

For Immediate Release:

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(Des Moines, Iowa) - Marathon athlete and enthusiast [Anthony Kinley](#) is running 333 miles across Iowa in March 2022 to raise awareness for Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG), and to help fund the Austin Smith Inclusive Playground in his hometown of Monticello, Iowa.

The ambitious feat, which will see Kinley covering over 50 miles each day, will take the runner through twelve cities from Omaha to Dubuque, starting March 5, 2022.

“I am not sure what I will encounter in the next few months while training, or even after I start the run,” says Kinley. “For now, I’m focusing my training on what I can do each day in order to build a stronger physical and mental base before I set out to tackle this giant task.” The goal of supporting and promoting the organization is the seasoned runner’s motivation.

The Austin Strong Foundation is a non-profit organization that exists to raise awareness, fund research, and support those families affected by childhood cancers, like DIPG.

“The main goal of the Austin Strong Foundation is research,” said Britt and Mikinzie Smith, who created the Austin Strong Foundation to honor their son, Austin Jeffrey Smith. “But, we believe part of being a successful foundation includes stewardship in our community, facilitating projects that will benefit our youth, and aligning with our mission of helping families.”

On November 15th, the first concrete was poured for the playground foundation and in the spring the organization will host an official groundbreaking ceremony in Monticello.

“The ability to play is something all children should have the right to enjoy,” said Kinley, who knew Austin Smith before he lost his battle with DIPG in 2016 at the age of seven.

“He was going through more than I could ever imagine. He needed help with many simple things during his treatment that any other child would not think about, like using his own playground set in his backyard. One day while playing with him on the playground, I noticed how he was still a kid at heart and wanted nothing more than to be able to go down the slide again and again and again. The pure joy he got from the simplest acts of life has stuck with me ever since then. Austin truly was a superhero.”

Kinley hopes to raise \$5,000 to support the construction of the Austin Smith Inclusive Playground.

“I have been truly blessed in my life and I want to give back to those who are not able to experience the opportunities that I had,” adds Kinley. “The Austin Smith Inclusive Playground has the opportunity to make every child feel as free as I do when I run.”

Supporters can make a contribution through [Kinley's GoFundMe page](#) and on his website, 333forDIPG.com

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