

WIN  
\$5,300  
IN PUZZLES &  
GIVEAWAYS

NATIONAL  
**Examiner**

November 17, 2008

# RUN GRANNY RUN!

**She's doing  
7 marathons on  
7 continents  
to raise money  
for charity**

By LA. Justice

**G**UTSY grandma Linda Quirk has been on a mission — to run seven marathons on seven continents in less than a year. So far, she's completed all of them except the one in bone-chilling Antarctica.

"My goal has been to raise \$1 million for Caron Treatment Centers," Linda tells The EXAMINER. "It's an amazing organization that helped my stepdaughter recover from a chemical dependency. It's been an incredible journey filled with an overwhelming amount of support."

Linda, 55, a three-time grandma, ran her first marathon 23 years ago, marking the beginning of a remarkable lifelong passion that's raised thousands of dollars for her favorite charity. After completing the Ironman in Kona, Hawaii, and raising \$50,000, she had the brilliant idea of raising \$1 million by running marathons around the world.

"I just wanted to see how far I could push myself," says Linda, the mother of three from Jacksonville, Fla. To date Linda has completed six of seven global races, including the Boston Marathon of 2008.

"The marathon along the Great Wall of China was very difficult because of the 3,700 uneven steps," she says. "Easter Island didn't have many runners, so I was alone most of the way and I thought, this



*'I want to see how far I can push myself'*

WWW.RUN7ON7.COM

is what it must feel like to battle a dependency on your own. But I placed first.

"In Kenya, the Safaricom Marathon was exhausting under the blazing African sun, but I won my age group, and Reykjavik in Iceland was just plain cold."

In Australia's Samsung Melbourne Marathon, an old heel injury flared up, but the gritty granny still managed to place in her age group.

This winter she'll be training



**BOSTON**

Linda Quirk has completed six of seven global races



**KENYA**



**ICELAND**

tirelessly in Montana's icy conditions to prepare for her harshest and most remote marathon of all — Antarctica — hoping to raise awareness that treatment for drug and alcohol dependencies not only exists, it works.

And Linda even has her own Web site, [www.Run7On7.com](http://www.Run7On7.com), where people can keep up with the latest news about her amazing and big-hearted adventure.

She boosts the coffers of the Caron's addiction treatment scholarship, which helps poor families

get treatment, by inviting visitors to the site to donate generously.

"I have the total support of my husband Randy, my sons, my stepdaughter and my grandkids," says Linda. "I know I can do this. If you see it, you can do it. If you believe it, it will happen. Dream big!"