RICHARD BRODSKY'S

Journey of Hope

UNCLE RICHARD WANTS YOU RUNNING NOW!!

WORLD AIDS MARATHON
KISUMU KENYA DECEMBER 1, 2012

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The Richard M. Brodsky Foundation
“Yours is a beautiful message of Hope.”

Dr. Bruce Dezube, Harvard Medical School

“Always remember how much I love you.
Let’s always remember how lucky we are to have each other.”

Jodi Brodsky

“There is no harder working team of race directors on Long Island than Richard and Jodi Brodsky.”

Mike Polansky, President of the Greater Long Island Running Club

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

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Richard’s Story

My name is Richard Brodsky. I’ve been married to Jodi for 32 years and we have three daughters. In 1997, I had to tell Jodi I was both bisexual and HIV-positive. She reacted in the most surprisingly supportive and loving way I could have ever hoped for. Jodi and I had always been marathon runners and 15 months after being diagnosed HIV-positive I ran my fastest marathon, 03:23 at age 46. In 2002 I wrote a book: *Jodi, The Greatest Love Story Ever Told*. The book was a gift to my wife for keeping our family loving and whole. It was also a plea to governments and corporations to make AIDS medicine and follow-up medical care available to HIV-positive people all over the world. Since 2002, when the book and I ‘came out’ I have willingly stayed faithful to my devoted wife.

It was a little rough on Jodi’s and my family when they first learned of my story. Everyone wanted me to focus on my architectural practice, and each time our story was told on national TV, I could always expect some tough phone calls. I recall leaving home the day after my 50th birthday and going on a cross-country book tour for two months. It was difficult for both Jodi and me because we had never been apart for more than a day. My return to New York on October 31st was expected to be the most exciting week of my life. I would be seeing Jodi, doing book signings at Barnes & Noble in Greenwich Village and three blocks from the White House, and speaking at American University and NYU; even NEWSDAY was planning to write a story about Jodi and me running the 2002 NYC Marathon, and the Pfizer Corp. was considering having Jodi and me as spokespeople for Viracept, an AIDS medication I take. However, on November 1, 2002 my world crashed; I had a seizure at my own book signing at the Barnes & Noble Greenwich Village Store.

November 26, 2002, I was scheduled for brain cancer surgery and the diagnosis was grim going into the surgery. I was told they could get about 80 – 90% of the tumor out without affecting my mental and physical functions. There was always the slight possibility that I would not survive the surgery. During our goodbyes as they wheeled me into the operating room, Jodi and I must have shed a bucket of tears. But this will be the last sentence of despair you will hear from me. After all, this is my ‘Journey of Hope’ and I’ve invited you to share my journey. Two years to the day of my brain cancer surgery, Jodi and I were flying to Mbita, Kenya to sponsor the first ever ‘World AIDS Marathon.’

Upon arriving in Africa, I was totally unprepared for the poverty that existed. I was very naïve in thinking that all you had to do was get the AIDS medicine and follow-up medical care to people living with HIV. I was totally unprepared to see firsthand the effects of malaria, tuberculosis, hunger, poverty, and the lack of clean drinking water. This really was a ‘Dark Continent.’ Yet there were signs of hope which I embraced. From Nature’s perspective, Kenya has an alluring natural beauty with its wildlife and flowers. From a human point of view, we couldn’t help but feel how rewarding it was to be able to help the Kenyan orphans by sponsoring orphan dinner dances. The Richard M. Brodsky Foundation has sponsored 11 orphan dinner dances for 3,450 Kenyan orphans. Although there are more than 16,000,000 orphans living in Sub-Saharan Africa who have lost one or both parents to AIDS, at least as one volunteer said, we were bringing a ‘window of hope’ to the some of those orphans. The orphans really did seem to appreciate Jodi and me coming to Africa, as they see us as people who really do care about them, as opposed to some faceless, nameless donors whom they will never meet.

You will be the judge as you continue to read through this book: Are we a worthy charity? How many 60-year-young HIV+ brain cancer survivors Presidents of Foundations are running marathons to raise awareness and money for people living with HIV and cancer both in America and Africa?
American Medical Student Association supports the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation

Jodi and I are fully aware that had we been born in Africa our children would likely be three of more than 16 million orphans living in sub-Saharan Africa. Would someone be there for my girls? Would someone be there for your friend’s or relative’s child?
The Richard M. Brodsky Foundation is equally committed to helping Americans living with HIV and cancer, especially children. For example, every year we collect toys for children living with pediatric cancer at the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York, formerly known as Schneider Children's Hospital.

