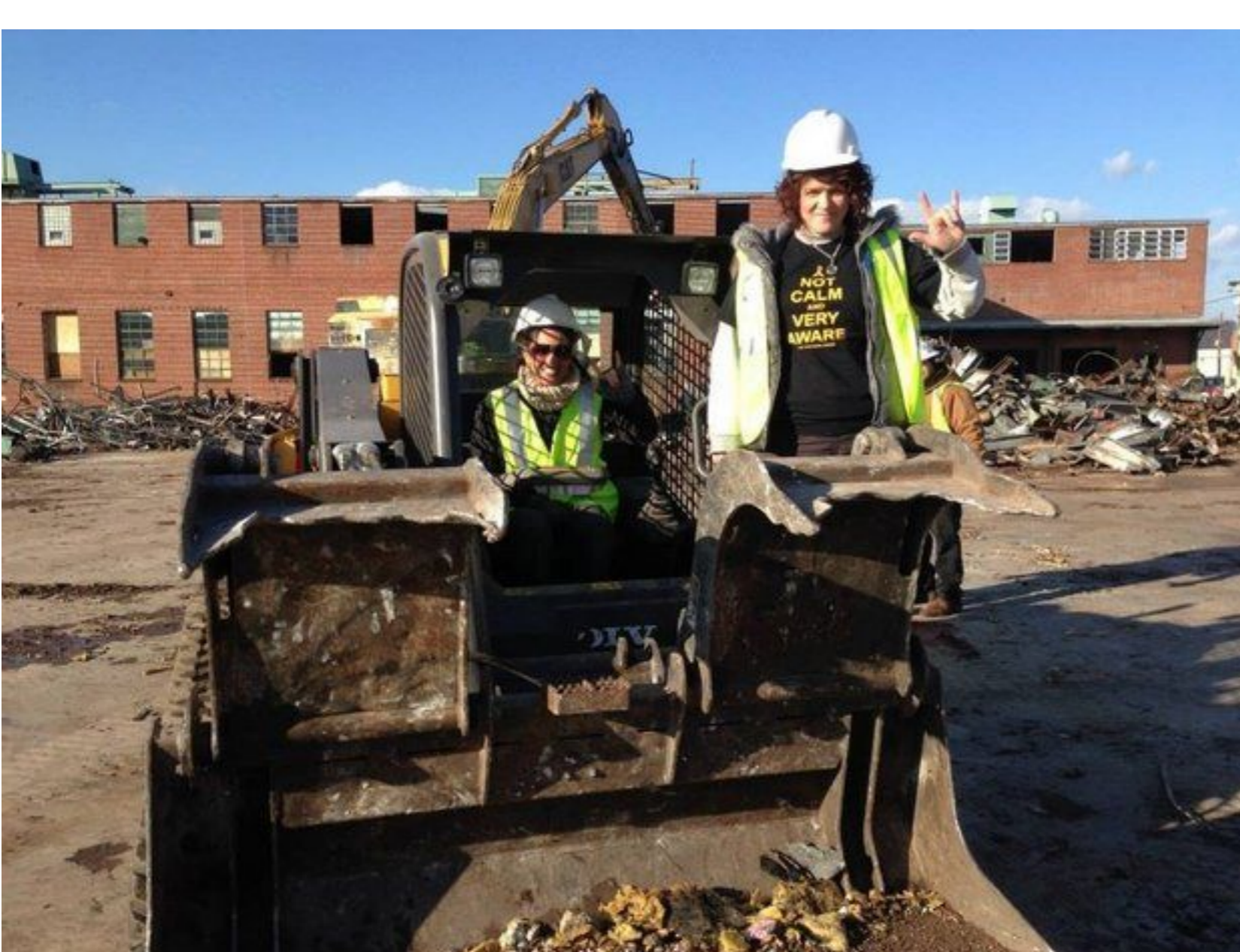


Marathoner BethAnn Telford helps demolish a York building to raise kids' cancer awareness

