

**THE JOGGIN FOR
NOGGIN**



Jennifer McDevitt Bio

I was diagnosed with brain cancer on September 15, 2003. My son, Jack, was just 8 weeks old and I was faced with a challenge that no person, let alone new mother, should have to face. After my first brain surgery to remove this tumor, I realized that I still had a lot of living in me and thus began what I call my official Joggin for the Noggin.

I started training for my first of seven (and still counting) marathons in April 2004, less than one year after my diagnosis. After I crossed the finish line of the 2004 Chicago Marathon, I realized that this is what I personally needed to do to survive. I have run all but 2 of my marathons while on some form of chemotherapy and I have become a firm believer that you can do whatever you put your mind to. I made a promise to myself from that point on that I would continue to run a marathon every year for as long as my brain and feet allow me to. I even stepped it up and started running two marathons 3 weeks apart from one another. In 2007, I ran the Chicago Marathon and then the historic New York City Marathon. In 2008, I did the same thing over.

My tumor has come back 4 times and I have had 3 additional surgeries to remove this recurrent cancer that quite frankly just hasn't realized that it is not a welcome house guest. But I continue to believe and continue to run and will do so until a cure is found.

In the midst of completing all these marathons, I have also accomplished many other wonderful victories that have added to my successful survivorship. I was named Saucony Women of the Year, I was in an Energizer Bunny TV commercial, I received the 2006 Tim and Tom Gullikson Spirit Award, and I was a feature story on the **Today Show**. Most recently, I spoke in front of the FDA at a congressional hearing and was victorious in getting Avastin approved in the treatment of brain cancer and I have become a board member of the Tug McGraw Foundation and a solid member of Team McGraw.

I created Joggin for the Noggin because I want people to realize that brain cancer has winners and has success stories. I am personally one of them. This race is to raise the awareness of brain tumors and help increase funding for a cure. It also will help the families and patients who are dealing with this disease and the quality of life issues that arise when a loved one is diagnosed.

Unfortunately, I have had to begin a more aggressive chemotherapy treatment and have had to make the heartbreaking decision to not run a marathon this year. But that is okay because I will have all you Noggins out there doing the running for me.

I thank you for your support. Now go run your brains out!!!!