



Live the Dream – Run Boston

**Run the best Marathon in the world
and support an important and effective cause:
Boys & Girls Clubs.**



As part of the John Hancock Non-Profit Marathon Program, the South Boston Boys & Girls Club has official Boston Athletic Association (BAA) Invitational Entry bib numbers for the 2012 Boston Marathon.

No qualifying time is required.

(But BQ runners are welcome to join the team!)

The fundraising minimum per runner is \$5,000, but our goals are even higher! This will be our 7th straight year having a Marathon Team so we'll be able to share successful fund raising ideas from past runners. Runners also share ideas and advice with each other as we go through the winter months. We create an email group of runners and send out periodic emails that increase in frequency as April approaches. A true sense of community - we're all-in-this-together - develops.

Training advice is provided. Runners must be fit enough to complete the marathon in 6 hours. The Club provides each runner with an official South Boston Boys & Girls Club technical shirt. We have a runner's dinner and tour our facility Thursday before the race. Of course, runners are invited to visit the Club prior to then if they wish. We offer several group team training runs.

We have had runners from 8 states and it has been a very cool experience for all. Runners universally report a "Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience" . . . the connection with the Club, the training, and the marathon itself.

The South Boston Boys & Girl Club, founded in 1938, has been serving the community in our current location on the corner of F and West 6th streets since 1940. Our proven youth development strategy gives young people a sense of belonging, a sense of usefulness, a sense of influence/leadership and a sense of competence. We reach kids through daily interactions with quality, caring, professional staff, and through programs in six core areas: Arts, Education/Career Development, Character/Leadership Development, Sports/Fitness/Recreation, Health/Life Skills, and Technology.

This year your support is extra valuable to us. Addressing a rise in our daily attendance and the pressing needs of the families we serve, we have added new staff to provide even better programming. This school year the "Club" has served over 1,000 kids ages 6 – 18, with 220-300 attending on a daily basis. And in tough economic times, the struggles of the disadvantaged multiply.

Most of our members come from disadvantaged and even harsh circumstances. Growing up in these dangerous conditions leave many kids at-risk to engage in unhealthy actions and destructive futures. The Club is a safe haven for such kids, a place of hope and opportunity. The Club helps provide the protective factors that counter the risk factors that confront them. We help youth build up critical positive self-identity and then we add layer upon layer upon layer of skill and leadership development.

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**2012
NON-PROFIT
MARATHON
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