



## Helen Klein Runs for Hope

### *Village of Hope in Kersa Illala, Ethiopia*

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#### VILLAGE OF HOPE

Lon and DeAnna Kennard of Heber, Utah always wanted to adopt, but because they had six children of their own, they did not pursue their desire until ten years ago. When the Kennards went to the Ethiopian village of Kersa Illala to pick up their four children, they discovered two more siblings and adopted them a year later.

The Kennards, in 1999, returned to Ethiopia with all six Ethiopian children for a visit to the village. After their visit, they were determined to develop a humanitarian program, the **Village of Hope**, an outreach foundation in which volunteers work along side indigenous villagers.

Volunteers assist with maternal education, water and sanitation, health and hygiene, gardening, education, micro-enterprise, and more. In this case, it is taking a family to raise a village. The Kennards are truly constructing a **Village of Hope** in Kersa Illala.

## Barrett Track Coaches Travel to Africa

Helen and Norm Klein, track coaches for the Barrett Middle School leave for Ethiopia this July to run in the **Village of Hope**. Coaching the Barrett Broncos for the past five years keeps the Kleins young and on their toes. "They are like my grandchildren." 82 year-old Helen says fondly of the sixth, seventh and eighth grade students at Barrett.

in addition to coaching at Barrett, Norm, a retired oral-maxillo facial surgeon, keeps busy organizing and directing marathons and ultra-distance running events in the United States. Helen keeps busy running and winning her age group division in marathons and other ultra-distance events.

The Kleins know all about hard work and volunteering. They have "the same [race] volunteers for all of these years;

they just don't leave. You get much, much more out of a volunteer. They are doing the work because they want to do it, not because they have to do it." Whether rendering service on the slopes of the Himalayas or in the steep Peruvian Andes, the Kleins combined years and miles circle the globe and are now taking them to a small village in Ethiopia to run for HOPE.



## World Record Holders to Meet in the Village of Hope

Norman Klein, race event director, plans to connect with the students at Kersa Illalla School in the heart of Ethiopia's Rift Valley by organizing the First Village of Hope Run.

Plans are underway for Helen Klein, the United States 82 year old women marathon world record holder and ultra-distance legend, to run with Ethiopian distance running legend Haile Gebrselassie in the **Village of Hope**.

For more information: Contact Norm and Helen Klein at 916-859-0821



Helen inspired others as she carried the Olympic Torch through the streets of Sacramento prior to the 2002 Olympic Games. Photo by Jane Byng