



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lace Up for Haiti 5K Run/Walk Set for June 22 at Strathcona Park

*Local charity aims to find 55 Champions to sponsor students
in Haiti through community run/walk.*

Kelowna BC – On June 22, 2025, Strathcona Beach Park will fill with energy and purpose as runners and walkers gather for **Lace Up for Haiti 5K Fun Run/Walk**. Organized by local charity **Haiti in My Heart**, the event aims to raise **\$30,000** to support **55 Haitian students** attending the Institute Mixte Remax in Haiti.

The funds raised go directly toward tuition, school supplies, uniforms and daily hot meals. These are basic needs that many Haitian families cannot afford. Education is the key to eliminating devastating poverty, and in Haiti, education is not free. That's why the event's mission is clear: **to find 55 Champions to sponsor each of the 55 students for one full school year.**

Adding to the inspiration, **Haiti in My Heart founder Louise Elliott** will conclude her personal **55 km run**, one kilometre for every student still in need of sponsorship, by joining the final 5K alongside event participants. Her run celebrates both her upcoming **55th birthday** and her enduring commitment to educational access for Haitian children.

Whether you're in Kelowna or joining virtually, you can become a Champion.

Participants can register for the in-person or virtual event, raise funds, and earn progress badges tied to their students' educational milestones.

How to Become a Champion:

- ✓ Register for the Lace Up for Haiti 5K (in person or virtually)
- ✓ Raise funds to support your sponsored student
- ✓ Walk or run 5K on June 22, from Strathcona Park, or your virtual route.
- ✓ Enjoy your swag bag and community spirit at the local after-event gathering



Sponsor Highlight: Rancho Vignola

“At Rancho Vignola, we believe in nourishing more than just the body,” says company representative Taylor Schley. “For over 44 years, we have been committed to fueling our community and the hope it spreads beyond our borders.

When the organizers of Lace Up for Haiti asked us to become a Child’s Champion, we were honoured to step up. Food is fuel, and we are here to keep runners and volunteers energized as they come together to raise funds and awareness for Haiti in My Heart.

Participants will find a delicious, nourishing snack from the team at Rancho Vignola in their swag bag.

Here’s to a great run and safe journey for everyone involved!”

EVENT DETAILS

What: Lace Up for Haiti 5K Fun Run/Walk

When: Sunday, June 22, 2025 | 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Where: Strathcona Beach Park, Kelowna

Start Times: Run at 11:00 AM | Walk at 11:15 AM

Register now: <https://www.haitiinmyheart.ca/lace-up-for-haiti>

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 🎉 Cheer Louise Elliott as she completes her 55 km journey.
- 🍦 Enjoy delicious eats from **Reggae Fusion Food Truck** and **Parlour Ice Cream**.
- 📦 Discover goodies from community sponsors in your swag bag
- 💛 Take a small step with a big impact, **sponsor a student in Haiti**

EVENT SPONSORS

 <p>GEOFFREY W. WHITE BARRISTER & SOLICITOR ESTATE & CHARITY LAW</p>	 <p>Parlour ICE CREAM HANDCRAFTED</p>	 <p>Reggae Fusion Food</p>	
 <p>MOVEMED physiotherapy</p>		 <p>Rancho Vignola New Crop Nuts & Dried Fruit</p>	



ABOUT HAITI IN MY HEART

Haiti in My Heart ("HIMH") is a Canadian registered charity with its head office in Kelowna BC. HIMH educates over 300 children, Preschool to Grade 9, in Montrouis, Haiti, providing a low-barrier access to education for families in Haiti. Families provide a nominal annual family registration fee. All other educational expenses (tuition, books, uniform, programming fees) are provided at no cost to families. The school employs over 40 Haitian staff, and serves 66,000 daily meals each school year, nourishing children's minds and bodies.

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<https://www.haitiinmyheart.ca>