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Racing for a cure—DMJM Harris's Pollack runs a marathon

On an overcast and windy day, **Matthew Pollack**, P.E., associate vice president and program director of the Metropolitan Atlanta Transit Consultants Joint Venture, was one of 4,000 participants who ran in the second annual ING Georgia Marathon on March 30th. Pollack finished the 26.2-mile trek through downtown Atlanta in a time of 5 hours and 45 minutes.

Pollack raced as part of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team in Training, an organization dedicated to finding a cure for blood diseases such as leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma; and improving the quality of life of patients and their families.

"In exchange for Team in Training's help preparing for the marathon, I helped raised money for its honored hero, third grader George Slagley," says Pollack. "My family, friends and co-workers generously donated more than \$3,700 for George, who was diagnosed with leukemia in July 2005. His treatment is much longer and harder than anything that I experienced during the marathon—George is a true hero."

This was Pollack's second official run for charity. In January 2006, he participated in a charity half-marathon in Phoenix, Arizona. Major knee surgery in September 2006 had curtailed Pollack's running career, but he felt the time was right to make a comeback while fulfilling a couple of his personal goals.

"I was able to overcome physical and mental obstacles, experience Atlanta firsthand, raise money for a worthy cause; and, of course, complete a marathon," says Pollack. "During the race, I was running into a strong headwind along a major artery, parallel to the east-west MARTA rail line, which happens to be my client. I was definitely wishing that I was riding MARTA at the time."