns, the EMT of Roseland and DPW of Roseland.

Thank you again to Chris Gieger, for our new and improved website, John Moss for all of our printing. Thank you to Ben Rosenberg and Chris Gieger for donating their photography skills, once again. Shop Rite, Whole Foods, Manhattan Bagel and Rockn' Joe. And of course, all of our volunteers here today! We couldn't do this without you.

Individual sponsors. You all never cease to amaze me. Our list of individual sponsors has become longer than makes sense for me to read this year. We are so thankful for your generosity, this, and in many cases, also LAST year.

FUNDRAISERS: HOLY COW did you guys do a great job: Our top three fundraisers: Joanne Dowd, Suzanne Nelson and John Baker EACH raised well over \$1,000 a piece. THANK YOU.

Barbara – There is not a way to describe what your dedication to this cause means to me. Through all that you have been through this year...you are there. Through finding a “real” job...you are there...I'm pretty sure without having to go any further I've described a true friend. Not to mention, you've taught me about asking for what we need...helping the race every step of the way.

You have no idea what Alzheimer's does until it hits someone you love...my dad said that just a few weeks ago. He's right. Before my mom got this horrible disease, I thought of it as the “key-losing” disease. When you had Alzheimer's, you couldn't find your keys. While it may start that way, it goes so far beyond that.

People ask me all the time, “Does your Mom recognize you?” To understand what this disease does, let me explain...my mom hasn't recognized me in over 6 years. One of the last “real” things I remember her saying to me is “No, I don't know who you are, I just know that I love you.”

What starts with the loss of keys, moves to the loss of self, to the loss of everything but the body you inhabit. It takes every memory, all sense of logic, and all shreds of

dignity. Alzheimer's has little to do with losing your keys...and everything to do with losing everything else.

I'm going to end with a few things that I said last year:

Running 4 Answers is not going to cure Alzheimer's disease, but we have to believe it is a step in the right direction.

THANK YOU for being here. THANK YOU for helping. Thank you for making my suffering....my family's suffering...the suffering of some families here....mean something.

Runners and Walkers: Today, while you are out on the course, think of those you love. Remember those who may not remember you. Be inspired by your own ability to do whatever you deem important enough to do.

Thank you and have a great race!