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# Marathon runner to carry child along in spirit

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**pn** By **BARBARA MILLER, The Patriot-News**

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As Camp Hill native BethAnn Telford runs in her third Boston Marathon April 16, one of her motivators will be tiny beads placed on her shoelaces by Anya Zvorsky, 5, of New Cumberland.

Telford, an avid marathoner who's been battling a brain tumor since 2005, learned of Zvorsky's two-year battle with a rare form of brain cancer.

While Telford, who lives and works in Washington D.C., was visiting her family in Camp Hill over Easter, she included a stop to see Anya.

"It was awesome," said Karen Zvorsky, Anya's mother. Telford's mother, Susanne Telford, contacted the Zvorsky family after reading about Anya in a story in The Patriot-News.

Telford brought her running shoes, beads and markers for Anya to write messages of hope on them and choose beads to string on her shoelaces.

"She told Anya she will be bringing her along. ... She will be running every step of the way," Karen Zvorsky said.

Telford also explained how she is raising money to help others with brain tumors.

They plan to attend the Race for Hope in Washington, D.C., on May 6, in which Telford will be running.



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BethAnn Telford of Camp Hill, an avid marathoner who's been battling a brain tumor since 2005, learned of 5-year-old New Cumberland resident Anya Zvorsky's two-year battle with a rare form of brain cancer.

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"It was cool for her to see somebody else who has been through what she has been through," Karen Zvorsky said.

Anya has met other children with cancer while she was undergoing treatment, "but they don't really talk about what they have."

They compared scars, and Anya particularly admired Telford's long, glossy black hair. Anya, who had curly blond hair before her surgery, told her mother she hopes her hair grows back like Telford's.

Anya, who had surgery in January at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, is doing well, and her last scans were clear, Karen Zvorsky said.

"She is back in school and running around like nothing happened," Karen Zvorsky said.

Telford plans to visit Anya's school, Bible Baptist in Shiremanstown, on April 17 after the marathon.

Telford said she has raised more than \$250,000 for brain cancer research. Since December, she has raised \$53,000 toward her \$60,000 goal for this year's Race for Hope in Washington, D.C.

During her qualifying marathon, the Steamtown in Scranton last year, she suffered a seizure. She runs with a caretaker, due to her health issues, which include blindness in one eye.

To prepare for the Boston Marathon, she's been swimming, and did the 10-mile Cherry Blossom run in Washington, D.C.

Telford said her most recent surgery was in December for issues affecting her bladder and a drain for her brain.

After the Boston Marathon, Telford said she'll be seeing doctors about further treatments for her bladder.

Telford said it's stories such as Anya's that keep her running and fundraising.

"That's why I do it — for someone like that who can't do it and fight the way I can," Telford said.

**How to help**

- To learn more about BethAnn Telford's fundraising for brain cancer research, go to [www.teambt.org](http://www.teambt.org) or her Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/bethann.telford](http://www.facebook.com/bethann.telford).

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