



**Larry Moon**  
*Bank of America Chicago  
 Marathon Alumni Runner  
 1977-present*

1977 is the year I started running. I gave up smoking and started running at the beginning of the year. I'd drive to the track on Chicago Avenue and run two laps. And then I'd drive home. I realized I was spending more time driving so I started running to and from. When they announced they were having a Chicago Distance Classic in July, I didn't know if I could run that far—it was 20K. I finished that and I was slow, but I finished. A few weeks later they announced they were going to have the first Chicago Marathon. I wanted to run, but I was not trained to run the marathon. I didn't know how to train so I would just do laps around the track.

My first Chicago Marathon has to be my favorite. It was an unknown territory, and the furthest I had ever run before was 20K. I specifically remember the half way mark and the finish line being near Buckingham Fountain in 1977. At that point, I looked over and saw the winner crossing the finish line. I met the first winner, Dan Cloeter, many years later. I took my bib number from the first race and had him sign it. After I finished it, I thought, "Well, now I can say I always ran the first Chicago Marathon." A week later, I thought it if

I knew how to train, I could run better. I said I thought I would keep doing it to a friend. My friend didn't think I could do it, and it egged me on. After a while, it got to be where I had to keep doing it. My times kept improving so I wanted to see what I could do. Back in the 1980s, I got gung-ho about running. I've actually run 60 marathons and six ultramarathons.

**Alicia Gonzalez**  
*Executive Director Chicago Run  
 Mile 20 Aid Station Captain*

I work closely with the Bank of America Chicago Marathon in several different ways: 1) We are a charity partner and have 70 runners that fundraise on behalf of Chicago Run; 2) Chicago Run hosts the Mile 20 Aid Station in Pilsen and I am the crazy one on the mic all day cheering on all the 40,000 runners as they cross "The Wall"—Pilsen is where I grew up, so Carey [Pinkowski] and Mike [Nishi] thought that placing us there made the most sense back in 2008; 3) I ran three Chicago Marathons prior to starting Chicago Run, but then was convinced to work the event rather than run it from 2008 onward; 4) Bank of America is a strong supporter of our Chicago Run programs serving over 17,000 Chicago Public School students.



In 2007, I ran Chicago to qualify for Boston. That was the year that it was brutally hot and I only had four

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weeks of training as I had broken my ankle at the beginning of the summer and was out until the end of August. I managed to cross the finish line before the race was called due to the heat, but I remember feeling such camaraderie as all the runners and volunteers were encouraging each other to keep going—more than at any other race I had run. It was a true showing of the spirit of the marathon—commitment, diversity, perseverance and camaraderie. That experience solidified my belief that sports have the power to unite. A few months later, I joined forces with a local family foundation to start Chicago Run—an organization that utilizes running for improved health, community-building and social inclusion. Although for some runners, the 2007 marathon was a disappointment due to the weather, I turned that experience into

a positive one that inspired me to help launch Chicago Run. And 10 years later we have our first Chicago Run youth who will be running in the 2017 Marathon and fundraising for Chicago Run. That is a full circle story of the impact of the marathon.

**Jenny Spangler**  
**670 AM The Score Sports**  
**radio broadcaster**  
**Elite Runner and Coach**

October 20, 1985, marks the date that I first fell in love with the Chicago Marathon. I have a clear vision of watching Steve Jones race out of his mind to come within one second of breaking the world record, and the even more impressive battle between Joan Benoit Samuelson, Ingrid Kristiansen, and Rosa Mota with Joanie not only breaking the tape but setting the American record in the process.

My first two times lining up for the Chicago Marathon weren't exactly noteworthy and in fact, they were painful. Attempt #1: 1993. My most vivid memory from this race was running down Lake Shore Drive for the final eight miles with driving pellets of snow hitting me in the face. Attempt #2: 1994. My goal was to run the qualifying time for the 1996 Olympic Marathon Trials. I was in great shape but went out a little too aggressively and ended up stopping several times with calf cramps during the last four miles. I hobbled to the finish in 2:44—it was an extremely unpleasant way to run 26.2.

And then it happened. Eighteen years after making up my mind that I was going to race the Chicago Marathon, and 10 years after my first time lining up, I

finally nailed a good one! After two achilles surgeries and the birth of my daughter, Kelli, I was anxious to get back on the starting line, and the 2003 Chicago Marathon was exactly where I wanted to pick up with my marathon career.

October 12 was a picture perfect day for running. As I crossed the finish line, I looked up at the clock and saw 2:32:38, which was the second fastest marathon of my life. The day became even better when someone came up to me and said: "Congratulations on breaking the American Masters Record." I looked at this person in disbelief as I quite honestly did not know that there was even a thing called a "masters record"! What a rush!

I have not raced the Chicago Marathon since 2005, but I have had the honor of witnessing many exciting races on the back of the women's press truck for the past 10 years reporting on the race for 670 AM The Score. As I reflect on all of the amazing races I have seen unfold and the other various roles I have had with the Chicago Marathon as an athlete, spectator and coach, I cannot help but get excited visualizing what is in store for the next 40 years of this race. I get goose bumps just thinking about it!

**Enrique Rivera**  
**Venados Running Club**

I have very fond memories of the Bank of America Chicago Marathon that date back for as long as I can remember. Starting in the 1980s, the Venados Running Club has participated in the Chicago Marathon in some capacity, whether it be running, volunteering or spectating along the course (especially at Mile

*Continued on page 61*

## Charity Program: 2002-present

Since 2002, more than 100,000 Bank of America Chicago Marathon participants have raised over \$167 million for local, national and global causes. As the Charity Program celebrates 15 years of success, the Chicago Marathon looks forward to welcoming 173 charities and 10,000 runners on October 8.

*"Our Charity Program speaks to the power and spirit of the running community, and one of the greatest legacies of the Bank of America Chicago Marathon is the significant impact the Charity Program has had on local, national and global causes," said Carey Pinkowski, executive race director. "Since 2002, charities have increased their revenue and visibility, and we have welcomed new runners across our finish line. We are proud that one of the premier hallmarks on race day is seeing thousands of charity runners striding together on the streets of Chicago to make a difference in the world."*

**2002**

**2017**



Number of  
charity runners



**1,674**

**10,000+**



Number of  
charities



**14**

**173**



Funds  
raised



**2.9**  
**million**

**16.9**  
**million\***

\*2016 Fundraising Number