

Holly Richards celebrates her 100th birthday by raising \$10,000 for Team Boston House

By Olivia dePunte

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Holly Richards celebrated her 100th birthday yesterday, as our oldest participant in the Road Race. Born in the “Roaring Twenties,” she’s lived through ten decades, each one unlike the last. What’s her secret? “Good genes and a good attitude.”

“I have a way of dealing with each day. I have a routine in the morning, I put myself in God’s hands and listen to what he tells me to do to help other people or the world.”

Since retiring to Florida, her days are filled with writing letters, praying, visiting friends and family, and collecting donations. Not to mention training for the 7-mile At-Home Edition race this August, which she’s been doing since its start in 2020.

While she walks the flat streets around her neighborhood, she’ll visualize the curves and bends of the Falmouth course and the crashing of the ocean waves below – just from her side of the Atlantic.

Richards grew up in Schenectady, New York. Despite migrating to the warmer weather these days, “I’m a New Englander.” She’s been to Falmouth several times and says it’s “quite a remarkable place,” and she hopes to visit at least once more.

For now, walking around the block at her own pace suits her just fine. Her motivation for the 7 mile feat? Team Boston House: Hope and Healing for Children with Cancer. This will be her 4th year participating from home in tandem with her son, Andrew, who will be charting the in-person course. As the co-executive director of The Boston House, he not only runs a charity but runs *for* charity, with a goal of raising \$10,000 between the two of them by race day, August 20, 2023.

Since 1979, The Boston House has served as a home away from home for children with cancer and their families while they receive the best of care at Dana-Farber Boston Children’s Cancer and Blood Disorders Center. The charity houses its guests free of charge, to make their visit as easy and comfortable as possible.

Team Boston House, 41 runners strong, has raised over \$100,000 as a whole this year. “It’s wonderful because I think of all the families who need some support and a place to live with

their children,” said Richards. She and Andrew have raised almost \$7,500 for the cause so far – well on their way to their \$10,000 goal to help celebrate her ten decades of life.