M4K POST EVENT PRESS RELEASE

Sunday, May 3, shortly after the sun rose, Tony Anderson, donned his Marathon4Kids gear, laced up his running shoes and set out from atop Sherman Hill on Highway 37 to run his 51st and last 26.2 marathon miles to the finish line at the Big Brothers Big Sisters (Bigs) office in Traverse City. This monumental event marked the end of the Tony’s epic 17-year journey to run one marathon in every state plus Washington, DC.

On this beautiful day, Tony was escorted by the State, County and City Police, was greeted by fire trucks and EMS from every township he passed through and received a flyover salute from the United States Coast Guard at mile 24. Along the entire route, the community (properly spaced and safe) showed up in spades to cheer Tony on and celebrate this huge success. “It was absolutely THE best day. I never imagined such a great finish. I am so grateful for the family, friends and community in my life. It wasn’t the ending to a 17-year journey to the states I had imagined, but is was a day I will never forget,” said Tony Anderson.

Tony’s mission all of these years has been simple, to raise funds for Big Brothers Big Sisters (Bigs), create hope and break the cycle of poverty one child at a time. Tony has done that and so much more. To-date his efforts have raised over $750,000 towards a $1 Million dollar legacy and has changed the lives of thousands of children, families and mentors in northwestern Michigan.

“It has been a wonderful chapter in my life, but it’s time to move on. And while my marathon journey has come to an end, the needs of thousands of children in our community have not. I sincerely hope for and would appreciate your continued support of Big Brothers Big Sisters now and into the future. They needed our help before I ever started on this journey. They will need our help after I reach the end of this page.”

To learn more about Tony’s journey, Big Brothers Big Sisters or to make a donation, visit Marathon4Kids.com.

SAVE THE DATE: Tony’s Hometown Hero Celebration on Wednesday, October 7, at the Hagerty Center in Traverse City.

**Tony Anderson** is the General Manager of Cherryland Electric Cooperative where he has been serving since March of 2003. Tony has been in the electric cooperative business for more than 35 years and previously managed cooperatives in Wisconsin and Wyoming. He has been a Bigs Board Member since 2005. Tony is also Secretary Treasurer of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and current Vice President of Michigan Electric Cooperative Association. Community activities include recipient of the 2018 Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award, 2012 Governor’s Service Awards Michigan Volunteer of the Year, Past Chair of Traverse City Chamber Board, member of the noon Rotary Club, a Big Brother and founder of Marathon4Kids.

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**About Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Michigan**

Since 1970, Big Brothers Big Sisters has been matching youth in meaningful, enduring, professionally supported mentoring relationships with adult volunteers who defend their potential and help them achieve their biggest possible futures. Bigs’ evidence-based approach is designed to create positive youth outcomes, including educational success, avoidance of risky behaviors, higher aspirations, greater confidence, and improved relationships. Learn how to get involved at [Bigsupnorth.com](http://bigsupnorth.com)