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Former Y child to run marathon

Tina Kennedy is one of four people selected to run this year's Boston Marathon to raise funds as a part of the YMCA of Greater Boston's team. Kennedy, a Dorchester native now living in Boston, has a goal of raising \$9,000. Tina grew up in the Y community where she sought care and support afterschool.

Kennedy, 24, will take on her first Boston Marathon, raising funds as part of the YMCA of Greater Boston's marathon team. Kennedy, a former Canton High School track and cross country captain who struggled through back injuries, took a break from running long distance during her time at UMass Amherst. Having overcome physical injuries, she is looking at this opportunity as a

chance to rediscover the passion she once had for the sport.

A current executive and research associate for The Brennan Group Inc., Kennedy is ready to re-lace her running shoes and give back to the organization that has provided her with so much throughout the years.

"I learned to tie my shoelaces at the Dorchester YMCA," says Kennedy. "My father worked six days a week, with early morning starts and late evening walks in the door, as the owner of his own construction company, and my mother took on administrative positions while teaching herself business accounting."

"My parents did not have the luxury of leaving early from work to

pick me up from school to care for me so they turned to the Y."

To this day, Kennedy says that her relationship with the Y has come "full circle." Since recently moving to the Fenway area, Kennedy has become part of the YMCA's Huntington Ave. branch where she trains and works out in preparation for the Boston Marathon.

Although it will be her first marathon, Kennedy has enjoyed running local 5K and charity runs. "I fell in love with the whole sport because it is a mental game against yourself," says Kennedy. "The running culture is a whole different group where you find some real inspiration and people with heart. It is the best thing that ever happened to me and has shaped me



Tina Kennedy: Dot YMCA was her early home away from home

into a more confident and outgoing person."

For more information on how qualified runners with bibs can join the Y team and raise a minimum of \$1,500, email yamarathonteam@ymca.org