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MASSACHUSETTS RUNNER, CHAZ DAVIS, FINISHES FIRST IN 2019 UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF BLIND ATHLETES MARATHON NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL MARATHON.

Sacramento, CA – (December 08, 2019) Chaz Davis, from Grafton, Massachusetts finished first at the United States Association for Blind Athletes (USABA) at the California International Marathon (CIM) with a finish time of 2:43:11. Chaz participated as part of the U.S. Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) Championships.

The USABA Marathon National Championships are held at the California International Marathon. Since the CIM adopted the Visually Impaired Division in 2007, participation of visually impaired and blind runners has grown from 2 to nearly 70 participants. This year, the group of 70 blind runners and 40 guides included military veterans, local runners, international runners and Paralympic athletes.

“In 2015, I had my first interaction with the blind running community at CIM and I was moved by the motivational stories each runner shared. The support of USABA, Visually Impaired marathon coordinator, Richard Hunter and each runner’s amazing, motivational story is the reason I will continue to come back each year as long as I am able.”

Chaz Davis, who now resides in Boston, ran his debut marathon at the California International Marathon (CIM) in 2016. With a finish time of 2:31:48, Davis set a new American record for the T12/B2 visual impairment category.

As a member of Team USA's track and field contingency, he finished 8th in the 5000m and 10th in the 1500m in the 2016 Rio games. In 2018, Davis ran the 122nd Boston Marathon where he finished 5th among 15 notable 2018 Boston Marathon finishers with a time of 2:56:22. Chaz ran as a member of [Team With A Vision](#). Team With A Vision raises funds and awareness for the [Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#) (MABVI) to promote greater involvement of visually impaired runners in the Boston Marathon.

Davis was diagnosed with Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy (LHON). This rare disease destroys the optic nerve in the eye typically resulting in sudden vision loss which was the case for Chaz.

Today, Davis works for MABVI as an adjustment to vision loss counselor as well as the coordinator for Team With A Vision and [United in Stride](#), a website that matches runners who are blind or visually impaired with sighted guides across North America

About the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Founded in 1903, [Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#) is one of the oldest social service organization in the country supporting older adults who are blind or visually impaired. A division of MAB Community Services, Inc., MABVI is a leading provider of integrated medical, social, and rehabilitation services for over 1,400 for blind and or visually impaired older adults statewide.