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NEWS

September 13, 2013

Hoosiers backing major Kenyan peace run

By Rebecca Townsend [@hoosierchild](#)



MUKESCO Kenya Peace Run planning committee.

Submitted photo

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Indiana friends of Kenya's Moi University are rallying support for - and even sending some runners to participate in - a peace run in towns near the campus, which were ravaged by inter-tribal violence following disputed election results six years ago.

The inaugural MUKESCO race involves categories of varying distances, the longest is a 12k. Organizers say "everyone is welcome and everybody wins" in the "interfaith, intertribal, inter cultural international race. Teams will include village members from varying ages, genders, and physical capabilities plus Moi University students and community members of multiple tribes, religious faiths

and cultures, and the international representatives — including the Indy-based runners.

Brian Culp, an IUPUI associate professor in the department of kinesiology, will take Larry Jenkins and Adam Heavrin to Kenya for the race. Champion Kenyan runners including Kip Keino, Moses Tanui, Patrick Sang and Lorna Kiplagat will lead.

"The diverse make-up of the teams is a far cry from the experiences many in Kenya had growing up, where they had little or no contact with members of other tribes or persons with a different religious faith, much less people from other countries," Ian McIntosh, IUPUI's director of international partnership, said.

"The separation of one tribe from another is believed to have played a role when members of one tribe were set upon by members of another tribe following allegations of voting irregularities in 2007."

Students from the School of Physical Ed and Tourism have raised hundreds of dollars to support the grand prize-winning team, which will have a well drilled in its village. More than 2,000 people are expected to participate. To contribute to the effort, visit gofundme.com/Kenya-Peace-Run.

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SPEAKING OF...

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Bio:

Rebecca Townsend served as NUVO news editor from May 2011 to August 2014. During a 20-plus year career, her bylines have appeared in publications ranging from Indiana AgriNews to the Wall Street Journal. Her undergraduate degree is in sociology and anthropology from Earlham College, and her master's is in journalism... [more](#)

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