



Charity runner's heart in it

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Running a marathon is hard, but it's easier if you have something to run for.

New Plymouth mother of two Joanne Jackson is a running the Auckland marathon this Sunday as a Heart Racer and has already raised nearly \$7000 for the Heart Foundation.

"I have \$6990 but I want to get to \$7000 and it would be good to get over that," Mrs Jackson said.

A Heart Racer is a brave and much loved New Zealander who fundraises on the Heart Foundation's behalf, its communications adviser Shae Skellern says.

"Joanne has raised by far the largest amount for us. One person donated \$2000, I don't know how she does it but she must have a good group of contacts," she said.

Mrs Jackson became interested in heart racing after her husband Gary was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy, a condition in which

the heart gradually becomes enlarged beyond normal limits and cannot perform as effectively as a pump.

"I picked a marathon and the Auckland marathon seemed like the right one because the Heart Foundation is the major charity."

Mrs Jackson, who has only run four marathons, says the task of running 42km won't be easy.

"I've run the local one three times and one in Rotorua and they have all been hard, I know the last 10km I'll be looking for the end."

The Heart Foundation is aiming to raise \$100,000 from its Heart Racers and Mrs Jackson has until Sunday to reach her target.

"I just really wanted to give something back to a foundation that does really spectacular things."

People can sponsor Mrs Jackson by making a credit card donation at <http://www.heartracer.org.nz/joannejackson/>



Long distance: Joanne Jackson is looking to raise \$7000 for the Heart Foundation by running the Auckland marathon.
Photo: JONATHAN CAMERON