



RUN ZOE RUN

A YOUNG WOMAN'S RUN ACROSS AMERICA STIRS SUPPORT, AWARENESS FOR CLUBS

Last May, Zoe Romano completed a 3,000-mile solo run across America to raise awareness and money for Boys & Girls Clubs. No support team accompanied the gutsy 23-year-old as she soldiered across America's highways – just Zoe and the jogging stroller of supplies she pushed before her. Her epic journey raised \$15,000 and received coverage by the Huffington Post, CNN Espanol and numerous local media outlets. Following is Zoe's firsthand account of her trip.

Photo by AlexanderKreher.com

I grew up listening to my father tell stories about his boyhood days at his Boys Club in Portland, Maine, our hometown. A smile spreading across his face, his eyes would light up as he explained what went on behind those blue doors where he learned to swim and master ping-pong. It sounded incredible – a place dedicated to kids being kids. My afternoons and evenings consumed with sports practices, I never became a Club member. I never forgot my Dad's stories, though.

On May 7, I jumped into the ocean in Charleston, S.C. At the end, the emotions I felt strongest were a deep sense of gratitude and a powerful conviction that anything is possible. If I have any wisdom to share, it is this: you can do anything you want to do, be anything you want to be, and chase any dream you have the courage to dream. You just have to take that first step.

Learn more about Zoe and her journey at zoegoerunning.wordpress.com.



Zoe with her father, Rick, and her sister, Rosa.



AlexanderKreher.com

I saw the country in a way few do – one mile at a time, eyes always taking in the landscape spread out before me. Along the way, I spoke with media about the Club's mission, raised \$15,000 and visited 25 Clubs.



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I developed a plan to support Clubs by running across America. I'd run 25 miles a day, six days a week and push my supplies in a jogging stroller. On January 8, I began my run in Huntington Beach, Calif. Over the next four months, I would cover nearly 3,000 miles on my own two feet, averaging 30 miles a day.



There was nothing more reaffirming of my mission than meeting kids at each Club, seeing first-hand who I was helping. I left every single Club feeling my heart overcome with love.