Since 2008, the Brodsky Foundation has donated over $13,500 in cash and toys to the Cohen Children's Medical Center. The Event banner in the photo above is typically donated by PIP Printing and Marketing Services of Inwood. In 2011, the Brodsky Foundation donated $3,500 in toys to South Nassau Communities Hospital.
Richard M. Brodsky Foundation Board Members


DR. CASILDA BALMACEDA – Neurologist and my brain cancer oncologist whom I credit with saving my life. Her research in the field of brain tumors is widely published.

LUISA DUTRA – Cancer survivor and owner of local Dunkin’ Donuts stores in Lawrence and Valley Stream, NY; Luisa and her husband John were recently honored by St. Joachim’s Church of Cedarhurst, NY for their service to the community.

ALIE ELEVELED – Project Manager of Safe Water AIDS Project; Alie’s organization has provided clean drinking water for large areas of western Kenya. Alie is the chief organizer/fundraiser for the World AIDS Marathon and Alie provides safe drinking water for the Event.

BOBBY HOWE – KTYM radio talk show host. Ms. Howe serves on many boards focused on advancing the causes of women, literacy and education. In 1998, Bobby was invited by the Japanese Government to visit Tokyo, Hiroshima and Kyoto for the purpose of building bridges between the African-American and Japanese communities.

PHILIP MAIYO – Secretary of the Chepkero Athletics Club in Kenya; Philip has helped more than 200 Kenyans attend colleges in America through athletic scholarships.

ASHER MATATHIAS – Adjunct Professor Political Science at St. John’s University, Queens, NY; President of Five Towns, Long Island Chapter of B’nai B’rith; and Chair of the Annual Greek-Jewish Holocaust Commemoration.

PETER NGUYEN – Vietnamese-born Peter Nguyen is currently the CEO of BizWorks Group, creator of Advertiser360, and President of Jolt Ads. Peter was recognized as the Top Minority Business Owner and Top 30 Under 30 by the Advertising Specialties Institute. Peter also serves on boards for five national and global non-profit organizations.

JOSEPH OCHIENG – The first and only African IAAF Walk Judge Level III and the first African Olympic Walk Judge for the 2012 Olympics, Joseph’s expertise and international contacts makes him the ideal race director for the World AIDS Marathon. Joseph is an architect supervising CDC projects in Kenya.

DR. RICHARD L. SARTORI – 1st American to travel with Richard & Jodi Brodsky to Kisumu, Kenya, where he examined and treated 56 orphans at two orphan dinner dances sponsored by the Brodsky Foundation. Dr. Sartori graduated from medical school in Genoa, Italy in July 1987. He did his internship and residency in pediatrics at Winthrop University Hospital. Dr. Sartori, father to 4 teenagers, an avid runner, will be returning to Kenya to provide medical care for orphans on November 28 - 30, 2012.

DR. TIMOTHY THOMAS – AIDS researcher working with CDC in Alaska, no one was sorrier than me to see Tim relocate from Kisumu, Kenya to Anchorage, Alaska; It was Tim’s invitation to relocate the 2004 World AIDS Marathon to Kisumu that encouraged my Board Members to sponsor the 2006 World AIDS Marathon in Kisumu, Kenya. Tim continues to be a great advocate for AIDS testing. As a CDC researcher, Tim was chief of HIV/AIDS research at CDC/KEMRI in Kisumu, Kenya.

For more info about the Board Members visit www.richardmbrodsky.org and click on governance.
When Jodi and I travel to Kenya we stay at the home of Dr. David Silverstein. Dr. Silverstein is Honorary Life Rosh Kehilla and current vice-chairman of the Nairobi Hebrew Congregation, and personal physician to Arap Daniel Moi, the former President of Kenya. The two gentlemen have traveled together to Israel and there are close ties between these two countries.

Israel is at the forefront providing the newest technology in irrigation, farming, medicine and thwarting terrorists by sharing this knowledge with Kenyans both in Kenya and in Israel, where Kenyans are invited to attend seminars. This is a telling example of the bond that Israel and Kenya share.

46 men were circumcised, as reported by Dr. Walter Obiero, Director of Nyanza Reproductive Health Society, as part of the 2011 World AIDS Day Events at Jomo Kenyatta Sports Stadium, the start and finish of the World AIDS Marathon. “Voluntary medical male circumcision is one of the most effective HIV prevention tools available today,” said Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention (AVAC) Executive Director Mitchell Warren.

The above is a letter from Dr. Silverstein.
Nairobi Hebrew Synagogue

Interior of the Nairobi Hebrew Synagogue. During my annual visit to Kenya, I make it a point to visit the Synagogue. In 2010, I was the 10th and final Jew to enter the Synagogue, after which the Torah was removed from the ark and read.

“I’m very inspired by the way you have chosen to spend your time on earth. What you are doing are undoubtedly deeds of righteousness, loving kindness and holiness.”  

