



The Ambassador

VOLUME III, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2009

- **Mission Trail**
Rotary hosts charity bike ride.
- **April: RWE**
Dominica 2009 recruitment month.
- **RWE co-founder** runs marathon.
- **RWE library** night 7:30 p.m., May 7 at Landa Library.

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Dominica 2009! April kicks off recruitment for RWE Dominica 2009. Register now to reserve your spot!

Ready, Willing...Enable! Inc. founders are seeking adventurers packing a good heart and a willingness to help in their backpacks to register for the RWE Dominica 2009 program. Ambassadors embark on the third annual volunteer excursion to the "Nature Island of the Caribbean" for two programs taking place between July 11 and 26, 2009.

Join RWE and make a difference this summer. It takes three simple steps to begin a journey that will be forever remembered.

1 Registration Form
Print from www.rwenable.org.

July 11-19, 2009



2 Reserve Your Spot
Mail form with \$150 program fee to RWE.

3 Receive Welcome Packet
Receive trip details and fundraising guide.

July 18 - 26, 2009

Pedaling for Ready, Willing...Enable! Inc.

Mission Trail Rotary names RWE beneficiary in M2M Bike Tour

On Saturday, December 6, the Mission Trail Rotary Club of San Antonio conducted its 2008 Mission-to-Mission Charity Bike Tour.

Bike clubs from all over Texas joined local cycling enthusiasts to enjoy the perfect weather and rural scenery. The annual event winds riders along the San Antonio River on the historic Mission Trail. "This was our

most successful year yet!" exclaimed Richard Contreras a few days after the ride.

Argo Group US, Rotary International and Cool Cats provided major support for this year's ride. The owners of Bike World took time out of their busy schedules to provide minor repairs to the beat up bikes and some much-needed warmth - it was freezing that morning!

Thanks so much you guys! Eager Trinity University volunteers also lent a hand to the efforts.

This was Ready, Willing...Enable's first year as a beneficiary and we would like to thank not the only the above named, but also the Board of Directors of the Mission Trail Rotary for the \$3,000.00 donation.

Picture on page 2

Happy National Volunteer Week! “Celebrating People in Action” April 19-25, 2009

Ready, Willing...Enable! would like to send a special thank you to the RWE Ambassadors who participated in RWE Dominica 2007; RWE Dominica 2008; and RWE Mexico 2008. Keep up the good work. We appreciate all you have done to make RWE a success and change the lives of children with disabilities.



Many thanks to Richard Catron, who graciously volunteered his graphic design talents to design the new RWE brochure.



Community partner strikes a pose next to the Lifeline Ministries “Dial-a-Ride” bus. The bus is sporting new tires, which will help the driver navigate passengers safely through the winding roads of Dominica!

RWE Grants make life a little easier

RWE board of trustees voted unanimously to make grants totaling more than \$800 to our community partners in Dominica.

The Dominica Association of Disabled People held a two-week computer-training program for persons with visual impairments. The aim of the program was to build computer literacy and train trainers for a future three month long program targeting groups with a variety of disabilities.

have not been replaced in more than 15 years.

Lifeline Ministries purchased new tires for their “Dial-a-Ride” bus. “Dial-a-Ride” provides much needed transportation to persons with disabilities to various doctor’s appointments and helps transport children with disabilities to school. “Dial-a-Ride” has been instrumental in bringing participants to our summer program over the last two years.

across the island to allow for their participation.

We are so proud of our Dominican community partners and look forward to many more years of promoting the disability movement in developing countries with them!

Thank you Mission Trail Rotary



Hundreds of cyclists participate in the Mission to Mission Charity Bike tour on December 6, 2008



The Alpha Centre used their grant to purchase chairs for the classrooms. Most of the chairs at the school for children with disabilities are damaged and

The Dominican National Special Olympics Team used their grant to bolster their general funds. Several times a year, the Special Olympics Team hosts national games in the capital city of Roseau. Funds are needed to transport many athletes from

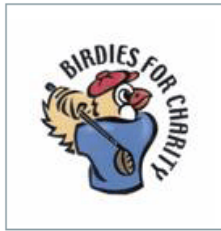
Well wishes

RWE wishes Bon Voyage to one of our dedicated community partners. Sister Ruthina Francis is leaving the Alpha Centre in June to embark on a new mission in Africa. Her order has entrusted her with the task of developing the formation of young girls who are interested in religious Life in the Camerouns. We join the Alpha Centre and Dominica in wishing her the best and thanking her for her dedicated service to the students of the island. She will be missed!

