



Hartford HealthCare
St. Vincent's Medical Center

Swim Talk NEWSLETTER



April 2022 Published by the Swim Marathon Committee

Swimming to Continue His Sister's Legacy of Helping Others



Jeff Lever, a math teacher at Nathan Hale Middle School in Norwalk, took to the Sound in this year's marathon for the first time – and it won't be the last.

Jeff's sister, Beth Hare, lost her battle with cancer in the summer of 2019. Beth was from a large family, six children in all - but her extended family is vast. It includes countless colleagues and patients at St. Vincent's Medical Center who Beth worked with and cared for. After graduating from St. Vincent's College, Beth worked as a nurse at St. Vincent's for more than 30 years. "She considered St. Vincent's her second home," said Jeff. "She loved going to work and loved her job as a nurse. When she became too ill to work at the hospital, she continued working from home, helping patients, as long as she possibly could."

The Swim Across the Sound marathon is an iconic annual event to just about everyone growing up in Fairfield County – and Jeff was no exception. "In the back of my mind, I had always wanted to do the swim - it was a bucket list thing," Jeff explained. "With the passing of my sister, it became all too real - and I took that as a sign."



Jeff was ready to go all in. He recruited four more for the five-man Boo's Crew swim team. Boo was Beth's nickname. These guys were no strangers to challenge - as they have all participated in the Iron Man (swim, bike, ride) Triathlon, and three of the five had participated in previous Swim Across the Sound marathons. "When we get in on something together, we tend to go over the top," Jeff said. They trained hard, taking to the frigid, early morning water at Fairfield Beach for training twice a week leading up to the race.

Another important aspect of the marathon is raising funds for Swim Across the Sound. Each solo swimmer or team has a dedicated fundraising page and Boo's

Crew hit this one out of the park! Jeff and his team raised a whopping \$45,000 and were the recipients of the inaugural 2021 Ron Bianchi Fundraiser Award for the highest funds raised.



They launched the fundraiser on Beth's birthday, in March of 2021, by posting a video about Beth and their upcoming challenge with a link for those who might want to sponsor Boo's Crew. This is just one more way a big family comes in handy. Siblings, nephews, nieces, along with many former colleagues and friends reposted the video. "I watched the scrolling donations coming in, from

people I knew, and from many I didn't know," Jeff recalls. "I sent an email out and within an hour we had more than \$2,000. I was in awe of the love and support. And I'm a competitive guy – so next year I want to raise \$100,000!"

A few more of Beth's siblings got in on the swim. Her brother, Rick Lever swam with Jeff on the Boo's Crew team, while their sister Patty was aboard the Boo's Crew escort boat, timing the swim and cheering her brothers on. Beth's parents also attended, watching their children crossing the sound in honor of Beth.

Jeff already has big plans for Boo's Crew and the 2022 Swim Across the Sound Marathon. Beyond the personal challenge, it's a challenge to continue his sister's legacy. "Beth spent her entire life helping people," said Jeff. "This is a way I can help her to continue doing that by raising funds for cancer patients and their families. It's profound. Beth is going to keep helping people for as long as I can do this."

To donate toward the Boo's Crew team, please visit:

<https://charity.pledgeit.org/t/WHAlbFRU3R>

View a heartfelt video with Beth's family [here!](#)

[VISIT OUR TO WEBSITE TO DONATE OR REGISTER](#)



Hartford HealthCare 
St. Vincent's Medical Center

Swim Across the Sound 2022

Registration is **OPEN** for the **35th** Annual Swim Across the Sound Marathon. The date is **Saturday, August 6, 2022.**

[Click Here to Register as a Boater, Swimmer or Volunteer](#)

[SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT](#)



Rivel

We want to send a warm welcome to our new Corporate Sponsor, [Rivel](#), who have pledged a giving and gratitude commitment to Swim Across the Sound!

We spoke to Barbara A. Sullivan Chief Marketing Officer at Rivel, to learn more:

Tell us more about Rivel:

Rivel started as a family business with three employees in 1991, and continues to thrive as a family business now with close to 100 employees, or what we like to call "family members".

[READ MORE](#)

I DON'T SWIM ... HOW ELSE CAN I PARTICIPATE?

Interested in supporting Swim Across the Sound, but can't join as a boater or open water swimmer? We have a participation option for you!

Set your own fundraising and movement goals, either in or out of the water. Registration is free and your participation is what you make it. Let's get moving and fundraising together!

To learn more about how you can become a Fish Out of Water or Swim-A-Thon participant, visit <https://runsignup.com/supportswimacrossthesound>.

If you have any questions or are connected to any local swim teams (high school, college, or club teams) that you think may want to join, please reach out to Alyssa at Alyssa.amaturo@hhchealth.org.

Covid Update

Our top priority continues to be the safety of all and that includes following COVID-19 guidelines by Hartford Healthcare, The States of CT and NY and CDC.

COVID vaccination is required to participate in the Swim in any capacity. Please be prepared to show proof of vaccination in order to participate.

To send proof of vaccination, please follow these step-by-step instructions:

[Vaccination Verification Instructions](#)

*Let's celebrate the generosity of our Corporate Sponsors.
This message of gratitude brought to you by our
[Leading Sponsor, Victorinox Swiss Army.](#)*



VICTORINOX

SWISS ARMY

We look forward to seeing you August 6th!

St. Vincent's Medical Center | Philanthropy Department
2800 Main Street | Bridgeport, CT 06606

FOLLOW US



Hartford Healthcare | St. Vincents Medical Center, 2800 Main Street, Department of
Philanthropy,
Bridgeport, CT 06606

[Unsubscribe anthony.certera@hhchealth.org](mailto:anthony.certera@hhchealth.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by christine.howard@hhchealth.org in collaboration
with



Try email marketing for free today!