–Rabbi Gershom Sizomu of Uganda
About the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation

The Richard M. Brodsky Foundation has donated money or in-kind donations to the following projects:

- Sponsored or co-sponsored (and participated in) eight World AIDS Marathons, seven in Kenya and one in Florida, to raise awareness that people living with so-called terminal illnesses can live healthy, productive lives if they have access to the AIDS medicine and follow-up healthcare. The Richard M. Brodsky Foundation also seeks to raise further awareness of the problems in Africa with insufficient clean drinking water, hunger, poverty, malaria and tuberculosis.

- Sponsored 11 orphan dinner dances for 3,450+ orphans in Kenya.

- Provided 15 orange and mango seedling plants so orphans can grow their own fruit; we hope to expand this program in conjunction with future World AIDS Marathons.

- Sponsored or co-sponsored children’s walks for 1,400 children in Kenya, the day of the World AIDS Marathon.

- Sponsored a FREE Concert and provided lodging, meals and transportation and for 50 Kenyan runners for the 2006 Kisumu, Kenya World AIDS Marathon.

- Provided medical care and medicine for 56 orphans at the orphan dinner dances in 2011.

- Provided over $17,000 in cash & toys to children living with pediatric cancer at the Steven and Alexandra Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York, formerly known as Schneider Children’s Hospital, and South Nassau Communities Hospital.

- Provided $5,000 to Center of AIDS Research and Treatment at North Shore University Hospital, University of Florida at Gainesville, as well as various other research projects for AIDS and cancer, and AIDS projects both in America and Africa listed on the Foundation’s website, www.richardmbrodsky.org.

- Provided $2,000, which was enough money to commence groundbreaking for a 50 – 60 bed orphanage in Nakuru, Kenya after an 18-month construction delay.

- Provided $46,000 in cash & toiletry/gift items to people living with HIV or cancer. Recipients of these items were breast cancer survivors at Nassau University Medical Center; Don Monti Cancer Center; Hewlett House; HIV-positive people associated with Long Island Minority AIDS Coalition; Planned Parenthood of Nassau County; Center of AIDS Research & Treatment at North Shore University Hospital; Long Island Association for AIDS Care; Thursday’s Child; JCC of the Five Towns Greater Food Pantry; Five Towns Community AIDS Service Programs; Circulo de la Hispanidad; Living Hope Fellowship of Massapequa; Congregation Sons of Israel; Wyandanch High School; participants of all of the FREE 5K Run / Walks for HIVers, Cancer Survivors & Friends in Oceanside Park .

- Sponsored nine 5K AIDS Cancer Run/Walks in America since 2008; four of these Events were FREE.

I know I'm very fortunate to have such a loving wife while surviving HIV and brain cancer too. Jodi and I appreciate the opportunity that we get to travel to Kenya every year and raise awareness that HIV-positive people can live a productive life. Considering that AIDS is rampant in Africa, you would think that Africans would be more tolerant and forgiving of family members living with HIV? The harsh reality is that HIV-positive people are much more discriminated against in Africa than in America. Many Africans who are living with HIV are thrown out of their homes. When Jodi and I visit Kenya, oftentimes I’ll hold her hand or give her a kiss. People look at us and wonder why Jodi would subject herself to becoming HIV-positive.
2004 World AIDS Marathon Mbita, Kenya

Welcome to the first-ever World AIDS Marathon, Mbita, Kenya, World AIDS Day 2004. We only raised about $3,000 but it was enough money for the Little Lambs, a home for 50 – 60 orphans in Nakuru, Kenya to begin groundbreaking after an 18 month construction delay. Some of the money raised also went to AIDS research at the University of Florida and other AIDS and cancer projects. Jodi and I traveled in three planes for 17 hours, drove four hours and took a ferry ride with donkeys, goats, chickens, and Kenyans to finally arrive in Mbita.
2005 World AIDS Marathon in America and why we returned to Kenya in 2006

The Richard M. Brodsky Foundation held its first annual World AIDS Marathon in 2004. The full impact of the marathons was realized on March 28, 2006 when the World Health Organization issued a report stating Kenya was only one of two African countries that had a declining rate for new HIV cases from December 2003 through December 2005.

My board members and I thought we would raise more funds by sponsoring a World AIDS Marathon in America rather than Mbita, Kenya. Sadly, we were wrong, as the 2005 World AIDS Marathon and Surviving & Thriving Conference cost the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation money. But we did meet some very caring people whom we stay in touch with to this day. We were at a loss as to how to proceed, but after reading the slide prepared by AMSA, American Medical Student Association, it became clear we had no choice but to return to Kenya.
Zeus, King of the Greek Gods visits Kisumu, Kenya for 2006 World AIDS Marathon

Welcome to the 2006 World AIDS Marathon in Kisumu, Kenya. See the guy in the blue t-shirt on the left side? It was almost as if Zeus, King of the Greek Gods, traveled from atop Mt. Olympus to see how his modern-day marathon was faring, or could this have been a sign that a cure or vaccine was in the distant future?

