

Running Because I Care

BY DALE SIMPSON

On December 8, 2012, I ran in the Walnut Creek International Half Marathon. I didn't run because I am a good runner or because I even like to run. Neither of those two statements are, necessarily, true of me. I ran with Team World Vision to raise money to provide clean water for people in Africa. You see there are hundreds of thousands of people in Africa that don't have access to clean water. At least they don't have access to clean water the way you and I have. Thousands of African children die every day because of the lack of clean drinking water. They die from diarrhea and other illnesses related to drinking unclean water. World Vision is a humanitarian organization that is working to provide clean water to remote villages all over Africa by installing clean water wells. The only way they can do this is by various fund-raising efforts. One fund-raising effort that has been a huge success is through marathons and half marathons all across the World. In the Walnut Creek International Half Marathon alone, Team World Vision raised \$150,000. Think about it, \$50 will supply one child in Africa clean drinking water for life. So, with the money raised by Team World Vision, 3000 African children will have clean water for life and will not have to suffer from the illnesses and possible death related to drinking unclean water.

Through my fund-raising efforts, I was able to raise \$1000 for Team World Vision.

I was able to do this in large part because of the generosity of the Golf Course Superintendent Association of Northern California, who donated \$500. This would not have been possible if it weren't for each and every one of the Members who support the Association. I am so proud to belong to



an association that cares and supports, not only its Members, but truly cares for people in need all over the World. This is not the first time that the GCSANC has supported me in my efforts to make a difference in the World. The GCSANC also supported a mission trip to Thailand in 2008, where I helped in distributing wheelchairs to disabled people there who could not otherwise afford a wheelchair.

By the way, I was able to complete the 13.1-mile run in 1:40:25. I know, as golf course superintendents, you are all doing the math to figure out the mile/minute average. Hopefully, you all came up with 7-minute 40-second mile average. I did all of this dressed up as Kid Rock! Not too bad for an old man, huh? A little tip for anyone that is thinking of running in a half marathon. Blue jean cut-off shorts are a bad idea! I have to admit that as I trained for this, my competitive juices started flowing. But, at the end of the day, my purpose and motivation for running was clearly stated on the back of my team jersey and was the Team World Vision motto: "I run because I care." I just want to thank each Member and the Board of Directors of the GCSANC for the financial support that you have given me in raising money for clean water in Africa. The GCSANC is an association that truly cares for its Members, the environment and people all over the world.

NorCal Blogs

A formal education got most of us in the door of many clubs, but first-hand experience is how we have made a name for ourselves. With the popularity of Golf Course Superintendent Blogs, what better way to get a first-hand experience?

With our newest addition of *Thru the Green*, we want to introduce you to some of the blogs that are in your area. There are many talented superintendents in the GCSANC that are regularly blogging which we hope will further your education in the ever-changing business of growing grass.

Brian Boyer, Cinnabar Hills Golf Club
www.cinnabarhills.blogspot.com

Austin Daniels, Monterey Pines
www.montereypinesmaintenance.blogspot.com

Kevin Breen, La Rinconada
<http://kevinpbreen.blogspot.com/>

Josh Clevenger, Claremont CC
www.claremontturf.blogspot.com

Ken Williams, Stanford
<http://sgcsuperintendent.blogspot.com/>

Doug Ayres, Coral de Tierra
<http://corralmaintenance.blogspot.com/>

Brian Bagley, The Villages Golf and CC
<http://villagesgolfmaintenance.blogspot.com/>

Rodney Muller, Empire Ranch
<http://empireranchgcm.blogspot.com/>