

Imagine running a marathon (26.2 miles). Imagine feeling the adrenaline rush through you when the starting pistol goes off. Imagine feeling the pride in your accomplishment after each passing mile.

Now, imagine running a marathon while supporting a good cause.

Turner Syndrome Foundation, Inc. will be an official charity of the 2012 P.F. Chang's Rock n Roll Arizona Marathon and ½ Marathon to be held on January 15, 2012.

Turner Syndrome Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization geared to raise awareness and support for Turner Syndrome patients, a chromosomal condition affecting 1 in 2000 girls.

"I got involved with TSF because my best friend's daughter, Ava, was diagnosed with TS (before she was born). Donna and her family live in NJ, so becoming involved with TSF was a way for me to be a support to them remotely," said Suzanne Chilson Team TSF Leader for of the 2012 P.F. Chang's Rock n Roll Arizona Marathon and ½ marathon

By joining the already thirteen members of TEAM TSF for the event, you will not only help raise money for the organization, but TSF will pay your entry fee and you will receive a TEAM TSF t-shirt, a wristband and attend a pasta party the night before. Not to mention, you will help bring awareness towards a little known condition whose patients often go undiagnosed until the age of twelve or fourteen

"[The marathon is] an opportunity to get the word out about TS and raise awareness. I openly talk about it with everyone and I have only met one other person that has even heard of it and she was a DR! (Not including the chat groups for TS) My daughter has accomplished so much in her four years, but most of her success has been because of early diagnosis. She was able to receive meds, GH, testing, therapies and Developmental Preschool. I am able to handle her emotional sensitivities much better knowing there is a reason and fighting to get her proper therapies to handle them. I see so many girls that weren't diagnosed until later in life and their lives could have been so different. It breaks my heart. Of course, it would be in honor of my sweet little girl Tatum. She is a miracle and continues to be every day," said Gina MacLean., whose daughter Tatum was diagnosed with Turner Syndrome at birth.

"This event is a great way to not only raise funds for TSF, but to raise awareness of TS as well. When Donna first told me about TS, I had not heard of it. And she did quite a bit of research on it. She sometimes knows more than the health professionals she visits. There was a large team of us participating in the NJ Marathon and our shirts got us noticed! People stopped to ask what TS is. So we got the word out about what TS is and they got to meet some TS girls, too," says Chilson.

Not a marathon runner? There will also be a ½ marathon (13.1 miles) and a ½ marathon relay (leg distance TBD). Walkers are also welcome. Anyone can conquer this flat course!

"There will be families from New Jersey and Washington State, and lots of states in-between. It's a great time for families of TS girls to gather and offer support for one another," says Chilson.

“I’m participating in] the easiest event possible,” said MacLean. “I am definitely NOT the athlete. I am looking to more than likely walk, so the 1/2 I believe. I want to raise [money], awareness and have the memory to share with my daughter and family, “said MacLean.

As for Chilson?

“I’ll be walking the half marathon. I am not a runner, but will raise funds and walk with other supporters of TSF.”

For more information on Turner Syndrome, Turner Syndrome Foundation Inc., or to register for the marathon, go to www.tsfusa.org, call 800-594-4585, or go to <http://runrocknroll.competitor.com/arizona>.