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# Brain tumor survivor doesn't run from cancer

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By **BARBARA MILLER, The Patriot-News**  
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Raising money for brain tumor research is the goal of two midstate runners taking part in the Race for Hope on May 1 in Washington, D.C.

BethAnn Telford's dream is an ambitious one — to do for fundraising brain tumor research what Susan B. Komen did to raise money for breast cancer research.

Since she was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2005, Telford, 41, who divides her time between Camp Hill and Washington, D.C., has raised \$220,000, running 5Ks, marathons and triathlons to benefit the National Brain Tumor Society.



Submitted photo  
BethAnn Telford of Camp Hill has raised \$220,000 by running races to benefit the National Brain Tumor Society.

This is the eighth Race for Hope for Jeremy Smith of Hampden Twp., 17, a junior at Cumberland Valley High School.

He became acquainted with the cause through a friend of his father, Lionel Chaiken, who helped found the race and society in memory of his daughter, Pamela Sue Chaiken, who died in 1995 at age 31.

This year, Chaiken asked Smith to be captain of his race group, called Team Pamela Sue. So far they've raised \$18,944 toward a \$30,000 goal.

BethAnn Telford's team — Team BT — has raised \$20,201 toward its \$60,000 goal.

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"Our teams are No. 2 and 3 out of 350," Smith said.

Team Pamela Sue has raised \$400,000 through 13 years, Chaiken said, and Race for Hope is the largest brain tumor race in the world, having generated \$12 million.

Smith said he is motivated to support the cause not only in memory of Chaiken's daughter, but because brain tumors have affected several people in his life, including an aunt and the mother of a friend who both died.

His hope is that research will some day result in a cure for brain tumors. So far, funds raised have been used in research into a brain tumor vaccine, gene marker therapy and the drug Avastin, Smith said.

Running is Telford's fundraising venue, and before the Race for Hope, she will compete in the Boston Marathon April 18.

It's her second Boston Marathon, but Telford says it might be her last because qualifying times are getting faster, and the tumor is having increasingly negative effects on her body.

She also is slated to run in her third Marine Corps marathon in the fall, and her third Lake Placid triathlon, all to benefit the National Brain Tumor Society.

"My dream is to get into Kona — the big triathlon in Hawaii," she said.

This is the fifth time she's tried to get in through the event's lottery. She will find out on April 18 — the day of the Boston marathon.

"How I take out my anger with this cancer is by doing this," she said. "I'm fighting for something I really believe in. I want others to know that the diagnosis of a brain tumor does not mean the end of doing the things you wish to do."

A 1987 graduate of Cumberland Valley High School, Telford was always active in many sports, including running.

Her brain tumor was discovered after she felt a "pop" in her head while running the 2004 Marine Corps marathon. She had her first brain surgery 10 weeks later, and had to learn to walk and talk — and run — all over again.

Six weeks later, she ran a 5K on the streets of Camp Hill, progressing to her second Marine Corps marathon in fall 2005.

The brain tumor throws obstacles into her training regime such as headaches, seizures and sight impairment in one eye. After two brain surgeries, she's now on a pill form of chemotherapy to try to shrink the tumor, which presses on her optic nerve and major blood vessels in her brain.

A bout with pneumonia, and having fluid drained from her head in December, have been her latest hurdles to overcome.

During the week, she lives in the Washington, D.C., area while working for the government printing office. She commutes home on weekends to be with her "best friends" — her parents, Robert and Susanne Telford of Camp Hill. Her dad, who is 75, delivers mail at the state Capitol.

In recognition of her devotion to the cause, the National Brain Tumor Society named a \$200,000

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research endowment at the Cleveland Clinic in her honor.

"My goal is to be the next living Susan B. Komen," she said. "This truly is my calling."

**On the Web**

Information on the National Brain Tumor Society and the Race for Hope can be found at [www.curebraintumors.org](http://www.curebraintumors.org).

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