NCADD
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG DEPENDENCE, INC.

A Conversation with Ronnie Marcin. A Marathoner. A Story of Survival and Perseverance.

On Sunday October 13, 2013, a young man who goes by the name of Ronnie Marcin completed his very first marathon - the Bank of America Chicago Marathon.

Ronnie is proud to tell you that he finished the marathon in four hours, 32 minutes and 18 seconds. A great accomplishment for a first time marathon runner. But of greater significance is that Ronnie ran to raise funds for the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence using the online fundraising site, First Giving. Ronnie is proud to have raised $2,599 for NCADD!

Ronnie's webpage said, "I will be running to raise funds for the **National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependenc**e (www.ncadd.org), a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, so every donation is dollar-for-dollar tax deductible. NCADD is dedicated to raising awareness and funding programs to treat **THIS NATION'S #1 HEALTH PROBLE**M."

Completing the Chicago Marathon was an accomplishment for the man from the Chicago suburbs because just a few years ago, the idea of running in a marathon was, well, impossible.

Three short years ago, Ronnie found himself in a hospital bed soon after being admitted for overdosing on alcohol. Ronnie had almost died. He had reached bottom and realized that he needed help. He also realized that his behavior was not normal and when a hospital staff member directed him to get help, he did.

Ronnie had seen first-hand how alcoholism and drug addiction destroys lives. Alcoholism took his mother from his family and he knows it could still take him.

Today, Ronnie has marked his three and a half year anniversary of being clean and sober.

As part of his road to sobriety, Ronnie took up running. Then he decided to run the Chicago Marathon. When asked how he decided to run to benefit NCADD Ronnie stated "I decided to run the marathon not for me but to help other people. I was not interested in glory for my achievements but for the help I could provide to others who are suffering from alcohol and drug abuse." He then added, "I am hopeful that it will inspire others to give to an organization that is responsible for me

being here today."

Today, Ronnie is working at a local hospital as a Patient Care Technician. He spends time with his sisters and preparing for additional running events including a 5K and a half marathon during Thanksgiving weekend. "I live my life one day at a time," said Ronnie. "Tomorrow has not happened yet but I know I am here today and my goal is to live for today and not take a drink. Then start it again tomorrow," he concludes.

We hope that others will be inspired by Ronnie's story and sign up for local events where they can help raise funds for NCADD and local NCADD Affiliates. They can run in memory of those who have lost their battle with the devastating disease of alcohol and drug dependence, to celebrate recovery, or, in the hope of inspiring others to seek help!

Ronnie's inspirational message is best summed up in the following quote from his First Giving website, "I will run in memory of those who have lost their battle with the devastating disease of alcohol and drug dependence. I will run as a testament to my commitment to remain sober, and I will run to pay it forward helping others as they struggle with alcohol and drug dependence.

Congratulations Ronnie and ***Thank You!***