

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local 5K Memorial Race to Benefit New Cancer Treatment Center

NEEDHAM, MA – (September 15, 2014) The Sean D Biggs Memorial Foundation will host their second annual BIGGSteps Toward Cancer Prevention 5K road race 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 19th at Broadmeadow Elementary School in Needham. The 2014 BIGGSteps event will benefit Beth Israel Deaconess Cancer Center and cancer patient treatment at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital *Needham* (BID-Needham).

BID-Needham recently opened a new 30,000 square foot facility that includes a larger, more efficient space for cancer services. The new center was designed by the patient for the patient using focus groups. Two of the three floors in the new building will be dedicated to cancer care. Patients undergoing active treatment, such as chemotherapy and radiation, will now be able to receive all of their treatment on one floor.

Sean Biggs was a Needham resident who lost his battle with cancer in 2012. A devoted husband, father, brother, and son, his many accomplishments included running 6 Boston Marathons, traveling to 4 different continents, and a successful career focused on the environment and clean energy; all while remaining the most grounded and genuine person that most had ever met. In late September of 2011, Sean was diagnosed with cancer and received treatment at BID-Needham. He fought cancer with the same amazing spirit that he lived his life.

“The mission of the new Beth Israel Deaconess Cancer Center is to deliver academic quality care in a community setting. Sean chose to be treated here in Needham so he could always be close to his family,” said Robb Friedman, MD, Medical Director for the Cancer Center. “Our Cancer Center provides the opportunity for patients to receive the same amazing care available in Boston, right here in their backyard. That means more time with families and less exhausting travel to and from Boston. We hope that we can convey the same warmth and commitment to our patients that Sean had for his family and for the Needham community. We are honored that the Foundation chose to work with us and to donate proceeds from the race to our new Cancer Center.”

Sean’s friends and family members have organized the BIGGSteps 5K, Family Fun Run/Walk, and Kids’ Dash. The 5K route starts at Broadmeadow Elementary School and covers many of the roads Sean ran frequently during his marathon training. The run is a USA Track & Field sanctioned event and will be chip-timed so serious runners can compete for personal bests and new runners can gauge their progress.

The Sean D Biggs Memorial Foundation also hosts a BIGGSteps event in the Kansas City area, near Sean’s undergraduate alma mater, The University of Kansas. Last year’s family friendly events generated more than \$75,000 to further the foundation’s mission. Runners can register online now at <http://biggesteps.org/needham.html> or complete a paper registration the day of the race.

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The Sean D Biggs Memorial Foundation raises awareness of the causes and prevention of cancer; assists those affected by cancer; and supports cancer research. Consistent with the vision of Sean Biggs, we also fund collegiate scholarships for study abroad and in the fields of alternative energy and energy efficiency.

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