

CHRISTOPHER P. FILLIO

1500 Ruffner Road, Alexandria, VA 22302-4219
cell (703) 626 3186 • fax (509) 693 5634

<http://www.fillio.com/marathon/>

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Dear Friends and Family:

I'm not going to beat around the bush, but instead will get right to the point: I am going to make one more go at a sub three-hour marathon this fall, and I need your support.

Obviously, you can't make me run faster or avoid blisters, but I'm hoping you will choose to support me in a much more important way: by helping me to raise at least \$1,000 on behalf of [Big Brothers Big Sisters of the National Capital Area](#) as part of their "[2005 Run for Kids Marathon Challenge Team](#)." This year marks my third such effort with this wonderful DC area charity.

Growing up is difficult for all young people. Growing up in a single-parent home can compound these difficulties and, in some cases, can dramatically affect a child's development. Providing vital services to single parents and their families—including advocacy, crisis intervention and resource referrals by professional casework staff members—is a primary component of Big Brothers Big Sisters' mission. Over 93% of all funds donated to the Agency go directly to fund programs that serve single parent children throughout the region.

I've already begun my training for the [Marine Corps Marathon](#), to be held on October 30, 2005, in our nation's capital. While it is up to me to meet the physical challenge of the race, your generous donation is crucial to achieve my financial goal to help this worthy cause.

The attached form outlines a variety of options for your tax-deductible contribution. After you decide on your level of support, please return the form with your contribution directly to *Run for Kids* using the address information provided. **Please be sure to indicate *Run for Kids* and my name on the memo part of your check. Remember to check on your company's matching gift program, too.**

I am excited by the challenge before me and the impact of our collective efforts, and hope I can count on your support. Please contact me if you have any questions by phone at (703) 837-8959 or by [email](#). Additional information can be found at the [Run for Kids website](#) or by contacting their program office at (301) 794 9170 x20.

With sincere appreciation,
Chris