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RUNNER WITH A CAUSE

STEVE PRICE IS TRAINING FOR HIS NINTH MARATHON. HIS MOTIVATION COMES FROM HIS DESIRE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR PEOPLE IN INDIA LIVING WITH LEPROSY /P7

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DON MILLS RESIDENT HAS RAISED \$150,000

AARON D'ANDREA
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At 60 years of age, Steve Price is feeling the pain running has had on his body.

However, the Don Mills resident is continuing to run despite the pain because he has a goal; to help people around the world living with leprosy.

To achieve that, Price runs marathons - and he's currently training for his ninth, running five to six times a week.

On Oct. 21, Price will run in the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon on behalf of the company he works for, effect:hope, a Markham-based organization that helps people living with leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases in countries like Liberia, Ghana and Nigeria.

The organization is raising funds through his run to go toward leprosy research. Leprosy is an infectious disease that causes severe, disfiguring skin sores and

nerve damage and can lead to disability if not treated. Between 2 to 10 people get treated for leprosy in Canada every year, according to effect:hope.

"It's really the least I can do," Price said. "The people that give us money ... they'll never meet people overseas but they know, there's some connection there and when you give and you know it's a good cause ... you know you've done something and you can feel it in your heart."

He began running to shed weight and he shared the idea at work he might run a marathon one day. From there, the campaign was born. "It was really tough," he said of his first marathon. "I ran and walked most of the last 10K."

He's thought about taking a year off due to pain. In 2013, he started having problems in his knee and thought he would run through it during the marathon, but his knee kept giving out.

Price hopped to the finish

line.

His motivation to continue despite the pain dates back to 2009 when he visited patients with leprosy in India and watched effect:hope teams provide care and perform surgeries. "To say, 'Oh I can't do it because I'm in pain,' these people have nothing," he said. "You can't turn your back on people you've seen overseas."

Since 2010, his runs have brought in roughly \$150,000. His efforts have paid for many causes, including 58 foot surgeries, 25 reconstructive surgeries and rehabilitation services for 273 leprosy patients. His organization does not treat people with leprosy in Canada because they are cared for under our health care system; effect:hope works with countries around the world to help strengthen theirs.

Maneesh Phillip, director of international programs at effect:hope, called Price an important member of the team.

"These are not just small

THE ISSUE: RAISING MONEY FOR PEOPLE WITH LEPROSY
LOCAL IMPACT: NORTH YORK MAN RUNS MARATHON AND DONATES PROCEEDS TO THE CAUSE



Dan Pearce/Metroland

Steve Price, 60, will be participating in the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon this month. It will be his ninth marathon, and he has been doing them to support people with leprosy.

surgeries ... these are transformations of people's lives," he said. "And Steve has been instrumental in doing that through his marathon campaign and we've very blessed to have him on the team."

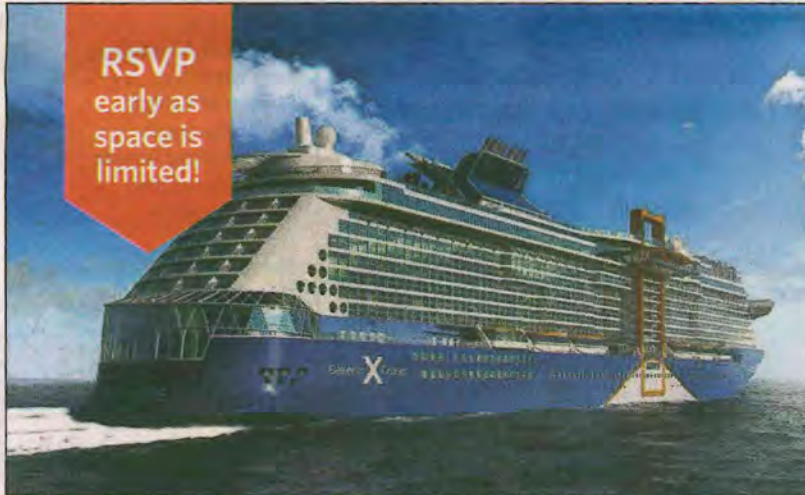
This year, Price aims to raise \$25,000 which will go towards effect:hope's research to discover how leprosy is transmitted.

"It's such an old disease but we still don't know how it's transmitted," Phillip said. "If we find out how leprosy is transmitted, we are then able to stop the transmission of leprosy." The help patients have received isn't because of him, Price said,

but because of donors. "It's not really about me. We have a whole staff working on this," Price said. "But our donors, they're the stars of the whole thing." For more information on Price's run and to donate, visit www.effecthope.org/marathon.

STORY BEHIND THE STORY

We received an email about Steve Price, a North York man who's planning to run his ninth marathon to help people living with leprosy. We wanted to hear his story.



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