



15th ANNUAL RUN FOR ZIMBABWE ORPHANS

It's that time of the year again! The 15th annual Run for Zimbabwe Orphans and Fair is coming up on Sunday, March 23th from 12-4 PM, so mark your calendars!

For those of you who haven't heard of the run before, it's an event held at St. Joseph Catholic School in Mountain View that encourages kids to build their philanthropic side and maintain a healthy lifestyle. The run consists of races for all ages: 220 yards for pre-schoolers, half a mile for kindergarteners, and one mile for all other grades (including high schoolers and adults!) Along with the run, the run features a mini fair, a sale of hippo t-shirts, Zimbabwe bands, traditional food, multiple cultural booths, an art contest and a shoe drive. All proceeds go directly to the orphanage, Makumbi Children's Home in Zimbabwe, to provide less fortunate children with basic necessities, like food, clothes, and educational material. Whether you're interested in donating out-grown shoes, volunteering at a booth, making a simple donation, or just running, there's something for everyone!

In addition, I'm proud to announce that last year's run brought in a grand total of \$34,000, and we hope to match or exceed that amount this year! The proceeds of this year's run will go not only to the 92 orphans at Makumbi but also to the construction and funding of The Sister Batsirai Cottage, which is supervised and run by Makumbi. This cottage will be for eight 18 year old girls who have "aged out" (i.e. graduated) from the orphanage and will help combat the risks that accompany young Zimbabwean women who are living alone. Some of these risks involve forced marriages or sexual abuse resulting from a high poverty rate and other factors. The Batsirai Cottage will provide its inhabitants with vocational skills, a stable environment, and assistance in finding employment.

This year's run is also one that is important to not only the children and young women of Makumbi, but to many others as well. On January 1, 2014, the world lost a compassionate and giving person in Father Eric Freed. Father Freed worked as a dedicated chaplain and religious studies teacher at Saint Francis High School in Mountain View and never failed to provide the Sustainable Living Foundation community with years of continued support and warmth. Father Freed held a special place in our hearts, and his ability to spread love, happiness, and faith to all is one that will never be forgotten. It is my honor to announce that we are dedicating the 5th and 6th grade girls' and boy's mile to Father Eric Freed.

We sincerely hope to see you all on March 23rd at St. Joseph Catholic School. By joining us at our annual run and fair, you are helping to not only promote the welfare within Zimbabwe, but to also honor and pray for the repose of the soul of Father Eric Freed.

Lastly, your source for ***everything*** is The Sustainable Living Foundation's web site: www.ZimbabweParaguay.net. If you are interested in ***volunteering*** at the run, you may sign up to do so via our online system. Just visit our website! You may choose a job for the day of the meet or an ongoing job such as Zimbabwe Run Ambassador, a rewarding job that involves the continued promotion of the meet. Also, on the web site, you may ***register to run*** or ***donate funds*** either online or by downloading the mail in entry blank. Feel free to contact me or Ellen Clark, President of The Sustainable Living Foundation and Meet Director, for any questions via email at info@ZimbabweParaguay.net or via phone at 650-941-9206. Again, I hope to see you all there!

Sincerely,
Megha Agarwal, Senior at Saint Francis High School
Ambassador for the Zimbabwe Run and Fair