



A Personal Challenge to Benefit PEARLS October 5, 2008

Kathleen Whitworth, wife of PEARLS board member, Shannon Whitworth, raised an impressive \$800 for PEARLS by asking friends and family to sponsor her participation in Milwaukee's 2008 Lakefront Marathon. PEARLS girls, board and staff members gathered to cheer Kathleen on as she neared completion of the Marathon on October 5, 2008. Kathleen, who was not previously a runner, first decided to challenge herself to complete the marathon back in 2006. She began training in early 2007, but was sidelined for nearly a year after being seriously injured in a car accident. From the start, Kathleen wanted to take on this personal challenge to benefit the girls of PEARLS. She decided that she could ask friends, family and colleagues to pledge funds in support of PEARLS as part of her run. She also wanted to show the girls that with perseverance and faith in themselves they can reach any goal they chose.

"One of the main things I wanted to convey to the girls was this: when you have a goal and really want to attain it, you can do it...You just put your head down and go. Don't look left or right. Just focus on the goal. And, most of all, don't let anyone tell you that you "CAN'T" do it. If I can run a marathon, the sky is the limit for the girls at PEARLS. It was not random that I wanted to run this for the girls. I knew that I had to do it to show our girls that nothing--NOTHING-- is impossible," said Kathleen.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts Kathleen for your amazing example, leadership, and commitment.