Dr. Timothy Thomas had invited the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation several months earlier to choose Kisumu, Kenya for the 2006 World AIDS Marathon. Given that Dr. Thomas was chief of HIV/AIDS research at CDC/KEMRI, it sounded like a great idea. That, and the fact that he was a strong advocate for AIDS testing, especially for pregnant women, it became a no-brainer. If pregnant, HIV-positive women and their offspring took Neviripine at the time of birth, it would be 98% certain the baby would be HIV-negative. Local AIDS organizations provided AIDS testing for 86 Kenyans.

The marathon started and ended at Jomo Kenyatta Sports Ground, the same park where then Senator Barack Obama and his wife Michelle were tested for HIV in August, 2006. Mr. Obama wrote me four letters from 2004 – 2007, and I also received letters from President Clinton, Senator Ted Kennedy, Congresswomen Carolyn McCarthy, and United Nations Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, Stephen H. Lewis, and others that can be viewed online by visiting our website, www.worldaidsmarathon.com, click on letters of support.
The Richard M. Brodsky Foundation also sponsored a concert in Kisumu and provided lodging, meals and transportation for 50 runners, along with a modest $1,000 prize package which we provide every year. These 50 runners were brought from Eldoret, Kenya by Philip Maiyo, Secretary of the Chepkero Athletics Club and a Board Member of the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation. Eldoret is where Kenya’s elite runners hail from, so naturally Philip’s runners ran off with the bulk of the prize money. Philip has arranged for over 200 athletic scholarships for Kenyans to attend college in America. The concert, lodging and meals were becoming expensive and the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation could no longer fund these Events, but I realized this would help raise AIDS awareness and everyone would have a great time. Kisumu’s Mayor Prisca invited Jodi and me for lunch at her home, later at her office I was presented with the ‘Key’ to the City.

In 2006, the Kisumu World AIDS Marathon Group was established and headed up by Alie Eleveld, another Board Member of the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation. Alie is the Project Manager of the Safe Water AIDS Project, which provides safe drinking water for much of western Kenya. Her presence has been vital for these marathons to succeed. She is an excellent fundraiser! Thanks to her efforts for bringing 300-500 volunteers to the events, and for providing safe drinking water and sponges at every kilometer, as well as hefty donations from her main donor Harbor Foundation and others, we have managed to organize these events every year since 2006. Alie was also the keynote speaker for a safe water conference in Atlanta a few years ago.

Pictured above is His Imperial Majesty, The Mighty King Kong. The man had a heart of gold and was widely loved throughout Kenya. I recall him serenading Jodi when we returned to America with his hit song, ‘Ladies Choice.’ Sadly, a few months later he was poisoned while running for Parliament. Limpopo International in the white outfits, (right photo) also performed at the concert.
It was becoming increasingly difficult to raise money for the World AIDS Marathon and related Events. Too many people in America were asking me what we were doing for people living with HIV/AIDS and cancer in America. I realized if the Foundation were to succeed we needed to organize Events in America. Since 2008, the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation has sponsored five 5K AIDS/Cancer Run/Walks in New York in: Cedar Creek Park, Seaford, Long Island, and four FREE 5K Run/Walks for HIVers, Cancer Survivors & Friends. Besides the FREE Events, we also do not charge people living with HIV/AIDS or cancer if they cannot afford the $22 – $25 registration fee.

The Richard M. Brodsky Foundation will be sponsoring its 4th annual 5K FREE Run/Walk for HIVers, Cancer Survivors & Friends on October 28, 2012. The reason for these FREE Events is that I believe running is largely responsible for why I am still alive today and I’d like to share that gift with as many people living with HIV/AIDS or cancer as possible. Even if you cannot run three miles you can walk the 3-mile water view course. We ask that you get your doctor’s consent ensuring you are fit to run the 5K, however we do not require a physician’s note. Each loop of the course is one mile so even if you run or walk a portion of the course, it’s a great opportunity to make new friends, enjoy a sumptuous breakfast, receive a personalized Event t-shirt, be entertained by Lawrence Shaw, music therapist MC Richard Morton, Ronald McDonald, and Kids 4 Kids NYC, and be eligible for a few thousand dollars in FREE raffles. At the last two 5K Events we gave all the participants $45 in toiletry/gift items. We ask all the participants to accept these items so no one will know who is healthy and who is not. During the first week of November 2012, if you are healthy, we ask that you donate the toiletry/gift items to someone who is living with HIV/AIDS or cancer.
The Richard M. Brodsky Foundation has a team of very talented volunteers. We are always seeking volunteers to make phone calls, and people skilled at website design, graphics, computer skills, fundraising, recruiting runners, writing, requesting toys/toiletry gift items, and organizing fundraising events. We also welcome organizations and schools looking for a motivational speaker.

