



To whom it may concern,

Diabetes, a global epidemic, requiring the endurance of running a marathon. The United Nations (UN) called in a resolution, the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) initiated the Year of Childhood Diabetes, the International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD) linked all health care workers. Necessary? Yes!

One in 80 kids has got diabetes, their number increases and starts at ever younger ages, too many run into complications or even die. Diabetes is on their mind 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Research, cure, care and prevention have so far been seen as the key's to fight diabetes, it is 'about' 'their' diabetes. Kids easily attract a second handicap next to their diabetes due to the protective attitude, slipped in at their upbringing by their parents who were taught by doctors, nurses, health care workers and people who all cared very much for these youngsters.

Kids Chain for Diabetes naturally followed, supported by the above parties for unique reasons: reflecting endurance, teamwork and own power. Kids at the front, others at the back. The kids run relay marathons of 42 K in which they can have their own individual progression followed by an joint Olympic finish the last 195 meters and are backed or even adopted by individuals and organizations, institutes that sympathize with health, sports, kids.

Kids Chain aims to empower the kids themselves, provide them with tools to fight their diabetes, reduce insulin requirements, improving self-esteem, interact with peers of whom they are more likely to take advice from, having them tell what diabetes is really about, having them stimulate research and policies, while not focusing on the disease. Torches, medals and certificates are passed on by (prime)ministers, royalty, Olympic medal winners, scientists, health care workers and supporters, a book and research are on their way. They started with the Athens Classic Marathon and met all aims within a year working just with volunteers! See [www.kidschain.org](http://www.kidschain.org).

November 2008 will be the closing of the Year of Childhood Diabetes and should be the beginning of continued awareness and positive action by every individual and organization. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November, institutions and individuals are all invited to take part in the full ING New York City Marathon with kids taking part in the relay, each 1 K. They will represent their nation, institution, peer group and by the fundraising of people backing them, positively attract people who are unable to run, to make the trip but are by their support part of the chain and join in the free positive publicity. Anyone can get diabetes, anyone can do something!

Franco Gallo an excellent marathon runner and his son Marco both with diabetes accompanied by the mother have been given the great opportunity and honor to represent Italy and as ambassadors to participate in the Kids Chain Program in the ING New York City Marathon and at the premises of the United Nations supported by IDF and ISPAD and as for all bring back positive energy and be supported to bring all the above into practice in their own countries.

  
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