

New Marathon

Baseball mitzvah project raises funds for cancer patients and families.



A baseball park marathon by Scot and Jonah Bobo and cousin Ezra Bobo earns funds for Team Continuum.

Dayna Elconin Teen2Teen Staff Writer

Jonah Bobo, 12, did a marathon as his bar mitzvah project to raise money for Team Continuum, a non-profit organization that provides non-medical necessities to cancer patients and their families. However, Jonah did not run a traditional marathon. Instead, he visited 26 professional baseball parks in seven weeks by driving across the country with his father, Scot, and cousin Ezra Bobo.

They began in their hometown of New York City at the end of June and finished their journey on Aug. 17 with a Tampa Bay Devil Rays game. They still have four games to make their goal of stopping at all 30 ballparks — and they will do it before Jonah's December bar mitzvah in Israel.

Jonah made a stop in Detroit on Aug. 3 for a Tigers game against the Toronto Orioles. The Tigers battled back after trailing by five runs after the first inning. A walk-off home run in the ninth inning sealed the Tigers' win.

While in Detroit, Jonah had the opportunity to reunite with some family, including his great-grandmother Ida Raimi, 97, of Southfield, great-aunts Shelly Forman of Southfield and Fay Margolis of Huntington Woods and great-aunt and uncle, Laurie and Michael Nosanchuk of West

Continuum T-shirt and hat and gave out wristbands. He also was featured on radio shows to get the word out to as many people as possible.

"In the ballpark in Arlington, Texas, we were on the big screen and they had a short paragraph about what we were doing," Jonah said.

Jonah's neighbor Valeria Reyes, 12, is currently battling cancer and is involved with Team Continuum. Valeria was Jonah's main motive to get involved with the organization. Many of the proceeds are going toward her fight with cancer. Jonah has raised almost \$5,000 so far in his trek across America.

Through this trip, Jonah has strengthened old bonds with friends and family.

"I feel like we've all made stronger connections," Jonah said. "My cousin feels like more of a big brother now."

Jonah, an actor for film (*Zathura* and *Around the Bend*) and TV (*30 Rock* and *Royal Pains* appearances and the voice of Austin on the Nickelodeon's *Backyardigans*), especially enjoyed traveling to so many different places around the country, along with meeting people that were willing to help. They kept kosher all the way, too. □



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