

**Background**

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**Running 2,500 Miles of Hope Through America**

**- More on the Benefitting Organizations -**

**AIDS Orphans Rising** (India, Ethiopia): This unique program spans multiple countries and provides food, housing and education to the growing number of child headed households throughout the world. Sister Mary Beth Lloyd, a longtime friend of Smith Batchen’s and part of her crew for this run, wrote a book with the same name about these children, all of whom have been orphaned because of AIDS. “In the U.S. alone there will be 64,000 new orphans from AIDS and in India this year there will be almost four million new orphans,” said Sister Mary Beth. “By “rising,” though, we don’t just mean the numbers: these AIDS orphans are working very hard to rise above their situation in order to have better lives and to be part of Africa’s future.” Learn more at <http://aidsorphansrising.org/>.

**The Caring House Project** (Haiti): In 1998, real estate investor and five-time international bestselling author Frank McKinney and his wife Nilsa founded the Caring House Project Foundation. The Foundation's primary objective is to provide housing, food, water, medical support and opportunity for the desperately homeless around the world. CHPF has a long association with Haiti, having built orphanages and self-sustaining villages there for many years. Unfortunately, many of these were destroyed during the recent earthquake. Mr. McKinney marshaled a volunteer search and rescue team immediately after the disaster. While they initially planned to check on the Foundation's buildings and occupants, his team wound up taking on search and rescue wherever needed. CHPF will continue their work in Haiti for years to come. Learn more at [www.caringhouseprojectfoundation.com](http://www.caringhouseprojectfoundation.com).

**The Orphan Foundation of America** (United States): Every year in this country, an epidemic is occurring— nearly 25,000 children age out of the foster care system and face a daunting world without the emotional or financial support of family. Many don't finish high school and too many become homeless, pregnant or incarcerated. Founded in 1981, the Orphan Foundation of America (OFA) is the only national organization providing direct support, education funding, and workforce development for youth aging out. OFA awards grants to help them attend college and trade school, and also provides mentoring, academic coaching, internships, and care packages to ensure their graduation and successful entry into the workforce. OFA’s newest program “Foster Care to Success” engages volunteer groups with foster teens in their communities through meaningful, consistent educational and enrichment activities. Learn more at [www.orphan.org](http://www.orphan.org).

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