

Charlotte Man Goes the Distance to “Run 4 Papa”

Jason Boschan Finishes Marathons on All Seven Continents in a Run Against Dementia

By Patrice Malloy

Watching his grandfather struggle with dementia was all the motivation Jason Boschan needed to begin an arduous journey to, not only finish a marathon, but to run a marathon on each of Earth's seven continents.

Boschan reached that mindboggling milestone on March 12 when he crossed the finish line of the grueling Antarctica Marathon, held on what is known as the coldest, windiest, least inhabitable continent on Earth.

“It was extremely difficult to see how my ‘Papa’ – a pediatrician who dedicated his life to

helping ease the concerns of anxious parents while taking care of their sick children – begin to mentally deteriorate over time,” said Boschan. “The trials and tribulations to train for, and run a marathon, are minuscule when compared to watching a loved one suffer from dementia.”

The experience initially motivated Boschan to run the 2010 New York City Marathon in honor of his grandfather. It was during that race Boschan's “Run4Papa” fundraising concept was conceived and evolved into a journey to “Run Against Dementia.”

Boschan partnered with North-

western University's Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease Center (CNADC) in 2010 with a goal to raise funds and awareness to fight the vicious disease. “My goal was to run races all over the world in honor of my ‘Papa’ and everyone who is battling or has lost loved ones to this vicious disease,” he said. “More than \$175,000 has been raised, and all contributions go directly to fund dementia research.”

The Director of Marketing and Communications for Moishe House and currently living in Charlotte, Boschan sees some correlation between his efforts and the mission of the Moishe House. “My global travels have helped inspire both staff and Moishe House residents – to think about how they are engaging their communities and the opportunities and places around the world they might visit and make an impact in. The ability to stand behind your passion in life, like these young adults are doing on a monthly basis, is certainly a motivating force.”

Boschan's frozen seven-on-seven finale was no walk in the park. Held on King George Island off the coast of the Antarctic Peninsula, the Antarctica marathon and accompanying half-marathon features brutally hilly, muddy courses that transverse the rudimentary gravel roads and connect the research bases of Chile, China, and Russia. A sold-out field of 183 participants hailing from 22 countries participated this year.

Race day saw a barrage of volatile conditions and challenges unique to running on what is known as the Last Continent.



Jason Boschan and his good friend Alex Turoff headed to the frozen tundra to run the 2016 Antarctica Marathon. This was Jason's 10th marathon and has now run and finished 26.2 miles on all 7 continents.

Winds were mild at the start, temperatures hovering around 32 F under mostly cloudy skies. However conditions worsened mid-race with wind speed accelerating to roughly 40 mph, dropping the wind chill into low, single digit temperatures.

Traveling to a marathon on what is referred to as the “Last Continent,” is a marathon in itself. Athletes traveled an average of 7,000 miles each to Buenos Aires,

southwestern part of the Atlantic Ocean with the southeastern part of the Pacific Ocean and has earned a place in history as having some of the roughest sea weather in the world. The entire expedition spanned 14 days.

Boschan also has run marathons in South Africa, Rio de Janeiro, the Australian Outback, Boston, London, Chicago, and on the Great Wall of China.

For more information on the



Jason crosses the finish line.

Argentina before departing to Ushuaia, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world. There they boarded either the Akademik Ioffe or Akademik Vavilov, Russian ice-classed ships, for a two-day crossing of the Drake Passage, a body of water that connects the

Antarctica Marathon, please visit www.antarcticamarathon.com.

For more information on the Run4Papa and the Moishe House, please visit www.run4papa.com and www.moishehouse.org, respectively. ☆



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