To get involved, please contact Richard at: richard@richardmbrodsky.org

Uncle Richard logo by Keely Payne and World AIDS Marathon logo by Rupert Reyneke

www.5kaidscancer.com

www.worldaidsmarathon.com
Donating $46,000 in cash and toiletry/gift items to people living with HIV/AIDS or cancer

Events are a great opportunity not only to raise cash for AIDS and cancer projects, but also to donate toiletry/gift items for people living with HIV or cancer. Richard M. Brodsky donating toiletry/gift items to breast cancer survivors at Nassau Health Care Corporation, June 2008 shown above.

Here’s my wife Jodi, (above left), delivering toiletry/gift items to Long Island Association for AIDS Care, the same organization that will be providing FREE Hepatitis type C and AIDS testing and counseling at the upcoming October 28, 2012 FREE 5K AIDS/Cancer Run/Walk. The Richard M. Brodsky Foundation has also made donations to fund AIDS and cancer research, and improve the lives of people living with HIV and cancer in Long Island, New York, California, Florida and Kenya. This has been made possible only by your generous support, and we hope you will continue to support the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation.

Your work is easy; mine is a lot tougher on my joints but with your support and prayers, I will continue running marathons.

Thank you!

Bikram Yoga; Norman Swed, acupuncturist; and both Jonathan Brache and Kyle Olsen Walsh, massage therapists; all from Long Beach for helping me run faster.
Turning back the clock with the one you love

Jodi and I were scheduled to run the Quebec City Marathon on August 28, 2011. However Hurricane Irene had other plans, forcing the race director to cancel the full marathon. Salvaging our months of training, we laced up our shoes and completed the half marathon in 02:01:41. Double that time for the full marathon and I would have finished well under the 04:28 time I needed to reach my goal of running my fastest marathon time since being diagnosed with terminal brain cancer back in 2002. Photo, courtesy of marathon-photos.com.

My goals are threefold:

1. Raise awareness for people living with HIV or cancer ensuring that they lead healthy, productive lives.
2. Help convince society, government and business that healthcare is a universal right and that providing AIDS medicine and follow-up medical care to HIV-positive individuals will surely reduce the current number of 1.8 million people dying from AIDS every year.
3. Slow down or reverse the clock of our aging process. It’s all about having a positive outlook and goals.

FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION!

My last 4 marathons run on American soil have been my fastest since my terminal cancer diagnosis in 2002. I’m 60 years young and my goal is to run a sub-4 hour marathon again by the time I am 65.
Daily Nation, Kenya’s leading newspaper reports on World AIDS Marathon

The local media in Kenya really seems to appreciate that the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation & Kisumu World AIDS Marathon Group come together to co-sponsor the World AIDS Marathon in Kisumu, Kenya every year. The Daily Nation is the equivalent of The New York Times and its reporter, Walter Menya, interviewed Jodi and me after the marathon and wrote an article about the Event and Jodi’s and my participating in the marathon. In the article that appeared on December 2, 2008, Mama Sarah, President Obama’s grandmother, told Walter Menya, “I feel greatly privileged to be invited because my grandson is very concerned about the ravages of HIV.”
President Obama’s grandmother, Mama Sarah, starter at World AIDS Marathon 2008 & 2009

From 2008 thru 2011 President Obama’s grandmother, Mama Sarah, was involved with the World AIDS Marathon. She waved the Kenyan flag, signifying the start of both the 2008 and 2009 marathons. She is pictured below having dinner in the yellow dress and in the blue dress holding the flag. The evening before the 2008 and 2009 marathons, Jodi and I had the privilege of dining with Mama Sarah and her daughter Marsat Onyango. All Mama Sarah’s clothes are designed by Marsat.

Pictured in the photo standing left to right are: Alie Eleveld; Betty Okero, CEO of Civil Society Organisation Network; my wife Jodi Brodsky; Joseph Ochieng; and Douglas Wakiihuri, winner of the 1989 London Marathon and 1990 New York City Marathon. Seated left to right are: Richard M. Brodsky; Mama Sarah, and her daughter Marsat Onyango.
Everyone including the bear had the best time

Pictured left and right: children, and a ‘bear,’ from the 5K Children’s Walk.

