



Volume 3 | July 2019

'The Cooperstown of Marathons'

Hopkinton, Massachusetts Sets Its Sights on Running History, Issuing RFP for International Marathon Center



The 26.2 Foundation's signature project – establishing an International Marathon Center in Hopkinton – took a major step forward in early June when the town of Hopkinton, MA launched a search for bids to develop a 15-acre site at 45 East Main Street (Route 135) with just such a center in mind. The town has committed to leasing the site, located on the Boston Marathon course between the starting line and the one-mile mark, to the successful bid respondent for \$1 per year.



Center plans as envisioned by the Foundation call for a museum, hall of fame, exhibit space, state-of-the-art conference and educational facilities, and classroom and research space. The Foundation is putting together a skilled team of property developers to respond to the RFP (Request for Proposal), which is due December 31st. See more about how Hopkinton hopes to become the Cooperstown of marathons, at [Boston 25 News](#), in the [Metrowest Daily News](#), and in [Runner's World](#).

Meb Keflezighi: Paying It Forward



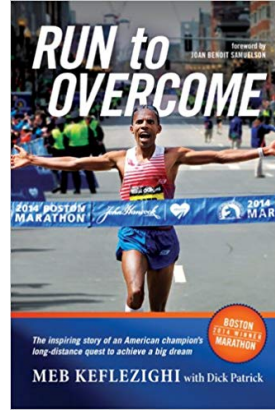
More than three decades ago, Italian businessman Luigi Brindicci made a \$6,000 gift to his employee, Russom

detailed in his autobiographical *Run to Overcome*.

Fast-forward to April 2019, when the NCAA star, Olympian, Boston

Keflezighi, to help Keflezighi's family emigrate from Eritrea. Reunited in Athens in 1986 after five long years apart, Keflezighi, his wife and six children eventually relocated to San Diego. There, son Meb began to distinguish himself as a distance runner, a story

Above, l-r: 26.2 president Tim Kilduff, Meb Keflezighi, and Susan Hurley, whose *CharityTeams* represents *Meb Foundation* and other nonprofit programs in the Boston Marathon.



Marathon winner and man of faith and long memory paid tribute to Brindicci's generosity, presenting the 26.2 Foundation with a check – for \$6,000 – for its charitable programs.

We are humbled by your generosity, Meb, and deeply grateful.

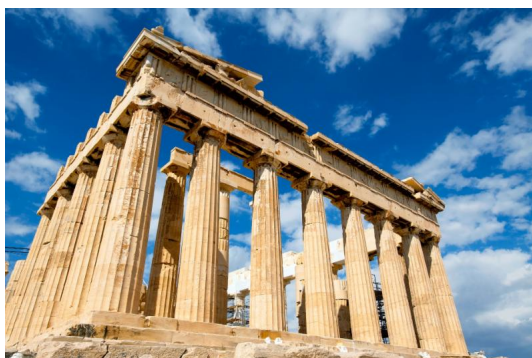


Virtually There: Ashland, MA School Travels the World

More than 1,000 locations, from Antarctica to America's national parks, are now within reach of elementary students at Ashland, Massachusetts' Mindess School, thanks to a new Google Expeditions virtual- and augmented-reality kit.

Teachers plan to use the technology to help students better engage in the learning process, whether by virtually visiting the Grand Canyon, or by seeing the human body or a DNA strand in augmented reality. The system includes 30 Android smartphones and virtual-reality headsets, charging cables, and a high-speed router. Funders include the Ashland Education Foundation, the 26.2 Foundation, and the Boston Athletic Association.

Pictured, l-r: 26.2 Foundation president Tim Kilduff; Mindess School third-grader Grace Jacques; 26.2 board member Caitlin Jacques; Becky DeGeorge of the Ashland Education Foundation; and third-grader Carter DeGeorge. Read more [here](#).



Lessons from an Examined Life

"Education," Socrates said, "is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel."

This past school year, Joshua Sweeney, an Ashland, MA Middle School



sixth-grade social studies teacher, was tapped by school administrators for The Examined Life's 2018-2019 graduate coursework and Greek Study Tour, which took him across Greece in April on an intensive two-week exploration of the country's historical sites.

"It is truly something I will carry with me for the rest of my life," Joshua wrote in a letter to the 26.2

That philosophy could also serve as the underlying theme of both 'Desire to Inspire,' a Hopkinton Middle School and 26.2 Foundation program that brings guest speakers, class lessons and sports and competition in the spirit of the Marathon to area students; and of [The Examined Life](#), an organization focused on strengthening Greek studies in regional schools.

Foundation, who sponsored him.

Penned on a brief stopover in Budapest on his way home, Josh's letter went on: "Perhaps even more remarkable, however, is what I will now be able to pass along to my students."

Above: Joshua at the Acropolis in Athens.

Now Recruiting: Executive Assistant for 26.2 Foundation

We're looking for an executive assistant to help the 26.2 Foundation and its executive director manage the nonprofit's rapidly increasing scope of work. This paid position, averaging 20 hours per week, will assist the director with community projects, 26.2 charity numbers for the Boston Marathon, event management, and a wide host of administrative responsibilities.



Have strong communication abilities, initiative, flexibility, good problem-solving skills and more? Committed to our mission? We're interested! To find out more, please send inquiries to exec_assistant@26-2.org.

The 26.2 Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to promote and support the sport of marathoning, as well as health, wellness and economic-development initiatives through investments in innovative programs on local, regional, national and global levels.



The 26.2 Foundation
P.O. Box 820
Hopkinton, Massachusetts 01748 USA
www.26-2.org