Birdies for Charity

Golf fans, as well as others can contribute to Ready, Willing...Enable! through the Birdies for Charities program. The link to the site is below. Through it, persons can pledge a certain amount per birdie made during the Valero Texas Open, May 11-17th (televised this year on CBS).

Persons can also donate a flat amount or per birdie. 100% of donations go directly to Ready, Willing...Enable! to help with educational programs. The goal is to make \$1,000,



which will also make RWE eligible for certain grant funding that could help the programs greatly. Remember 97 cents of every dollar donated to RWE goes directly into programs, a percentage that is virtually unmatched by other charities.

Visit www.golfsanantonio.org and click on the Birdies icon shown above to make a pledge!

Co-founder speaks on panel

Dr. Paul Farmer, co-founder of Partners in Health, visited the University of Texas Health and Science Center (UTHSC) to speak about the book, *Mountains Beyond Mountains* based on his work involving treating mostly tuberculosis in Haiti as well as other countries. Edwin served on a panel at the medical school to discuss international volunteer opportunities. Dr. Farmer and Edwin also had the chance to talk about social issues in the West Indies, challenges faced, and catch-up on mutual acquaintances.

International

Relationship Building

Last fall, Edwin Blanton, RWE Co-founder, had the opportunity to meet Greg Mortenson, co-author of *Three Cups of Tea* and founder of the Central Asia Institute. Mr. Mortenson has been working for many years to build schools, especially schools of girls, in the remote areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan. He and Edwin talked about education in developing countries and some of the challenges that they face



Greg Mortenson, co-author, *Three Cups of Tea*



RWE Ambassador Spotlight

Devon Fletcher

Devon will go down in the RWE history book as the first Ambassador to participate in RWE Mexico.

Devon traveled outside the United States for the first time with RWE to work with children at the Centro de Atencion

Multiple in Matamoros, Mexico. Equipped with limited Spanish he befriended the students and teachers alike.

Since the trip, Devon continues to volunteer with City Year and accomplished the impressive feat of running the Austin Marathon, a full 26.2 miles. Congratulations, Devon!



Devon making piñatas with Marcos, student at the Centro de Atencion Mutiple in Matamoros, Mexico.



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Ready, Willing...Enable!, Inc. is a non-profit organization founded by two former Peace Corps Volunteers who wanted to provide interested persons with the opportunity for short-term volunteer excursions into developing countries. RWE's mission is to organize volunteers to educate persons with disabilities; to educate family members of persons with disabilities about the disability; to educate communities about the valuable skills and talents that persons with disabilities have; and to raise funds to support the activities of Ready, Willing...Enable! Inc. in order to make grants to other like-minded not-for-profit organizations.



Dominica:

July 11-19
July 18-26

Mexico:

November 24-29

RWE membership, recruitment and more...

RWE friends with benefits: Become a member today!

Join one of the four friendship levels:

Friend \$50/year and members receive a 25 percent discount on a RWE excursion registration as well as a subscription to the RWE quarterly newsletter.

\$100/year and members receive the **Adventurer** level benefits plus sponsor a classroom chair for RWE Dominica.

Explorer \$250/year and members receive the **Adventurer** level benefits plus a 50 percent discount on a RWE excursion registration, two free tickets to Date For a Change annual event and sponsor a one year supply of chalk for RWE Mexico.

\$500/year and members receive the **World Traveler** level benefits plus free registration for a RWE excursion and sponsor transportation support for children with disabilities.

You can join a level and pay your membership online under the donate tab at www.rwenable.org or mail a check or money order to Ready, Willing...Enable! Inc. at 6338 N. New Braunfels #298, San Antonio, Texas, 78209.

RWE Dominica 2009 Library Night!
7:30 p.m., Thursday May 6, 2009
Landa Library
233 Bushnell Ave.
San Antonio, Texas 78212

Running, Willing...Enable!

On February 15, 2009, RWE co-founder Edwin Blanton and RWE Mexico 2008 Ambassador traveled to Austin, Texas, to run all 26.2 miles of the Austin Marathon!

"I was struggling at times along the route, but I thought of the children who are unable to run because of disabilities and that kept me going," stated Blanton.

RWE co-founder Jen Catron enthusiastically supported, which is not an easy task!



Edwin and Devon run mile 22.



Jennifer Catron and supporter, Valerie McCoy cheer on the runners!



Edwin's number representing RWE.