Running in Berlin
for education in India!

Dutch Plantin and Van Doren Engineers are putting their best foot forward! On Sunday 28 September 2014 , our five-man team will be running the Berlin Marathon. Our aim? To put in a remarkable sports performance and to raise money for charity: education for children in India.

Will power, taking responsibility and social performance. These are three core values that are deeply rooted in the DNA of Dutch Plantin and Van Doren Engineers. Two sister companies that have entirely different activities but have an identical vision. This is all due to their owners, the brothers Cor, Marcel and Jos van Doren.

Employees at Dutch Plantin and Van Doren Engineers are given plenty of opportunities to develop through, for example, the Van Doren Academy which offers a wide range of training courses. We often take these opportunities for granted. But not everyone is this lucky! In India, where Dutch Plantin is active, the cost of living for a family is relatively high. Many families struggle to fund their children's education. By running the marathon, we are raising money for these families

As we, naturally, would like to make sure that the money goes to the right places, we take on this responsibility ourselves. Our presence in India guarantees that the money we raise goes directly to the families of Dutch Plantin employees in India. Their children would like to further their education? Then they will receive a grant from us. We offer people a chance for a better future.

Every Euro goes to India

Help families in India to a better future: that is our aim! And it would be amazing if you could help us. Every Euro raised will go to India. The journey and accommodation in Berlin is paid for by Dutch Plantin and Van Doren Engineers. This leaflet provides information about our mission, who the runners are and what their incentive is. We will also give you an insight into the living conditions of the Indian families that we are supporting.

Would you like to support us?

Please make your contribution payable to Van Doren Engineers NL78RABO0108053741, reference R14VDE014. You can also send us an email letting us know the amount you wish to sponsor and we will send you an invoice with the VAT details. Send your email to Dré Schellekens at marathon@vandoren.nl. You can also direct any queries to this email address.

These are our runners...

On Sunday 28 September, Sander, Koen, Jos, Dré and Kevin will be ready to cross the line of the biggest and best-known marathon of Europe!

They need our support

The cost of living in India is high. Many families therefore struggle to provide their children with an education. Take Nagarajan Kalairaja's family for example. His mother works for Dutch Plantin in India.

"I come from a poor family and live with my parents, older brother and younger sister in Shivagangai. My mother is the only one in our family with a job. We used to live in a small house but this was destroyed during the heavy monsoons in recent years. Now we mainly live outdoors. We hardly have any possessions, not even chairs or a fan. Life is hard, especially for my parents. We only have a small income and can just about survive if we are very careful with our money. We buy our vegetables on the market and have no car or moped. Although I would love to become a structural engineer, there is hardly any money to study. I finished secondary school with good grades but further education is simply unaffordable. It makes me feel sad but I understand. In the first place, money should be spent on food. My parents are analphabetic and have no idea about education. It is their biggest wish for my brother, sister and I to find a good job and have a better future. I hope so too. It will allow us to earn money later and look after our parents."

Nagarajan Kalairaja

Jos van Doren:

"In 2012, I trained up to run the New York marathon which unfortunately got cancelled last minute due to hurricane Sandy. However, together with Erben Wennemars, I still ran the 26 miles in Central Park. Now, I just want to run it 'for real'. The atmosphere in Berlin is apparently amazing, with a huge audience that continuously cheer you on. Why I want to run such a distance? Simply to prove to myself that I can. To push myself to the max and explore my limits. I believe that's what is driving me."

Koen van den Hurk:

"I was always a keen tennis player and biker until wrist troubles forced me to look for a new challenge. Inspired by my little brother running the Sint-Oedenrode marathon, I decided to run the Eindhoven marathon. And then this idea was proposed... It's the combination of running for charity that really appealed to me. As I regularly travel to India, our aim is very tangible to me. I know that the money will be well spent and in actual fact can make a difference. This really motivates me."

The Berlin Marathon in a nutshell

- Distance: 26 miles and 385 yards.
- More than 34,000 runners.
- One of the five World Marathon Majors.
- The 'fastest' marathon in the world.
- The current world record was set in 2013 in Berlin
- by Kenyan Wilson Kipsang who ran the race in 2:03:23.
- An average of 95% of participants finishes the marathon.
- The average marathon runner runs an average of 900 miles between the first day of training and the marathon finish line.
- During the marathon, your foot touches the ground between 13,000 and 20,000 times.

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