The 2008 World AIDS Marathon and related events were attended by over 1,700 people. The Richard M. Brodsky Foundation kept its promise by making the World AIDS Marathon a memorable event to orphans, runners, individuals whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS, and the people of Kisumu, Kenya. Your contribution also helps support our local and global communities! By contributing to Richard M. Brodsky Foundation, you enable us to continue our mission of educating, caring and supporting vulnerable members of our society. We view our donors as partners and believe it is our responsibility to ensure all gifts entrusted to us are put to the best use. Donations are tax-deductible and support our work year-round. To get involved, please visit: www.richardmbrodsky.org and click on DONATE.

Some of the highlights of support from donations were:

- 288 runners participated in the Marathon and Half Marathon
- 250 children participated in the 5K Children’s Walk
- 275 orphans were served dinner at Reach-Out Orphan Support Centre
- 86 orphans were served dinner at St. Catherine’s Orphanage
- 300 volunteers participated in the various events
- 500 people were tested for HIV/AIDS!
Mama Sarah presents $1,000 in awards raised by the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation

How did we get Mama Sarah to come to the Event? One of the Foundation’s Kenyan board members, Joseph Ochieng, (pictured 2nd from left) the first and only African IAAF Walk Judge Level III and the first African Olympic Walk Judge for the 2012 Olympics happens to live in Kogelo, the same village as Mama Sarah, and they have been friends for years. When Joseph invited her to the Event, Mama Sarah who adores children, responded eagerly in the affirmative to be part of the children’s Event.

You might ask, “Where’s Richard?” Board member and race director, Joseph Ochieng told me if I ran the half marathon I would be included in the festivities. Joseph is a good natured, fun loving guy. I thought he was kidding, which is why I am not in the photo. Besides, even if I’d thought he was serious I still would have run the full marathon. My Foundation did not send me to Kenya to run a half marathon. I did complete the full marathon in a disappointing time of just under seven hours due to temperatures approaching 80 degrees, elevations of 3,500 feet and unpaved road conditions.
2010 World AIDS Marathon, 29 wheelchair participants in a field of 404 finishers

The 2010 World AIDS Marathon had 404 finishers, including 29 wheelchair athletes.

Record turnout for 2011 World AIDS Marathon

- 735+ runners and walkers registered for the World AIDS Marathon, half marathon and relay races.
- 154 children participated in the children's walk
- 500 volunteers served water, provided medical assistance, organized and served food, directed traffic, registered participants and assisted with timing.
- 314 people were tested for HIV
- 46 men were circumcised
- 56 orphans were examined by Dr. Richard Sartori, a pediatrician from Garden City, Long Island, New York, USA on November 29 and 30 at two orphan dinner dances.
- 650 orphans were served dinner at two orphan dinner dances.
On November 29 & 30, 2011 Dr. Richard L. Sartori examined and treated 56 orphans and danced with dozens more at Hope Initiative and Reach-out Orphans Support Centre. My board members and I would like to think of our Foundation as a mini-Doctors Without Borders. The advantage we have is not only do the doctors get to provide medical treatment for the orphans, they get to party and dine with them as well. And after the orphan dinner dances, doctors can run with the Kenyans in the World AIDS Marathon or half marathon. Thank you David & Surinder Fowler for co-sponsoring the 2011 orphan dinner dance at Hope Initiative. Surinder Fowler completed the marathon and ran with the 2012 Olympic torch through her hometown of Grimsby, England. Anna Martin of the United States Peace Corps also finished the 2011 World AIDS Half Marathon and has informed me to expect a large US Peace Corps presence for the 2012 World AIDS Marathon. Americans, we really do care!
For 2012 there will be 3 orphan dinner dances for 1,100+ children + medical care

We’ve never sponsored 3 orphan dinner dances before plus provided so much medical care. It’s like the movie, ‘Field of Dreams’ where the voice keeps saying ‘if you build it he will come.’ All we need here and now are the voices of the orphans to be heard and your support. If we are successful, we can do even more next year.

Dr. Sartori will be returning to Kenya again and has already donated $500 for medicine. We hope we can get some medicine donated, as we will need between $500 – $5,000 to provide limited medical care and medicine for the 1,100 orphans on an annual basis. We are partnering with Dr. Benson Bonyo of Bonyo’s Kenya Mission, www.bonyoskenyamission.org, to help make these orphan dinner dances with medical care successful Events.

If you are a doctor and would like to help, please contact me via email at: richardm.brodsky@gmail.com. The dinner dances will be held at Alice Visionary Foundation Project (www.alicevisionary.org) site in Amilo Village; Dr. Bonyo’s Mama Pilista Bonyo Memorial Health Centre, irrigation sub-location; and Rispah Ochola’s Hope Initiative in Kendu Bay.

The Richard M. Brodsky Foundation would like to thank Bonyo’s Kenya Mission; the Dutra Family of Atlantic Beach, NY; Mazzitelli Construction Corporation; and Maidenbaum Property Tax Reduction Group, LLC, for co-sponsoring the upcoming 2012 orphan dinner dances. We are still seeking another $1,000 for the orphan dinner dances and $1,000 prize money for the runners.

