



**NORD®**



Hi! I am Erica. I have been a community partner for 6 years now on the Boston Team and 1 year on the Providence Team. It amazes me actually that this is my 6th year as a community partner on the running team. I am a late diagnosed patient with ultra-rare MPS I. This program has been fun, a learning experience and really neat to see how the team has grown and changed, yet the passion is still there!

This year I am partnered with Cheri Sawin, an employee at Sanofi Genzyme, the company that markets the IV infusion drug I receive each week. Every year, my partners have varied quite a bit, but each partner has always been a good one, which involved good conversations, learning from each other and working together to raise awareness. This year Cheri and myself seemed to hit it off almost

immediately and her passion to learn about my disease state has been really inspiring. I love to teach others about what MPS is, why better treatments and awareness are needed and how to partner to raise awareness. I love that the R4R Team gives me this opportunity!

I appreciate all the R4R Team does for community partners, the rare disease community and raising awareness. As a former long undiagnosed patient, I appreciate that more patients may not have to go through all that I did in order to find an answer. Hopefully their medical issues will be treated sooner (and thus damage be minimized for the issues that can be helped/treated whether diagnosed or not). Thank you for having me on the team and a special thanks to Cheri for running on my and the MPS community's behalf!