



THE TEAM



NICOLE WITH HER MOTHER SOPHIE CHUCHMACH

On September 1, 2008, Nicole Chuchmach and her team will begin an eight-week run from her small hometown of Milton, Ontario, Canada to the bright lights of New York City to raise awareness of colorectal cancer. Nicole lost her mother, Sophie, to the disease in 2006. After Sophie passed away, Nicole made it her mission to save other people from the disease the best way she knows how—by running. Running was Nicole's therapy when her mother was battling colorectal cancer, and today it is her healing tool. It is also her way to help others.

All of the proceeds generated from Sophie's Run will be donated to the CCAC which will use the funds to increase colorectal cancer awareness, support patients, and advocate for national screening and timely access to effective treatments for the disease.

Nicole will be joined by her three friends below on the journey from Milton to New York City, along with her father Terry Chuchmach and Uncle Mike Boyko accompanying the team in the Sophie's Run RV.



NATALIE ATKINSON

I currently work as a bartender in Guelph, Ontario. Last spring, Sophie's daughter Nicole told me that she was running from Milton to New York City to raise awareness of colorectal cancer and funds for the CCAC. My immediate response was: "I'll run with you!" This run has a very special meaning to me as well. Sophie and my mother were diagnosed with cancer at about the same time, and became very powerful support systems for each other. Sophie was a very special part of my mom's life. I was very concerned for both of them, and when Sophie succumbed to her disease, we were devastated. My mother was more fortunate. When Nicole called about Sophie's Run, I was so inspired by her commitment to do something to promote awareness of this deadly form of cancer, that I immediately wanted to be a part of it. This September and October we hope to educate as many people as we can about the warning signs of colorectal cancer; if by doing so we save just one life, then Sophie's Run will be successful.



JILL HARPER

My name is Jill Harper and I was born and raised in Perth-Andover, New Brunswick. I own and operate a landscaping business in Milton. I am also a part-time firefighter. My jobs are a total reflection of who I am. I love hard work and I love helping people. I became involved with Sophie's Run for a couple of reasons. I knew Sophie and her husband Terry, but my connection always seemed to be with their daughter Nicole. Our common ground evolved around sports such as basketball (she was going to help me coach), hockey (we played on the same team) and, of course, running. It was during and after Sophie's illness that Nicole's quest to raise awareness came together. I knew with her will and determination, Nicole would make this happen. Sophie died at the age of 59, and so did my mom (breast cancer). My dream is that we save a lot more moms and family members from dying at a young age.



TINA BRAAM

My name is Tina Braam and I have been a Medical Radiation Technologist since 1966, with a specialty in mammography. I am the recipient of a special achievement award from my employer for my community involvement and care to my patients. I started running in 1978 and have competed in many marathons, including the Boston Marathon. In 1984 I won the Toronto Marathon, Women's Masters. As the founder of the Ontario Women's Triathlon Series, I am very passionate about motivating, encouraging, and coaching women to become more athletic and competitive. I decided to be a part of Sophie's Run because I believe in what Nicole is trying to accomplish. I also love a challenge! At my age it is exciting to see if I can still do what I put my mind to.