

THREE FRIENDS RUN IN NYC MARATHON TO BENEFIT IMPORTANT FOUNDATION

By Susan Murphy

Kelly Wimmer, Michelle Masonius, and Corinne Thygeson are moms who like to run. After completing a half marathon in May, they began thinking about their next project. After careful consideration, they chose the New York City Marathon. Plan big and train hard - that's exactly what these three friends from Little Silver did.

They met for weekly runs for approximately four months, using one of the training guides posted on the official ING NYC Marathon website, said Kelly. One their longest training runs was 22 miles.

This was the first marathon for Kelly and Michelle. Corinne ran her first marathon last year in the Chicago Marathon. Michelle was an avid walker until her fourth baby strongly rejected the use of the jogger. She then started running to get home faster, said Kelly. Corinne, who enjoyed recreational running, ran in numerous shorter races.

Kelly shared, "I began running in high school to clear my head and fit into my prom dress, but mostly because it seemed to be the most efficient form of exercise and I love efficiency." During their weekly runs, these three friends learned a great deal about themselves, their individual and united strength, and the fact that their children were not the least bit impressed by their efforts. "We learned that it feels good to be part of a team, small or large. We are proud of ourselves for following through and pleased that our 40-year-old bodies have complied. We also learned that you can still fall down and get scraped like a 3-year-old!"

Kelly, Michelle, and Corinne now needed to choose a cause that would benefit from their fundraising efforts. They were familiar with the Kortney Rose Foundation through St. John's Nursery School, where Kortney's mother was a pre-school teacher. Upon learning of the Foundation's involvement in the NYC Marathon, they decided to be a part of "Team Kortney." Kelly elaborated, "It was a fantastic cause, it was local, and we knew it could have been any one of us who had a child with cancer."

On Sunday, November 1, 2009, Kelly, Michelle, and Corinne put their trained bodies to the test and ran the 26.2 miles in the New York City Marathon. They stayed together the entire race, said Kelly. "This made the whole experience more enjoyable and although our time was a lot slower than we anticipated (4:55), it was nice having each other there during those very tough last two to three miles." Sponsors for Team Kortney were individuals, with the exception of a few corporate match donations. Kelly, Michelle and Corinne each had between 30 to 50 sponsors. Their fundraising will directly benefit the pediatric brain tumor research being done at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Visit www.thekortneyrosefoundation.org for additional information.



Post race, Michelle Masonius, Corinne Thygeson and Kelly Wimmer embrace their friendship, their ability to complete the New York City Marathon on November 1, 2009, and are looking forward to doing it again next year.