



ella-vis forever

There are few people you meet in life who have the capacity to make a profound effect on how you choose to battle the obstacles life throws your way. There are even fewer who have the power to do so at age 2. While courageously fighting a disease that had taken over her brain, little Ella Hinds heart was growing bigger by the second, and positively influencing the community around her. Little did she know the effect she would have on one individual in particular, her godmother, Diane Livoti.

Diane supported Ella's fight throughout the rollercoaster of aches, pains, hopes, and joys. For three and a half months, Ella's closest family and friends hoped for the best, but in the end, Ella quietly lost the fight. Young Ella passed away on May 26, 2007. Over 200 people attended her memorial to honor the vivacious little girl and the incredible heart, soul, and life within her.

Each person left with a memory of Ella that has since spread throughout the world. Friends doing a service project in Cambodia constructed a drinking well to provide fresh water to the community. They dedicated it to Ella—a symbolic gesture that encapsulates Ella's giving spirit, and incredible source of life.

Several other efforts have been made to help raise awareness of pediatric brain cancer in honor of Ella. Diane Livoti's run as Elvis is just another means of doing so...

As Diane says, "It takes courage to run a marathon. Ella was a courageous young girl running her own marathon-- and doing so with a smile on her face."

Ella's spirit lives on, and will be the guiding force behind Diane's running Elvis adventure. Despite the "lame feet" she has been dealing with throughout her training (her doctor even suggested giving up running for a less impacting sport like swimming!), Diane has persevered through it all. Her marathon training has been an extremely helpful activity, for it provides the physical outlet she needs to further celebrate life. She says, "Rather than wallow in sadness and be pissed off at the world, I am choosing to embrace life and do something outrageous." According to Diane, celebrating life is the best way to honor the dead. And what better way to do that, than run as Elvis at the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon?!

Diane has completed a couple of half marathons, and she is looking forward to this new, "fun, hilarious adventure." As an outdoor professional, canine behaviorist, and successful entrepreneur, Diane has a sense of adventure that rivals both Lewis and Clark. Therefore it is no surprise that she is jumping into the 26.2-mile journey with both feet—giving it her all, and doing so with a smile on her face!

Look for Diane on race day, she'll be the Running Elvis with a fully-grown pompadour, blue suede shoes, and gold sequined black running dress with matching cape, complete with a brightly sequined "ELLA-VIS" across the back. Ella-vis forever!



*For more insight on the story surrounding Ella and her community, as well as more information on pediatric cancer, please visit www.weloveella.com