

# Local woman organizes Run for Wells

**ELIZABETH BLAAUWENDRAAT**  
Special to The IFP

While most young moms are busy enough, Renate VanLeeuwen has taken on a project that includes her love for running and her desire to help on a global level.

VanLeeuwen, a Georgetown local, has called upon friends and family to help organize a run to raise money for wells in Africa. With a goal of raising at least \$15, 000 in support of World Vision, VanLeeuwen hopes to raise funds and awareness for the need for clean drinking water for people in Africa.

Access to clean water means health and life. Across Africa, nearly two million children die every year of diseases they contract from parasites and bacteria found in their dirty drinking water.

Relating as a mother to these women VanLeeuwen felt a call to do something.

"I felt a need to help these people, particularly the women and children who must walk an average of 6 km a day for drinking water for their families."

On Saturday, October 4, starting at the Gellert Centre, a 5 km race and a 1 km fun run will be held for the community. Participants are encouraged to collect pledges to help raise money for the cause.

Keeping the race local was important to VanLeeuwen. "I like to think of it as an opportunity for the community of Georgetown to come together to support a community in Africa."

As title sponsor, Maple Reinders has donated funds and are putting together a team to run at the event. The EndZone Sports Exchange, Maat Environmental Engineering Corp, Herman's Aluminum, Feet in Motion, Meldrum Orthodontics and Howell Pipe and Electric have also come on board to donate funds.

VanLeeuwen hopes that local schools can also participate during the day by having their track and field teams participate and raise money with pledges.

A barbecue with games and activities for children is planned for after the 1km run. Businesses can still donate prizes and co-ordinate a team to participate.

More information, registration, and to donate visit [www.RunForWells.com](http://www.RunForWells.com).

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