

RACE DAY SPEECH 2016

Good morning and welcome to the SEVENTH annual Running 4 Answers.

I promise to keep it brief.

Over our first 6 years, we have donated \$205,000 to Cure Alzheimer's Fund. We are happy to have John Slattery here today from that amazing organization. PLEASE stop by and say hi to him.

The money we have raised is a combination of Sponsorships, donations, registrations, and our fundraisers.

Thank you to Tri-Coastal Design – They have been with us from the beginning and have donated a total of \$25,000! We HAPPILY welcome the return of Verona Take Down Club, Regal Bank, St. Barnabas Health, Fox Rothschild.

Our food and drink are provided by: Pomptonian Food Service, Manhattan Bagel, and Rockn' Joe.

I'd be lost without the technical support of Chris Gieger and Gieger Visual Communications. Thank you to John Moss and Galvanic Printing for all of our printed materials. Thank you to Ben Rosenberg and Chris Gieger for donating their photography skills.

Thank you to the towns of Roseland and Essex Fells, particularly Lieutenant Brian Maglio, Sergeant Scott Jones and Officer Brogan. In addition, thank you to Tom from the DPW and the Recreation department of Roseland, our CERT volunteers and Amateur Radio Club.

Thank you to Mr. Emering and Mr. Cullen for the support of the WEST ESSEX track team...we LOVE having you here.

Our fundraisers continue to be a huge part of our annual success. This year our leaders are my sister, Suzanne Nelson, Joanne Dowd, Brian Brooks and Donna Muffieri (\$700+), Buckleys.....

In addition to our awards for the race this year, we have a raffle with 2 prizes. For \$5.00 you will get a pura vida bracelet and a chance to win either a \$50 gift card to Sneaker Factory in Florham Park or \$100 to the Spa at the Hilton at Short Hills!!! So stick around for the awards!!!

Each year as I prepare to stand here, I think to myself, “Is THIS the year that I will say that my mom has finally passed away?”

This race was not created “for my mom”. This race was not created for ME. If we had to label who it was created for, it is for my children...your children...that they will never have to go through what my mom did for 17 years.

I try desperately to not spew statistics. Without the actual experience to understand them, they will mean nothing. I will say, however, that the number of people who have Alzheimer's disease is growing and while we are not going to fix it here, I know that we are taking a step in the right direction.

Barbara – I have run out of ways to say THANK You for what you do. Even with a FULL TIME job now, you are there with your intelligence, support, and creativity.

THANK YOU to all of you, from the bottom of my heart for being here.

I end as always: 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.

Have a great race and an enjoyable walk.