Original Paintings for Sale

The two paintings above are both for sale and 100% of the proceeds would go towards funding the Foundation’s work. Breast cancer survivor Mary Filingeri painted the beach scene on the right and I painted the picture on the left.

To donate or register for the World AIDS Marathon, visit: www.worldaidsmarathon.com and click DONATE or REGISTER
Here’s why we keep returning to Africa, orphans dancing at Hope Initiative

Here are the orphans dancing at Hope Initiative. Rispah cares for the children as if they are her own. The land for the orphanage was donated by Rispah’s dad, and much still needs to be done so the orphans can have a clean, safe environment. In spite of a harsh and difficult life, here the orphans are dancing and appear very happy to see Jodi and me returning to Africa where the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation had co-sponsored its second annual orphan dinner dance. Thanks to Maidenbaum Property Tax Reduction Group, LLC and Associated Food Stores of Long Beach, each donating $500, and some funds from the Brodsky Foundation, we were able to sponsor this orphan dinner dance at Hope Initiative. If you would like to contact Rispah directly, you can write her at hope.initiative@yahoo.com.
There is no greater joy than feeding 570 orphans

November 29, 2010, Hope Initiative in Kendu Bay, Kenya. There is no place I would rather be than in Africa dining and dancing with 570 orphans two days before the World AIDS Marathon.
G-d answers Richard Brodsky

G-D answers HIV-positive, brain cancer survivor, marathon-running author of: *Jodi, The Greatest Love Story Ever Told*

(by Richard M. Brodsky)

Stopping at a drugstore to pick up some meds, I learned from the pharmacist that one prescription could not be filled for twenty-five years. I told the pharmacist that having the prescription filled was very important to me and I suggested that he put it through the system as an override. He looked at the prescription and was shocked to find my request for a conversation with G-d. A look of dismay crossed the pharmacist’s face as he resubmitted the prescription. A computer snafu occurred and a second or two later the pharmacist handed me a small vial with a piece of paper inside. I thanked the pharmacist and proceeded to open the vial as I headed to the exit. The message inside read, “Okay, Richard, you have just one question.” I exited the store and looked upward and implored, “WHY ME?”

“WHY NOT?” G-d countered as He explained He’s getting old and tired and even He is not perfect. He realizes he’s made mistakes and the really big ones He’s managed to correct. “Dinosaurs…” He claimed, “…those were my biggest mistakes. I did manage to expel them from the planet. Flowers, there I have succeeded admirably. You could not find a human being designing such a variety of colors, textures, fragrances and general layout of a flower from its petals to how the flower opens itself up to the world. I screwed up on roses. They were never supposed to have thorns. But if everything were perfect down there nobody would look forward to keeping me company in the Afterward. Richard, as far as giving you HIV and brain cancer, we did have a computer glitch up here. All this business of pray to G-d, ask G-d’s repentance, may G-d keep me in his good graces and on and on. I told you I’m getting old and I could not function without a computer. I’m actually surprised you people down there took so long to develop a computer. I gave you Galileo, DaVinci, Edison...you guys are centuries late. Richard, you were not supposed to get these two fatal illnesses. I was undecided between a few of my favorite earthly religious leaders who were much respected on Earth. People would take them more seriously than you. Next thing I know, the computer freezes and in a flash your name is the one selected to receive HIV and brain cancer. I could not exactly change what had already happened. We do rest up here and whoever talked about resting a day, a week, that doesn’t cut it up here. A day or week may be fine but every fifty or so years we need a month, a year or years of rest. I slept through the Hitler years and I rested too long during the early years of AIDS. Besides, giving this illness to you as opposed to a religious leader might prove to be more interesting.”

It was then that the vial vanished and I looked up to the sky as the sun poked through from behind the clouds. What a glorious sunrise...

For more information visit: www.richardmbrodsky.org and click on LINKS.
Long Island Business News reports about the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation

Thank you to the Long Island Business News for profiling the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation and for giving permission for the article to be reprinted here. Visit the Long Island Business News online at: www.libn.com

Numerous individuals, businesses, schools and volunteers have been extremely supportive of the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation’s work. I could not begin to thank everyone here, but I would like to thank a few: Shalom Maidenbaum of Maidenbaum Property Tax Reduction Group, LLC, whose heart knows no bounds, the student groups who invited me to speak at Georgetown University, NYU, Hofstra and Great Neck North High School; Richard M. Brodsky Foundation board members; volunteers Rupert Reyneke, Keely Payne, Sahil Batta, Valerie Thompson, Jerod Blakestad, Carl Bradford, Alexandra Rusell and Maryanne; The Miami Herald, Anton Publications, The New York Times, The Nassau Herald, POZ Magazine, NEWSDAY, thebody.com; Blue Light Horizon and John Walsh, Sally Jesse Raphael, Dick Clark, Montel Williams, Howard Stern; and Barnes & Noble for taking a chance on a first time author. AND most of all, my loving wife Jodi who inspired me to write the book: Jodi, The Greatest Love Story Ever Told.

