



For Immediate Release

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Team Hoyt New England Joins Run Billy Run 2023

Springfield, MA - The William J. Boyle Scholarship Fund is excited to announce that members of Team Hoyt New England will participate in the 2023 Run Billy Run 5K road race and 1 mile walk on September 23, 2023 at the Ashley Reservoir in Holyoke.

The annual race, presented by AMR, features hundreds of participants from the region. This year, Team Hoyt New England duos will participate as well.

Team Hoyt began in 1977 when Rick Hoyt, who had cerebral palsy, asked his father Dick if they could run in a race together to benefit a lacrosse player at his school who had become paralyzed. He wanted to prove that life went on no matter your disability. Far from being a long-distance runner, Dick agreed to push Rick in his wheelchair and they finished all 5 miles, coming in next to last. That night, Rick told his father, "Dad, when I'm running, it feels like I'm not handicapped."

This realization was just the beginning of what would become over 1,000 races completed, including marathons, duathlons and triathlons. The duo's favorite race was the same as Bill's, the Boston Marathon.

Team Hoyt New England was first organized in 2013 with Dick Hoyt's assistance. Their mission is to raise awareness of inclusion, educate, inspire and enrich the lives of individuals, families and communities by pairing athletes of differing abilities in endurance events to promote the Team Hoyt motto, "Yes, You Can!"

"We are so honored to have Team Hoyt New England duos run at the 2023 Run Billy Run," said Rose Boyle, Chair of the William J. Boyle Scholarship Fund. "This group of athletes reminds us that nothing is impossible. They align with and actively live out the scholarship's mission of providing a way forward for everyone, no matter their background."

More information on Team Hoyt New England can be found [HERE](#).

Registration for the Run Billy Run 5K Run and 1-Mile Walk is [open](#), and the guaranteed t-shirt deadline is Sunday, September 10.

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