

May 25, 2008

Dear friend,

Yes, we're at it again—this year Lisa Smith-Batchen and Sister Mary Elizabeth Lloyd—are attempting an extremely difficult physical challenge to raise money for AIDS Orphans; Lisa will be running and cycling a total of 810 miles through some of the most inhospitable land on this planet accompanied by Sister Mary Elizabeth. Sister will be a member of the crew and will also be running segments of the course along side Lisa as well as climbing to the summit of Mt. Whitney.



### The Event!

The extreme endurance challenge is comprised of three distinct components, the first of which begins in Las Vegas on July 9, 2008 where Lisa will begin her 145 mile run to the starting line of the world-famous [Badwater 135 mile ultra marathon](#). The second component will be for Lisa to compete in what is known as the toughest foot race on earth, which begins at the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere {292 feet below sea level} and finishes at the trail head to Mt. Whitney {8,550 feet above sea level}. Upon completion of the race Lisa and her team will continue on to the summit of Mt. Whitney, which is the highest point in the continental United States {14,496



feet above sea level} This will complete the second component of the challenge, which is truly a journey through two extremes – starting at the lowest point continuing on to the highest point. The final component of the challenge is comprised of the Furnace Creek 508 which is a 508-mile cycling event through Death Valley taking place in October 2008. The successful completion of the second and third components of this challenge will culminate in Lisa being awarded the very prestigious Death Valley Cup. Lisa would be only the third women to have ever won this award. At the conclusion of all three components Lisa will have completed a 810 mile running and cycling challenge that is unprecedented insofar as Lisa would be the first person ever to have completed this.

Lisa is a world class endurance athlete. Among her many achievements Lisa has won the Badwater 135 ultra marathon twice, she is the only American woman to ever have won the extremely difficult Marathon Des Sables, a

150 mile stage race through the Moroccan Sahara; the only person ever to have completed the Grand Slam in conjunction with the Badwater race, completed five Hawaii Iron Man triathlons; three appearances in the Eco-Challenge; two X-Games appearances; completed more than ninety marathons; and more than twenty ultra-marathons of fifty miles or more.

None of these individual accomplishments compare to the difficulty of the Death Valley 810 which is by far the most aggressive athletic feat of Lisa's career.

### **Raising money to help AIDS Orphans**

#### **Why are Lisa and Sister Mary Elizabeth attempting this?**

This spectacular effort is being undertaken to raise money to help AIDS Orphans—children orphaned because both of their parents have died from AIDS. Sister's organization, the



Sister Desta helping mission children find food, clothing, and then sign up for school.

Religious Teachers Filippini, has been helping women and children of all faiths for more than 300 years. Their focus now is to help AIDS Orphans in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Albania, India, Brazil...and the United States. (Did you know that every 14 seconds a Child Headed Household is formed!!) A child Headed Household consists of several children, brothers and sisters who have lost their parents from AIDS and are trying to stay together and survive as a family. The head of the family is usually a 10 year old boy or girl with younger brothers and sisters. They are not only struggling to stay alive but also are struggling to stay together.

Today there are over 10,000,000 AIDS Orphans in the world, *but by 2010 it is estimated there will be over 25,000,000.* The mission schools of the Religious Teachers Filippini feed, house, clothe, and educate these children. In mission schools students learn cooking, sewing, cutting, design, embroidery, knitting by hand and by machine, agriculture, poultry raising, first aid, how to clean a room, English,

Tigrayan (their language), math, accounting, personal hygiene, bee keeping, honey making, and marketing. With these skills, and the graduation certificate they receive from this elementary school, they can get a job or even start a small business and begin to support themselves and their families.

#### **The team attempting this amazing effort**

This year, as Lisa runs and cycles the 810 miles to raise money for AIDS Orphans and Child Headed Households she runs through some of the hottest, most desolate, and driest conditions on the planet—the California and Nevada desert. As she races in temperatures approaching 130 degrees, Sister Mary Elizabeth will be on her crew for the first time. Sister will also run along with Lisa on legs of the route and climb Mt. Whitney as well!

In this extraordinary effort Lisa will be assisted by a loyal and dedicated team giving up precious time to support her along the way. Lisa's team includes include Sister Mary Elizabeth Lloyd, Leigh Corbin, Annemarie Deale, Laurie Andrews, Scott Morgan, Terry Madl, and George Velasco.

#### **What motivates them?**

Ask Lisa why she is doing this and she says, "I hope to show people that it is possible to run for a purpose. And there is no greater purpose than providing support, assistance, and life to children who have been orphaned by AIDS. These children lose everything that they have; we are so blessed. To have the opportunity to help them in a time of need is an honor. I sincerely hope we will raise even more money this year for AIDS Orphans Rising than we did in 2006. I ask God daily for strength so I can make a difference in the lives of others."

Sister Mary Beth says about the Lisa and the Death Valley 810: “Lisa has been an inspiration to our organization, to me personally, and to so many men and women around the world. She has used her athletic career to help others, and her work with our organization has directly saved countless lives. This is a most ambitious endeavor and we thank her, the entire Dreamchasers crew, and all other donors to this cause for their commitment to helping women and girls avoid poverty, starvation, and death.”

**How you can help**

Won't you please help us raise money for these children? When Lisa ran the Badwater Double in 2006 she raised \$294,000 for the mission schools. This year her goal is to raise over \$500,000—and everything she raises will go to feed, clothe, house, and educate these children.



Please help sponsor Lisa in her effort to conquer the “Death Valley 810”. Please send a check or money order (sorry, that is all we can take at the moment) made out to

Religious Teachers Filippini Mission Fund

Send it to  
Sister Mary Elizabeth Lloyd  
455 Western Avenue  
Morristown, NJ 07960

In the subject area of your check please put “Lisa's 810 miles”

100% of your contribution will go toward the children. Not one penny will support any of the efforts to prepare for or promote these efforts. (That funding has been taken care of by wonderful supporters of this cause.) And since the Religious Teachers Filippini are a 5013(c) organization your contribution is 100% tax deductible.

I hope you'll choose to help this very worthy cause and send a contribution today. Include your email address and we will keep you apprised of their efforts for the race and updated on progress toward their goal. And remember that you are helping to save the lives of women and children who are trying desperately to help themselves.

God Bless You,

Sister Mary Elizabeth Lloyd

Lisa Smith-Batchen

PS. You can learn more about Sister Mary Elizabeth and AIDS Orphans Rising at [www.aidsorphansrising.org](http://www.aidsorphansrising.org). And you can learn more about Lisa Smith-Batchen and her work at [www.dreamchaserevents.com](http://www.dreamchaserevents.com). Please remember that 100% of your contribution goes to support food, clothing, shelter, and education for these women and children.