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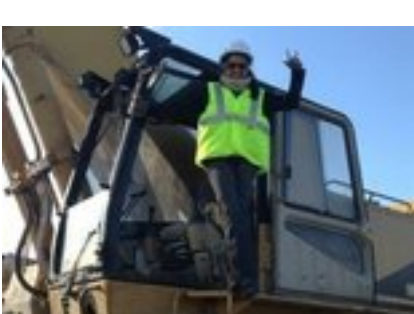
Marathoner and brain tumor survivor BethAnn Telford, left, helps demolish a building with Karen Bricker of New Cumberland, mother of Anya Zvorsky, a girl battling brain cancer. (BethAnn Telford)

By **Barbara Miller** | bmiller@pennlive.com
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 on December 30, 2013 at 1:09 PM, updated December 30, 2013 at 1:10 PM

Slamming a wrecking ball through a building might be an unusual way to fight cancer, but former Camp Hill resident **BethAnn Telford's** quest to battle pediatric cancer – as well as her own brain tumor – has been anything but traditional.

Telford, 44, a triathlete and marathoner who now lives in Fairfax, Va., for the past five years has raised a half-million dollars for research into pediatric cancer and brain tumors through the non-profit **Accelerate Brain Cancer Cure**.

"It's the number one cancer killer of kids age 20 and younger," she said. "And the NIH does not fund research on children," she said, referring to the National Institutes of Health. "They do it for my age – I don't think it's fair for the children."



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 BethAnn Telford aboard heavy equipment to demolish York building with words "Demolish Pediatric Cancer - Find a Cure Now!"
 BethAnn Telford

The day after Christmas in York, Telford helped send a wrecking ball through the words "Demolish Pediatric Cancer – Find a Cure Now!" which she had spray-painted on the side of the former Danskin factory outlet at 300 N. State St. in York.

"It was definitely cool. I had to wear the hard hat, got to work the machinery. I could get some frustration out," Telford said.

She was pleased to have the mother of a New Cumberland girl battling a brain tumor join her – Karen Bricker, mother of Anya Zvorsky. The event was arranged through a friend of Telford, who works for a demolition company.

The demolition was the latest in her list of events raising money for **Team BT**, which supports Accelerate Brain Cancer Cure.

In San Diego Nov. 1, she rappelled down the 40-story Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego - the tallest building on the waterfront - and raised \$150,000.

"I wasn't scared at all – I did it for the children," Telford said. Two of the young cancer patients she's come to know were there, cheering her on. "They could relate to it more than me running, because it was a big building, and more like a superhero type thing," Telford said.

Among the 15 people also rappelling to raise money for brain cancer and tumors was American Idol winner David Cook, who lost a brother to brain cancer; and Bob Carter, chief of neurosurgery for the UC San Diego School of Medicine.

This week, Telford is in Johns Hopkins Medical Center for a week of tests, following a busy year raising funds for pediatric cancer.

Telford was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor in 2005, after hearing a loud popping noise in her head while running the Marine Corps Marathon the previous year.

Despite two brain surgeries and rounds of chemotherapy, she's been able to return to running marathons, including three Boston Marathons and three Ironman competitions, including the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii last year.

2013 was a year in which Telford had to take some time off after bladder surgery in February. Her tumor has caused neurological damage to her bladder, and she suffers from seizures.

But in October, Telford ran the Marine Corps Marathon and requalified for the Boston Marathon for 2015.

Even while in Johns Hopkins, Telford said she'll be continuing her efforts reaching out to pediatric cancer patients. "I hope to be mobile and visit kids and hang out with them if I can. I will be hooked up to monitors, but I hope to get out and see some of the kids," she said.

Telford is also looking forward to her signature race – the May 4 5K Race for Hope in Washington DC, which benefits the National Brain Tumor Society and Accelerate Brain Cancer Cure.

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