

Runs For Funds

Jennifer Payne Launches Voyage To New York

By Teresa Simmons
Post Managing Editor

"You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give." (From "The Prophet" by Kahlil Gibran).

Giving of herself is exactly what Jennifer Payne is about to do when she launches from Marshall Park Saturday, March 31, at 1 p.m. on her voyage to New York. "I am running from Charlotte to New York in order to raise money for sickle cell anemia disease research. I was sitting down in my home one day wondering what I could do to help, and the idea of running came into my mind," Mrs. Payne revealed.



JENNIFER PAYNE

...Determined to finish

So far, there are many supporters, verbally. But what Mrs. Payne wants out of her run is for individuals to donate to a special Sickle Cell Fund that has been set up in Charlotte. She has completed four, 26-mile marathons—three in Charlotte and one in New York. If one is skeptical about her completing 15 to 20 miles a day for five weeks, they should first take a look at her determination.

"I know I can do it. I'm in good physical condition. I know enough not to injure myself because I know the warning signs."

On the average, Mrs. Payne runs six to 12 miles

daily. For the run to New York, she will average 15 to 20 miles per day. In the marathons, one of her best times for 26 miles was five hours and twenty minutes.

"I plan to take it slow - I'm not racing against time," Mrs. Payne explained. Instead, she will be racing for what she feels is a worthy cause - a solution to a disease mainly found within the black race. A smaller percentage of white individuals of Mediterranean ancestry also have the trait. In the

U.S., hemoglobin S is found mainly in black individuals, almost one in 12 of whom have the sickle cell trait.

Sickle cell anemia occurs only when two genes for sickle hemoglobin are inherited - one gene from each parent. In the U.S., the chance of a black baby inheriting two genes for sickling, one from each parent, is about one in 600.

Mrs. Payne will also be running toward something special. "My nephew has sickle cell anemia and he

lives in New York." Accompanied by her husband, Bill, Mrs. Payne will run in the following states: North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Washington, D.C.

"I will be running mainly within the cities," Mrs. Payne stated. "All the states and the District of Columbia, have been cleared and they know that I'm coming. Whether there is rain or light snow, I'll make it. If there are any injuries, I'll walk." (Mrs. Payne has a diploma in nursing and a B.A. degree in Sociology.)

Some cities have invited Mrs. Payne to deliver messages. This will provide a chance for her to express the importance of her run and why she decided to give of herself.

If you would like to donate money to the re-

search of sickle cell anemia, you may send your donations to: Jennifer's Marathon for Sickle Cell, Mechanics and Farmers Bank, 951 S. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, N.C. 28202.

Just remember Mrs. Payne's creed: "I'll be running to raise funds to prevent deaths."

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Procurement Workshop For Minorities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization will sponsor a one-day procurement workshop for minority and women business owners.

The workshop will be held on Thursday, April 12, from 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. in the EPA Auditorium, Environmental Research Center Building, Hwy. 54 & Alexander Dr., Research Triangle Park, N.C. 27711.

The workshop is one of a series of initiatives being implemented by EPA to enhance the utilization of minority and women business contractors in all aspects of the Agency's procurement, grants and cooperative agreement programs. The objectives of the workshop are:

-To acquaint minority and women business concerns with the business opportunities resulting from the Agency's procurement and grant programs;

and

-To afford minority and women concerns an opportunity to market their products and services to appropriate EPA program representatives and participating EPA prime contractors.

There is no registration fee. Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Jerry M. Dodson, Small Business Program, at 919-541-2249 or Mrs. Lee Andrews, 541-3044.

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