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## GOOD DEEDS: Fighting cancer one race at a time

By **Christopher A. Smith**

Published [February 16, 2011](#)

Tom Whiteside is in the best shape of his life and it's all because of cancer, he says.

Four years ago Whiteside was battling Hodgkin's lymphoma. The treatment was so severe that he was hardly able to move, he couldn't leave his house, he was skinny and weak. But on his birthday in 2007 he found out he was done with chemo and in time he would join a support group that would encourage him to start biking and running. Whiteside said there was a certain satisfaction to being able to run and bike and be stronger than he ever was before.

Now, four years later, Whiteside encourages others to get involved in the fight against cancer as well. Whiteside is an event coordinator with Team LIVESTRONG and his work includes organizing the LIVESTRONG Challenge, the organization's signature fundraising event, as well as partnering with existing events like the Austin Marathon.

"People want to get involved, they want to run the race but they also want to add a charity component. So they can fund raise with us," said Whiteside.

LIVESTRONG will be bringing about 525 runners to the Austin Marathon, up from 57 last year, Whiteside said. This is the first year LIVESTRONG and the marathon are partnering, but Whiteside believes it is a "match made in Austin" and that the partnership will only get stronger as time goes on.

The deadline to run in the marathon has already passed, but getting involved

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doesn't just mean running. Whiteside said there are still plenty of volunteer opportunities. LIVESTRONG will be working the first water stop of the course. The stop will be on both sides of the street and being the first on the course there will be a lot of runners coming in at one time for water, said Whiteside.

"Volunteers are very helpful," he added.

The Austin LIVESTRONG Challenge will take place in October and that will require hundreds of volunteers. It's a two-day event with opportunities to run, walk, or bike, all to raise money for the fight against cancer. Since 1997 the Challenge has raised more than 60 million dollars.

Whiteside said he hoped people would get involved because marathons and the challenge aren't just about biking or running -- they're about doing something bigger. "Everybody knows somebody that has been affected by cancer."

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To register for the LIVESTRONG Challenge in October go to [www.livestrong.org](http://www.livestrong.org). Please note that when you register online, you will receive a generic confirmation about your shift. This should be ignored as you will receive the logistics (shift, location, time) for your particular water stop or station from your team captain.



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