

Leogane Track Club

As InterVol is helping to sustain the field hospital and transition the facility to Haitian administration we are also extending our efforts into the Leogane community. Our volunteers are providing support to a local orphanage destroyed by the earthquake, the Lamb Center, which housed, educated and fed seventy children. The pastor who runs the orphanage had to send some of the children away, when he ran out of provisions.



Ruins of the Lamb City Orphanage

Depending entirely upon the aid from volunteers at the Hopital Sainte Croix field hospital, they have survived. Donated funds have been turned into purchases of rice and beans to feed the children, but their 600 gallon water tank has been destroyed, leaving them with neither a steady source of water nor a means to store it.



Lamb City Orphan Children

Another outreach program of the hospital saw three volunteers found the Leogane Track Club, a very successful program which provides daily exercise for several hundred local children ranging from ages 7 to early teen years. Each afternoon, the club departs from the hospital at 4:30pm for a run through the local countryside, winding its way through farmland and sugarcane fields over to the ocean for a swim, and back. This simple group activity has become quite popular with the local children, who line up outside the residence for the University of Notre Dame's Haiti Program (which houses the volunteers for the hospital) urging the adults to come lead them, as well as for the local community who routinely offer encouragement as the group comes running along the badly worn, rock and gravel strewn, dirt road.



The Leogane Track Club

A small percentage of the children actually have running shoes, with most running in worn out plastic sandals, and some barefoot. The club has submitted a design for a track club t-shirt to be produced, bearing the words that the founders would call out as they were running, during the formation of the club in mid February – “Vini ...Kouri!” Creole for “Come...Run!”



Written by: Sean Farrell, InterVol & ND Volunteer

Rochester Community's giving spirit continues with another donation of the Constellation jet on June 20, 2010. This team will include healthcare professionals, Constellation representatives and children's running gear and soccer balls to distribute to the Leogane Track Club.

InterVol has once again partnered with Constellation Brands and Rochester General Health System to help collect running shoes and soccer balls to benefit the children in Haiti. Both companies are hosting drives of new or gently used shoes for employees to support the cause. If you would like to contribute, please contact us at info@intervol.org or (585) 922-5810 for drop off locations.

If you would like to contribute to the purchase of "Vini...Kouri" track shirts, running shoes, socks and soccer balls for the children, please click the *Donate Now* button in the top right corner or send donations to *InterVol 1425 Portland Ave, Box 138, Rochester, NY 14621*. Please indicate that your donation is for the Leogane Track Club.