



## News Release

Contact:

Carolyn M. Wood  
Vice President of Advancement  
Walker  
1968 Central Avenue  
Needham, MA 02492  
cwood@walkercares.org  
781-292-2144

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Team Walker to Run 122<sup>nd</sup> Boston Marathon**

**Needham, MA** – On April 16, 2018 nearly 30,000 runners will start the running of the 122<sup>nd</sup> Boston Marathon®. The 26.2-mile route extends through Hopkinton, Ashland, Framingham, Natick, Wellesley, Newton, Brookline, and Boston. On this day, ten individuals representing Team Walker will run in support of Walker's mission to transform the lives of children facing significant emotional, behavioral, and learning challenges.

Walker received ten bibs from John Hancock as part of their Marathon Non-Profit Program. Each year John Hancock donates guaranteed entries to select nonprofits, which use these entries to recruit individual runners to raise money for their cause. Last year, John Hancock nonprofit runners raised more than \$12 million for over 140 different local organizations. For over 30 years John Hancock has been the principal sponsor of the Boston Marathon®. The Company's continued support of the Boston Athletic Association, which has directed the race since 1897, ensures that the race will continue to be a world-class event and an important facet of Boston's culture and heritage.

Spring is an exciting time for the Walker community. In the weeks leading up to the Marathon, Walker students, staff, and community partners gather to support and rally around the organization's runners in honor of the life-changing services Walker provides to children, youth, and families throughout Massachusetts.

- more -

## **Team Walker (page 2)**

“What a moving experience!” shared Becca Doyle, a member of Walker’s 2017 marathon team and 2018 Walker marathon volunteer. “Knowing you are running for such a great cause is rewarding in itself, but seeing the rest of the runners in the charity wave with their banners, teams, bandages, and even crutches is emotional and revived my faith in how much a community can do.”

The 2018 Team Walker runners have shared their tremendous excitement for running for Walker on April 16<sup>th</sup>. With all of their long runs complete, the runners have tapered down their training and have reached the final stretch of preparations.

Walker is pleased to announce that the following ten individuals will run as Team Walker on April 16<sup>th</sup>:

- Gene Alperovich of Lexington is running his second marathon.
- Craig Anderson of Bow, New Hampshire is running his fourth marathon.
- Karina Chmielewski of Winchester is running her fifth marathon.
- Addison Fine of Troy, New York is running his third marathon.
- Christopher Macek of Lexington is running his second marathon.
- Paul Marty of Shanghai is running his second marathon.
- Kevin McCarthy of Medfield is running his tenth marathon.
- Daniel Relihan of Boston is running his fourth marathon.
- Courtney Torres of Leominster is running her fourth marathon.
- Corey Zimmerman of Arlington is running her first marathon.

“We are proud to have these ten individuals represent Team Walker at the 122nd Boston Marathon. With each goal and milestone achieved, they are sharing a powerful message with the children and families involved with Walker. We continue to be inspired by this incredible event and we are deeply grateful for this opportunity provided by John Hancock,” said Susan M. Getman, MSW, President & CEO of Walker.

### **About Walker**

Walker provides an array of academic, therapeutic, and community-based programs for children facing complex emotional, behavioral, and learning challenges. Founded in 1961, Walker’s evidence-based programs positively impact thousands of children, teens, and families throughout Massachusetts. Walker provides services through campuses in Needham and Watertown, community-based clinical and youth development programs, professional seminars, consultations, and Walker staff embedded in public schools. For more information, visit [walkercares.org](http://walkercares.org).

###