

My name is Daniel Jose. I started running just for fun when I was 15 years old and it has been a passion of mine ever since.

One day, during my first year of University, I was riding the train home (from Toronto to Mississauga) and I thought to myself "I could probably run that distance". It was really just a random idea but it stuck to me and as I kept remembering it later on, I wanted to do it more and more.

However, I didn't want to just get up and do it for no reason. I felt like there should be some purpose behind it. That's when I thought of running for charity. But which one? A friend of mine suggested I use it to raise money for a youth shelter. My run back to Mississauga would symbolize the struggles of many of today's youth who do not have homes to return to. I thought this was a great idea and decided to roll with it!

Soon after, I researched a handful of youth shelters and decided on Our Place Peel, a shelter which was in my home city of Mississauga. Our Place Peel is a shelter which houses youth (ages 16-21) who do not have homes or have left their homes due to reasons such as physical or emotional abuse. It provides them with the tools and resources to find work or other opportunities that allow them to break harmful patterns and take control of their own lives.

After contacting them and discussing exactly what I would be doing, all that was left was to start training. A few months later, when I had finished my first year at UofT, I was ready to tackle the 32 kilometers between me and home.

Accompanied on bike by a good friend of mine I started a 3 hour journey on April 30th 2013. A week after the run I visited Our Place Peel to give them the donations and they gave me a quick tour. Although the event exhausted me physically, I was able to raise over \$800 for the shelter. It brought me an amazing sense of happiness to be able to help such a great organization so I decided to make it a yearly event. Each year I would organize the event to run from Toronto to Mississauga as a way to raise money and awareness for at risk youth.

Last year, I completed the 2nd annual RUN HOME. Though it was just as physically taxing, it was even more successful than the first! With the support of family, friends and the community, I was able to raise well over my increased goal of \$1000 for Our Place Peel.

And that's where this story begins! I am planning the 3rd official RUN HOME on May 1/15. This year, I am working more closely with Our Place Peel to facilitate the event with the high hopes of reaching a higher goal of \$1500. You can donate here on this webpage or message and come see me personally. For more information, you can also visit the Facebook event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/838057549592808/>

Anything helps so I will happily accept any donations! Please spread the word about this event and if you can, get your friends, family and just about anyone you can to donate too!

Thank You!

Daniel Jose

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