

making a difference

# RESIDENT LISA KELLY

Written by resident Julia Byrd

## Racing to Find a Cure: Running Boston to Honor Memories, Raise Funds

Running a marathon is no easy task. Running it and qualifying for the Boston Marathon — and then earning a space via the lottery? Even harder. Determined to beat the odds, Lisa qualified (for the second time in her running career) for Boston at this year's BCS Marathon in College Station (beating the 3:45 cutoff with a time of 3:41) and won a space on the starting line.

She's determined to help others beat the odds, too.

2017 marks the fifth year Lisa will run the Boston Marathon as part of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge (DFMC). Offering runners the opportunity to run the marathon while raising funds to benefit Boston's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, DFMC hopes to raise \$5 million in 2017 for the institute. All money DFMC raises — 100% of it — goes directly to its Barr Program to further cancer research.



Warming Your Home and Hearts Since 1978

Since 1978  
**Country Air**  
Quality, Comfort, Trust Air Conditioning & Heating

Call Us Today 281.356.8564

Cancer touches us all, and Lisa is no exception. She fund-raises for those near and dear to her; some are still fighting, and some have succumbed to the battle. Her inspiration for joining the DFMC? Her sister-in-law, Susan Kelly Shallcross, who was diagnosed at age 29 with stage-4 colon cancer. She fought for four and a half years after her diagnosis, passing away in 2010, and was treated at Dana-Farber.

### Running to Honor, Remember

In 2013, the first time Lisa ran in honor of Susan, Lisa crossed the finish line just 15 minutes before the bombings; she was two blocks from the finish when she and her family heard the explosions. Undeterred, however, she's returned every year — running just a little faster when she nears the end.

She also began running in 2014 for Riley Fessenden, her best friend's daughter, diagnosed at age 6 with esthesioneuroblastoma, a rare form of cancer involving the nasal cavity. Riley was Lisa's "patient partner," a program teaming children currently or previously treated at Dana-Farber's Jimmy Fund Clinic with DFMC teammates. She also now runs for her uncle, diagnosed with glioblastoma. But really, Lisa says, "I'm running for everyone."

### Running Through the Pain

Obviously, it takes a physical toll on the body to run a marathon — especially in the short time it takes Lisa. But she says that's nothing compared to what Riley went through. The day before

