

sample letter

Dear _____,

I am running in the *RUN FOR AUTISM* on (insert event date) in conjunction with (insert the race you are running). Aside from training over the next six months I have decided to turn my sweat and blisters into something really meaningful. I am contacting you to help me raise money for autism research.

When I signed up for the *RUN FOR AUTISM*, I learned that 1 in 4 people in the United States know someone with autism. It is estimated that at least 1.7 million individuals in the U.S. are grappling with this complex and baffling disorder. The signs of autism become apparent by the time a child is three years old. This lifelong developmental disorder affects the way a person interacts with their environment. I was surprised to learn that individuals with autism may never be able to speak, marry, hold a job or live on their own. Autism is a lifelong challenge for the individual diagnosed, and a life-changing challenge for their family. While there is no known cause and a cure is not yet on the horizon, research provides hope and the promise of a better quality of life for those affected by autism.

I am dedicating this run to (insert a particular individual's name and story here if you have one) and autism research. I am asking for your support. All proceeds will go to the Organization for Autism Research, a national non-profit organization that funds research and resources for individuals diagnosed with autism and their families. Families who have children with autism face many challenges. Your pledge of support will help individuals whose struggles exist outside the spotlight of society.

Enclosed, please find a donor brochure to show your support. My personal time goal for finishing the race is _____. I ask that you consider an additional donation should I make that time. Any amount can help; no donation is too small. Your generous donation will help create solutions to the daily challenges those living with autism face each day.

Please consider sponsoring me in the *RUN FOR AUTISM*. Every donation makes a difference. To find out more about the Organization for Autism Research, please visit their Web site www.researchautism.org.

Thank you in advance for your support,