



**Running for a cause...
building schools in Angola and impacting lives!**

Team RISE began with an idea. Scot Gillan, a pastor we knew in Tucson who is now in Naperville, IL, wondered if RISE might be interested in recruiting runners to participate in the Chicago Marathon and raise money at the same time. Scot moved the process forward and what began with an idea, a "what if," has turned into one of our largest and most successful fundraising efforts from 2009 – 2018, .and we hope in 2019 and beyond!

RISE International builds primary schools in rural Angola to educate children, empower communities and contribute to the rebuilding of the country. RISE embraced a dream to impact Angola through education - one child, one classroom, one school at a time.

Thanks to the efforts of 24 runners in the 2009 Chicago Marathon, and their supporters, over 1400 children in Angola were given new school buildings in which to learn. Individual runners challenged themselves to do what many had never done, a special sense of community developed and the team was supported by hundreds of people rallying to give to a bigger cause, and cheering for the team on race day. Incredibly, \$145,000 was raised to build schools at Gamba-Nongolo and Kaila in the Huila Province. The communities continue to be transformed because of the joint efforts of many coming together to provide education for children who would not otherwise have the opportunity!

The success of Team RISE in 2009 inspired the organization to creatively combine passion for the cause with ways to raise money and awareness. In an effort to broaden and multiply in 2010, Team RISE added the half marathon option, with runners in the Rock 'n' Roll Chicago Half Marathon, the Chicago Half Marathon and the Bank of America Chicago Marathon. Over 100 runners took on a big personal challenge, trained hard, shared in the community that developed, and worked toward a huge goal, building schools at Atiopo and Sao Jose, giving 1800 additional children the opportunity for education!

The 2011 - 2018 seasons involved many Team RISE runners participating in the Chicago Half Marathon and the Bank of America Chicago Marathon, as well as several additional races, raising enough to impact another 3100+ kids, building schools at Ndongua, Jimba-Silili and Njele in the Bie Province and at Ungongo, Tangua, Sibol and Alto Esperanca, in the Benguela Province.

The team makeup varies each year with some that are new to running and some that run year after year. Team RISE is making an ongoing difference in the lives of over 6400 children in Angola. At the end of the season, funds raised are wired, designated to a specific location, construction begins and the school is finished within several months. All sites have been visited by US teams, and the Team RISE story has been told. The students, families, communities, Ministry of Education and government officials express deep gratitude for those in the US that have worked to bring schools to their villages and their children. Thanks to Team RISE runners, supporters and donors! Children will be impacted for many years to come - what a significant investment!



Gamba - Nongola in Huila Province



Sao Jose in Bie Province



Ndongua in Bie Province



Ungongo in Benguela Province



Jimba-Silili in Bie Province