



Everyone in the rare disease community knows that doubt and fear come with the territory - doubts about diagnoses and treatment options, fears of the unknown and the health of your loved one. By joining the Running for Rare team, I'm hoping that our actions help to conquer these doubts and fears through the money being raised.

My name is Chris Hummel and I live in Central PA. I have a beautiful wife and two amazing kids, a 15-year-old daughter and a 13-year-old son. I'm running this race for my son, Will. We entered the rare disease community involuntarily when Will was born with a rare disease called Homocystinuria (HCU) that prevents him from processing protein properly. If left untreated, HCU leads to devastating consequences. Lucky for us, Will was diagnosed at birth and has been under the treatment of amazing staff from Children's Hospital Colorado and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia ever since. He is doing well, but when a child in the HCU community passed away unexpectedly earlier this year, it was a stark reminder that there is still much work to be done to improve treatment options and ultimately find a cure.

My family and I became connected with the Running for Rare team back in 2013 when Will was a patient partner for one of the runners on the team. To support Will's runner and the Running for Rare team, we attended the Boston Marathon in 2013 when the tragic bombings occurred and again in 2014. Spectating was an amazing experience, but I have been drawn to actually run in Boston ever since. I have run three marathons previously, including the 2015 Providence Marathon which I ran as a member of the Running for Rare team and (finally broke 4 hours).

My goals for the Boston Marathon this year are to connect with the team, raise funds for a great cause, and to beat Will Ferrell's (aka Buddy the Elf's) 2003 Boston Marathon time of 3:56:12!

