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BRAMAN
MAGAZINE

Spring/Summer 2020

ALL IN THE FAMILY

BMWs are a family affair for the Krawczyaks

WHY BE NORMA?

A One of a Kind Lady Needs a One of a Kind Ride

BELIEVE IN DESTINY

Kathy Petrillo Races Across America



The Ride of a Lifetime



► **THE GAUGE CLUSTER LIT UP** in Kathy Petrillo's Porsche 718 Cayman. She was due for an oil change. Fortunately, she was already on her way to Porsche West Palm Beach, traveling between photoshoot locations. A happy little coincidence—but one quickly forgotten by most in a similar situation.

Not for Kathy, though.

This was simply another in a life full of happenstance and kismet; something more than serendipity, but perhaps just short of destiny—although she believes whole-heartedly in the latter. In fact, it's all brought her to the brink of what will possibly be the most difficult—and rewarding—challenge she's ever faced.

Kathy has been a loyal BMW and MINI client for years, appreciating the customer service and consistency that have been synonymous with the Braman Motorcars brand for decades. Shortly after her 50th birthday however, a change was in order. Kathy decided to reward herself with a truly thrilling symbol of her accomplishments, and finally walked through the doors at Porsche—only to be greeted by Director of Service Chris Huffman. The two quickly realized they were kindred spirits when the topic of cycling came up while scrutinizing the stylish, performance-oriented 718.

Already a renown champion on both the national and international stages, Kathy felt the stir of her undeniable competitiveness as Chris informed her of his and Braman's involvement with the venerated—and grueling—annual Race Across America (RAAM); the world's toughest bike race spanning 3,069 miles from Oceanside, CA to Annapolis, MD. The relay-style race incorporates teams of four in a non-stop cross-country trek that raises as much as \$2 million for philanthropic causes selected by participating riders. 2020 would mark the Braman-sponsored team's fourth and most serious endeavor.

It didn't take long for the two to determine that Kathy was the missing piece to an epic RAAM team. Their mission? Not to break a record—but to set one: Complete the ride in six days and twenty minutes. Doing so would shatter the current mark by nearly a full day.

While this would be a major personal achievement for Kathy, the chance to fight for a cause close to her heart was even more important. As a former educator with a Masters in Special Education, as well as a mother of a son with special needs, Kathy knew there was only one choice when it came

to the team's beneficiary: Opportunity Early Childhood and Family Center. Founded in 1939, Opportunity is one of the oldest charities in Palm Beach County.

The entirety of Kathy's career in education and athletic success had led her to this: The perfect event. The perfect cause. The perfect woman for the job.

Her ultimate goal is to inspire success in the students she is riding for. She concedes that while individual triumphs are excellent, having a positive impact on the lives of others is what constitutes a legacy. She, Chris, and their teammates will begin their pursuit of history in June, 2020.

In the meantime, Kathy has already rekindled her passion for education, donating hours of her time to Opportunity in the months leading up to the race. She's also thoroughly enjoying her bright white 718—less than a year into ownership, she's quick to confess that she is still tickled by every start up, and can't possibly imagine herself driving anything else. A couple track dates with in-house instructor-extraordinaire Freddy Rhemrev are in the near future. Chances are high she may soon find a third calling with four wheels as well.

Many will chalk all of this up to chance or a few lucky breaks. Kathy knows it's more than that. In fact, it all couldn't have gone any other way.

To learn more about the Opportunity Early Childhood and Family Center, and donate to the Braman Motorcars RAAM team's efforts, visit OpportunityPBC.org/RaceAcrossAmerica.