RICHARD M. BRODSKY FOUNDATION
DONATE NOW!

I hope you enjoyed reading about the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation’s work both in Africa and America. We can only continue these projects with your continued support as volunteers, participants and/or sponsors. Thank you for your donation, your donation is gratefully acknowledged and will be put to good use by funding our charitable works here and abroad. Future donations can be made online by visiting: www.richardmbrodsky.org, www.worldaidsmarathon.com or www.5kaids cancer.com and click on the DONATE link.

On the back cover you can read what political leaders and others are saying about the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation, but for me it is what everyday people are saying. This is why I need to continue the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation’s work!

“I ran in the 5K today with my son at Cedar Creek Park. It was tremendous! From Richard Brodsky, HIV-positive and a brain cancer survivor, with his wife at his side — who could be a better inspiration for us. The response to the 5K was great, the support and encouragement unmatched. We finished the 5K and left flying high on encouragement and hope. I know my battle with cancer will be won knowing the love and support that is out there. Thank you to the Brodskys!”

-Nancy Werner

Prize-Winning Letter Published in “The Standard,” Nairobi, Kenya

LET’S SUPPORT AIDS MARATHONER

“When life hands you a lemon, so the dictum goes, ‘make lemonade out of it.’ This line of wisdom clicked in my mind immediately I started reading the article NYC Marathoner Runs for Kenya, by Betty Kemunto in New York. It is a case of juggling with one’s pride, altruism and a display of exceptional character which is hard to come by today. Yet, the couple has decided to take the bull by the horns and try to make some good out of a bad situation. However, one question begs an answer: will their efforts of creating awareness bear any fruits?

Awareness of the disease has been drummed into mankind’s head but still there is minimal behavior change. It’s like AIDS has already lost its scare value. Thus, our red light streets are still as vibrant as ever, irresponsible sex – even with minors, continue to dominate; incest, fornication, homosexuality...the list is long. But a prophet is coming. It is said that a prophet is not recognized in his homeland. Richard Brodsky (read AIDS prophet) is flying from his homeland for a purpose – to continue with the awareness that is slowly sliding to oblivion. Are we going to heed his call or despise his noble efforts?”

-Michael Nyagah Mainge, Nakuru, Kenya

“I pray God’s richest blessings upon you as you continue to make a difference in the lives of others. You have certainly made a difference in mine.”

-Reverend Wanda Meyers, Living Hope Fellowship of Massapequa

AMSA chapters or similar organizations that are interested in initiating events or similar projects with the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation can visit: www.richardmbrodsky.org and click on LINKS.
POLITICAL LEADERS WHO HAVE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE RICHARD M. BRODSKY FOUNDATION

President Barack Obama: “AIDS is the worst public health crisis in human history, and finding a cure is a priority of mine. But government cannot fight AIDS alone. People like you are invaluable working at the grassroots to show the human face and spirit that I believe will ultimately defeat AIDS. I wish you all the best for a successful race.”

President Bill Clinton: “The HIV/AIDS epidemic is one of the most urgent problems of our time and it needs the voices, energy, and involvement of people like you.”

New York State Senator Republican Leader Dean G. Skelos: “By sponsoring events that highlight the need for additional funding of research, testing and treatment for AIDS and Cancer, the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation has helped to raise regional awareness.”

Town of Hempstead Supervisor Kate Murray: “Our township salutes you and we offer our hearts, minds and hands to assist in all of your noble endeavors.”

Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy: “The Foundation's determination and altruism has made a positive and lasting impact on so many lives in an effort to make their hopes a reality.”

Former United Nations Special Envoy to HIV/AIDS in Africa, Stephen H. Lewis: “I wish you every triumphant success. There can be no objective on this planet more worthy than to overcome the pandemic of HIV/AIDS.”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu /Lavonia Brown, Personal Assistant: “Archbishop Desmond Tutu is delighted to hear of the 2004 AIDS Africa Marathon. He sends his warm wishes for the success of this exciting and challenging event.”

United States Senator Ted Kennedy: “I wish you all the best in your continuing battle against HIV/AIDS and I commend you for all you’re doing to raise money for a cure.”

Nassau County Legislator Denise Ford: “I am in awe of your dedication and hard work and I stand with the many who pledge to continue their support of the Richard M. Brodsky Foundation. Continue to let your light shine!”