

# The ROCKWOOD Miller

## Rockwood brothers Bolivia bound

The chance to make a difference in lives of disadvantaged people with few, if any opportunities, lured Rockwood brothers Fraser and Gavin Anderson to Habitat for Humanity's Global Village program, and to

Bolivia this summer for a nine-day build.

Led by the brothers, the 10-person team will construct 75 to 85 per cent of a house – with the help of the new owners – as part of the Habitat program, which builds houses for low-

income families and provides no-interest mortgages. Fraser said he chose an international build this time because many people in Bolivia do not have any of the advantages that Canadians do.

"Obviously, there's homeless people here, and there are problems here, but the way I look at it, in Third World countries, they usually don't have the opportunities that we have, and it's a great feeling knowing that you're helping people who are trying to have



**AVERY'S RACE:** More than 200 participants helped raise more than \$5,000 for SickKids Hospital at the third annual Avery's Bravery Race in Rockwood last weekend. The event, with runs of various lengths and lots of family fun, is organized by the Bond family of Rockwood whose daughter Avery had life-saving heart surgery soon after birth three years ago. – Ted Tyler photo

a good life and set an example," Fraser said.

Fraser, a 23-year-old International Relations student at the University of Calgary, went on a build in Zambia in 2008, and led a trip with his brother, family members and friends to El Salvador in 2009. The Andersons already have half of the 12 volunteers

needed for the Bolivian build – "opened-minded" individuals who having never met who will wear Habitat for Humanity T-shirts to find one another at Pearson Airport on August 18.

As team leader, Fraser is arranging the flights, the build schedule, rest and relaxation time and ensuring everyone has proper papers. Volunteers pay their own way – approximately \$3,000, which includes airfare, accommodation and food, medical insurance, orientation and a donation to Habitat for Humanity, Bolivia.

Gavin Anderson, a 25-year-old studying Pharmacological Virology in Lexington, Kentucky, said there is huge satisfaction in helping people whose living conditions are poor. "The small amount of work we do can make a huge down there. You don't have to be in top physical shape – you don't have to have any

construction experience because everything you need to know, they show you when you get down there," Gavin said.

Gavin said he was able to visit a build in Bolivia that Fraser had worked on and it was gratifying to talk with the Habitat family and see how their lives had changed. Asked if he had any advice for someone thinking about volunteering with the Habitat Global program, Gavin said it is rare that someone signs up expecting it to go on a tropical vacation, but it has happened.

"If you have the mindset that we are going down there to work, and it's not just going to be a party the whole time... we're not going to drink every night and hang out at the beach, but we do have a couple of days for rest and relaxation," Gavin said.

For more information contact: [gavin.anderson@uky.edu](mailto:gavin.anderson@uky.edu)



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**WHEN:** Friday mornings, 9:00 - 10:15am, starting Friday, May 25th

**WHERE:** Group will warm up and leave from the East Wellington Family Health Team clinic, located at 175 Alma Street, Rockwood

**COST:** FREE! Courtesy of Rockwood Physiofitness and the East Wellington Family Health Team

**HOW:** Register by calling (519) 833-7576 ext. 341 or go to [www.ewfht.ca](http://www.ewfht.ca) and click on "Workshops"

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East Wellington Family Health Team

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