

# CARMEL MOTHER HAS NEW INCENTIVE

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BY GRETCHEN BECKER • NORTH INDY STAR • JULY 31, 2008

For six years Dea Walls raised money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society through Pennies for Patients at the Goddard School she runs in Zionsville. Then her daughter Lauryn, 4, was diagnosed with leukemia Jan. 8.

Walls, Carmel, who has finished six Mini-Marathons, will run for Lauryn, an honored hero, at the Oct. 12 Bank of America Chicago Marathon.

"I was surprised at how many people know people who have someone who had blood cancer," Walls said. "Being a mom, it's great to see so many people who are dedicated to finding a cure to help my baby."

Walls, who has raised more than \$4,000, sometimes shares her story at Team in Training recruiting events like ones coming up in August for winter events.

Lauryn's sister Jordyn, 9, collected books from neighbors and clubs such as the Zionsville Lions, turned them into Half Price Books and raised \$500.

In addition to the marathon this year, Walls plans to complete a triathlon next year.

"My baby has all these chemicals being pumped into her body, and I am saying I can't do a marathon," Walls said. "A lot of time my feet are numb or my knees hurt. I tell myself to suck it up. I feel like I am training for all of them."