

Hi Everyone!

It's that time of the year again! The 14th annual Run for Zimbabwe Orphans and Fair is coming up on Sunday, March 24th 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 tune in with their philanthropic side while maintaining a healthy lifestyle! There are races for all ages: 220 yards for pre-schoolers, half a mile for kindergarteners, and one mile for all other ages (including high schoolers and adults!) Along with the run, there's also a mini fair featuring a t-shirt sale, a Zimbabwe band, food, multiple cultural booths, an art contest, a shoe drive, and our newest addition, a book drive! All proceeds go directly to the Makumbi Children's Home in Zimbabwe in order to provide less fortunate children with basic necessities, like food, clothes, and educational material. I'm proud to announce that last year we brought in a grand total of \$32,700, and we hope to match and exceed that amount this year!

Why Zimbabwe?, you might ask. In the past few years, the rapidly declining financial state of Zimbabwe has taken a huge toll on its citizens. According to the International Monetary Fund, Zimbabwe's GDP per capita is a mere \$515, the 2nd lowest in the world. In comparison, the United States' GDP per capita, ranked 6th globally, is over \$48,300. Even more shocking is reality that over 72% of the population lives in complete poverty, with one third of the population infected by and suffering with HIV or AIDs. In fact, over 900,000 children have been abandoned or placed in orphanages due to their parents' inability to support them financially. The life expectancy in Zimbabwe rose to 51 years in 2012 as a result of better HIV and AIDs therapy. However, Zimbabwe's life expectancy still remains tragic in comparison to the United States', which is, on average, 36 years longer. Without the global help it is currently receiving, Zimbabwe would be on the brink of collapse.

So how can you make a difference? The Sustainable Living Foundation wants to make it easy to get involved, despite age, economic status, or cultural background. 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! By joining us at our annual run and fair, you are not only helping to better the living conditions in Zimbabwe, but you are also staying fit and promoting the welfare of others!

So please don't hesitate to stop by on Sunday, March 24th at St. Joseph Catholic School in Mountain View between 12 PM and 4 PM to join in on the fun! For more information, contact Ellen Clark, President of The Sustainable Living Foundation, at 650-941-9206, or visit our website at [www.ZimbabweParaguay.net](http://www.ZimbabweParaguay.net). We are also available via email at [zpclarks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zpclarks@sbcglobal.net).

Take care, and I can't wait to see you all there!

Sincerely,

Megha Agarwal, Promotions Intern and Ambassador for the Zimbabwe Run and Fair