

The RACE

Comrades Marathon in South Africa is considered by many to be the greatest footrace on the planet. 2010 marks the 85th Anniversary of this iconic event. 20,000 people will start the 56 mile foot race from Peitermaritzburg to Durban. But for 19 of them, the race is only part of the story.

The TEAM

The team will be led by Team Captain, Josh Cox. Josh is the 50k American Record Holder, a spokesperson for Power-Bar and Newton, writer, and video correspondent for Runner's World. Other team leaders include Andy Baldwin (former star of The Bachelor), Bart Yasso (CRO, Runner's World), and Paul Martin (Ironman world record holder for an athlete with a prosthetic leg), and Team World Vision-National Director Michael Chitwood. The team is an eclectic mix of 18 men and one woman from various walks of life... sort of a Pros and Average Joes team. Each team member will contribute to the cause by finding 100 sponsors for kids while they train for Comrades.

Our VISION

18 men and 1 woman will run Comrades Marathon, Africa's most respected race with Team World Vision to find

1,900+ sponsors for children in a community in Africa (Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Africa) through World Vision's child sponsorship program.

1. Train for Comrades Marathon and find sponsors for 1,500+ kids in a community in Africa
2. Run Comrades Marathon
3. Go visit the kids and their community

The MISSION

World Vision's child sponsorship program helps bring lasting change to communities through long-term/sustainable programs focused on the areas of Clean Water, Improved Agriculture and Food Security, Health Care/Immunizations, Education, and Economic Opportunities/Job Skills training. By finding sponsors for 1,900+ we will be helping to bring real, measurable, tangible and lasting change to a community in Africa. Each child sponsor gets to begin a unique relationship with an individual child. The \$35 per month pledge will be pooled with all of the funds donated by other funds of other child sponsors to ensure that every child in their community can experience live in all its fullness. World Vision is the leading provider of food aid in the world, and one of the most respected humanitarian organizations in the world.

The VISIT

Two days after running Comrades our team will travel to the community in South Africa, and then some will continue on to Kenya to meet the kids and community that we found sponsors for. This will truly be life-changing as we get to see first-hand the difference our sponsors will make in the lives of these kids and their community. We will meet the indigenous World Vision staff, the community leaders, and the kids in their own village. We also plan to engage one or more elite runners from Kenya to meet up with us in Kenya and to become ambassadors for our work there.

Telling the STORY

We hope to share this story with as many people as possible to bring a new level of awareness to issues of global poverty with a simple course of action: Sponsor a Child or Run a Race with Team World Vision. Whether through the internet, radio, social networking media, video/film, television our goal is to share the story in the most effective ways.

Finding SPONSORS

We hope to find some corporate sponsors to help offset trip costs by sponsoring the team.

Meet the TEAM

Josh Cox – Elite Endurance Runner, 50K American Record Holder, Power Bar Spokesperson, Newton Spokesperson, runnersworld.com Video Correspondent, Writer/Author, fitness model, Humanitarian, Team World Vision member

Andy Baldwin – Naval officer, TV Personality (The Bachelor), 8 X Ironman triathlete, Rockport Spokesperson, Special Representative for the U.S. Surgeon's General, Humanitarian, Team World Vision member

Bart Yasso - Chief Running Officer-Runner's World Magazine, Author, Bad Water Ultra-marathon Winner, Running Guru, Team World Vision member

Paul Martin – Paul Martin is the Ironman world record holder for an athlete with a prosthetic leg. He is also the author of the memoir *One Man's Leg* and is a motivational speaker.

Michael Chitwood – Team World Vision Founder and National Director, 4 X Ironman triathlete, former college Football Player, Team World Vision member

Paul JVR – Pastor-Willow Creek Church, Marathoner, South African, Team World Vision member

Steve Spear – Pastor-Willow Creek Church DuPage campus pastor, Marathoner, Team World Vision member

Todd Katter – Pastor-Willow Creek Church Chicago, Marathoner and Boston Qualifier, Mountain Climber, Team World Vision member

Tim Nelson – Intuitive Surgical Sales Rep and Consultant, 2 X Ironman triathlete, Michael Chitwood's best friend since first grade, Team World Vision member

Rusty Funk – Breakthrough Urban Ministries-Sports Director for Kids, Marathoner, Team World Vision member

Paul Courtney – Consultant, Marathoner and Boston Qualifier, South African, Dad ran Comrades 9 times, Team World Vision Member

Travis Blanton - Partner of Johnson & Blanton Government Relations

Hannah Landecker – College student (North Park University), Collegiate Cross Country runner, Boston Qualifying marathoner, Team World Vision member

Thad Sweet – Salt N Light ministries director of Food and Clothing distribution, Ultra-marathoner, Team World Vision member

Martin Fajardo – Navy Officer, Marathoner, father, Team World Vision member

Tony Halaby - Key Account Executive, Western Union

Kendall Brubaker – Trading Clerk at Infinium Capital Management, Underwent a hip reconstruction in 2001 and doctors told him he could never run again. Since then he has completed 5 marathons and 1 50K.

Scott Gibson – 51 year old Clinical Social Worker with Compass Counseling. Has run 30 marathon finishes, 5 Goofy challenges.