

Dream for a World of Hope

Terry Fox was an active teenager, successfully involved in numerous sports. When he was 18, he was diagnosed with bone cancer, which forced him to have his right leg amputated above the knee in 1977. The night before his amputation, he read about an amputee runner and dreamed of running after his surgery. While in the hospital, he became emotionally connected to the suffering of the other patients, most of them being children. In order to raise money and awareness for cancer research, he had a dream of running across Canada. His run was called the Marathon of Hope. Running in his distinctive run-hop style, he ran approximately 26 miles a day. As he started his way across Canada, crowds showed up to watch him run, and despite sores and abrasions under his prosthetics, he kept running. He ran 3,339 miles in 143 days when he was forced to stop running outside of Thunder Bay, Ontario, because cancer had appeared in his lungs.



Terry's hope of raising an amount of money equaling one dollar for every Canadian to fight cancer was realized. In 1981, the Canadian national population reached 24.1 million and the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope Fund totaled 24.17 million dollars. The Marathon of Hope dream had come true. The following year, Terry passed away at the age of 22.

Terry Fox's courage has not been forgotten. Mount Terry Fox, a peak in the Rocky Mountains is a lasting symbol of his courage. A portion of the Trans-Canada Highway was renamed the Terry Fox Courage Highway. Terry was inducted posthumously into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame. He was also honored on a Canadian coin and postage stamp.

Terry Fox was the boy who never gave up. His short life was devoted to achieving his goals. Obstacles just made him try harder. When he learned he had cancer and would lose his leg, he resolved to do something to help other cancer victims. He has left a legacy of hope that has inspired millions to continue his cause.

Affirmations: I overcome obstacles.

To think about:

1. Terry did not feel sorry for himself and made a commitment to help raise cancer awareness. How do you avoid feeling sorry for yourself?
2. Terry displayed tremendous courage. How do you define courage?
3. How do you display courage?

I'm not a dreamer, and I'm not saying this will initiate any kind of definitive answer or cure to cancer, but I believe in miracles. I have to. -Terry Fox