

Councilman runs race for nonprofit

Monday, October 23, 2006

By KEN THORBOURNE

JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Downtown Jersey City Councilman Steve Fulop is running like a man on a mission - and for a good cause.

The 29-year-old Citigroup trader is competing in the Nov. 5 New York Marathon and in the process, raising money for the Hudson County Child Abuse Prevention Center, a Jersey City-based nonprofit that helps prevent the sexual, physical, and emotional abuse of kids.

"They do terrific work for children who can't convey the difficult position they're in," Fulop said about the center. "I just wanted to help."

Fulop has spent the past few weeks collecting pledges from individuals and groups for the 26.2-mile run. His goal is to raise between \$12,000 and \$20,000 - as of last week, he'd already raised \$10,000, he said.

Fulop, who served six months in Iraq as a U.S. Marine, has never run a marathon before. He said he's been waking up every morning at 5 to run about six miles, and does longer distances on weekends.

"The wear and tear on your knees and ankles is pretty difficult," he said. "When you get to those higher levels, your body just starts to hurt."

Peter Herbst, the center's executive director, quipped that Fulop's fund-raising effort was "wonderful - as long as he (Fulop) is doing the running."