Race for Grace (R4G) Event Planner Job Description

Benefitting International Child Care's Grace Children's Hospital in PAP, Haiti

1) Develop a R4G calendar starting immediately after the current year's event in August. Review SWOT feedback on the event from the R4G committee and a few representative team members

2) Assist with and oversee the completion of the following:

A) Sending out a save the date with basic info on the Race for Grace to all Race for Grace alumni no later than March 1. Send the same notification to all donors in the donor base.

B) Assure that the ICC website and Facebook page has updated info on the R4G

C) Update the R4G registration site and have it open for registration on about April 1.

D) Assure that all who received a save the date email receive the email that the registration site is open (by mid- April)

E) Assist in needed items for the main event in Wichita Falls

1) exploring housing for participants

2) facilitating communications with those registering

3) securing a booth in the convention center, the tent in Finish Line Village, lunch for riders, and volunteers who are needed at the booth and the tent.

3) Work closely with the ICC USA marketing committee.

4) Review and assess the list of those who are sent R4G info and broaden it to include

A) more UMC's in OK, TX, and in other areas of the country

B) bike shops, gyms, health related organizations, etc.

C) Make a schedule of the notifications to the 2 groups with messages that are appropriate to the group being contacted:

For churches, it would be that GCH is a UM Advance

For gyms and cycling shops, that it promotes physical fitness and could bring publicity to them

For professional health organizations, that the event serves to promote health both at home and is an example of supporting good global public health development in the poorest country in our hemisphere

4) Decide dates to promote the event and oversee notices going out, working with the marketing team leader and R4G committee

5) Develop and send fundraising tips and encouragement to all registered team members as well as the board.

6) Develop ways to engage the ICC USA board in support of the event

7) Assure that all sponsors and team members receive thank you's and feel valuable to the work of GCH

8) Build, promote and assist with more opportunities for children and youth to get involved.

9) Develop creative ways to enhance fundraising and awareness (banner sponsors, etc.)

If interested in this position, please send resume to: jhattmd@gmail.com or call Jeannine Hatt at (903)870-6709.

Please read the following pages to get a better idea of what Race for Grace does and why it is so important!

Why Do We Race for Grace Every Year?

Another successful Race for Grace has come and gone for 2022 and we are already thinking about 2023. My husband and I have helped organize and participate in the Race for Grace Team every year since it was founded over 15 years ago. Although it means a lot of work, we have no intention of stopping our support of this event and the hospital it benefits. I want to share reasons why, not just from us, but also from others who continue to be part of the team.

My first trip to Haiti was in 2000. It was then that I was introduced to International Child Care's (ICC) Grace Children's Hospital. I had been invited by GCH as part of a group of healthcare professionals and United Methodist Church leaders. The hospital's staff was wanting to broaden their services beyond TB to caring for children and adults with a broad range of healthcare needs and thought that US health professionals might be able to help.

I reluctantly accepted the challenge and am glad I did. It changed my view of international healthcare development. Although I had volunteered previously with several other medical organizations working in low resource countries, I found ICC's philosophy of empowering the hospital's Haitian staff with education, funding and support services inspiring. The hospital was following sound public health principles and included a strong focus on education. Their emphasis on partnerships helped sustain them. This partnership included those of us in the US who joined in this effort through service, education and fund raising. So now, let's go back to the fundraising.

Since 2007, the Race for Grace has attracted hundreds of participants who, after seeing the work of Grace Children's Hospital first hand, or having heard the testimonials of those who have been there, open their hearts, bolster their courage and commit to riding for a reason and to fundraise through sponsorships. This in turn raises awareness of global healthcare needs. It is not easy to drag an old dusty bicycle out of the garage or invest in a new one to ride for a compelling cause. But doing so to bring healthcare to children living in the poorest country in our hemisphere is compelling.

Now the Race for Grace Team is made up of those who are willing to put on walking, running, or cycling shoes to sweat in solidarity with the doctors and nurses who work for hours in hot, humid rooms caring for the sick. They sweat in solidarity with the mothers and fathers who will sit on hard wooden benches for hours, protected from the blazing tropical sun by only a metal roof. Parents patiently hold tired sick babies, waiting to finally get there turn to see the doctor whose cramped offices are inside a donated boxcar.

The metal boxcar, where the children are seen, has been the only option for the out-patient children's clinic since the main hospital was destroyed in the 2010 earthquake. Because of the ongoing gang violence, the last time I was able to visit GCH was 4 years ago. On that trip one of the pediatricians working there, and whom I knew well, said to me, "Jeannine, the earthquake happened over 8 years ago, and here we are, still in this box." We have put a new women's and children's out-patient unit high on the needs list at GCH, but projects like that take significant funding. This is one reason we still ride and spend so much time encouraging others, raising awareness and attracting sponsors. Our hope is that the annual $50K the team raises every year will add up to our bringing some meaningful change to GCH, maybe even a new clinic building.

Race for Grace Team members share many reasons for still participating. Many say, “It is a great way to make myself more fit”. Others say, “From those who have much, much is expected”. Children will often say, “To bring food, clean water and medicines to sick children in Haiti”. Some say, “I feel strongly called to do something for the poorest of the poor”. All of these and more are reasons that team members keep getting out those dusty bikes, pulling on those old walking and running shoes, sweating to improve their own health, while bringing health and hope to so many who come to Grace Children’s Hospital.

Grace Children's Hospital (GCH), which is located in one of the poorer areas of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, has provided a wide range of services to children and families in Haiti for over 50 years. Originally founded to care for children dying with tuberculosis, it now provides primary healthcare services for all ages, prenatal and postnatal care, care for patients infected with HIV, an ophthalmology clinic with surgical services and more. It also reaches out into the community screening children for malnutrition and providing nutritional support, providing vaccines and health education.

Although the main hospital was destroyed in the 2010 Haiti earthquake, it continues to run a small in-patient unit for children and has grown its out-patient department, now seeing over 10,000 patients each month. These services are partially funded by International Child Care USA which is one of the hospital's major partners.

ICC USA's largest annual fundraiser is the Race for Grace, starting with a team riding in the Hotter 'n Hell 100. Since 2007, the team has attracted hundreds of participants who, after seeing the work of Grace Children's Hospital first hand, or having heard the testimonials of those who have been there, open their hearts, bolster their courage and commit to riding for a reason and to fundraise through sponsorships. This in turn raises awareness of global healthcare needs. It is not easy to drag an old dusty bicycle out of the garage or invest in a new one to ride for a compelling cause. But doing so to bring healthcare to children living in the poorest country in our hemisphere is compelling. In recent years, the team has started inviting walkers, runners and those who want to cycle in their own communities to join the team.

Now the need is greater than ever. Presently there is chaos in Haiti due to gang violence and lack of a functioning government. But GCH has continued to keeps its doors open. Because so many hospitals have closed, they are seeing many more patients who come to them and are unable to pay any amount for services. The hospital does not turn anyone away.

ICC USA's board of directors would like to sustain and grown the Race for Grace. We need someone with a passion for children to help keep the event organized, working with the board's Race for Grace Committee.

Thank you for considering this position.