



Welcome to Rescue 1000!

Changing lives one mile at a time

About two years ago, I attended a Thursday night meeting at the Huntington Beach Search and Rescue Explorer Post when a group of the teenage explorers struck up a conversation with me about motorcycles (they know I'm nuts about any and all motorcycles)! Throughout our discussion, we talked about the dirt bikes we own, and have owned. We discussed future riding trips, our favorite riding spots, and last but not least, the Baja 1000! These desert rats had all watched the motion picture *Dust to Glory*, and were amped about getting a Search and Rescue Baja 1000 race team together. I merely chuckled but did not take them seriously. After all, this is the biggest SCORE event ever! We are your typical "weekend warriors," but have never trained for a 1000-mile race!

My wife and I have been volunteering as advisors to the HB Search and Rescue Explorer Post for the last six years. Search and Rescue is an amazing program for teens interested in pursuing future careers in police, fire, or rescue work and is the only explorer post in Orange County that trains with a variety of emergency service professions. The post is a non-profit, volunteer organization that is centered on good morals, ethics, and community service. The Search and Rescue explorers donate approximately 4,000 to 5,000 hours per year to the City of H.B.

I tried to think about making the race possible and making it a positive life lesson for all who are involved. The race was a long time dream of mine but I wanted to go further and make it a fundraiser and a service project for the explorers. Although there are some talented riders in the post, concerns about potential injuries rendered a final decision that would not allow the explorers to participate in the race.

If we were going to race through the enchanting world of Baja, it would have to be done by adults with ample riding experience.

After many late night discussions with my wife, the objective of our mission became clearly evident. In addition to the adult police and fire advisors volunteering to participate in the race, we would work together with the explorers to raise funds for Search and Rescue.

Rescue1000! was finally underway!

The explorers chose to divide the proceeds and make a fifty percent donation to the El Oasis Children's Orphanage in Baja, Mexico. This incredible orphanage is located in the high desert region of the Baja peninsula just outside of the town, Valle De Trinidad. El Oasis is part of International Children's Care, (ICC) which is involved with orphanages throughout the world. The children of El Oasis are adorable and Rescue1000 truly wants to make



a difference in the lives of these precious children of Mexico!

In November 2007, Team Rescue1000 will saddle up on an off-road motorcycle and compete in the 40th anniversary of the Tecate SCORE Baja 1000. Our adult race team is comprised of firefighters and police officers that are strictly volunteers and want to make an impression on the youth of today. The Search and Rescue Explorers see our nervous anticipation, preparation, and desire to succeed by finishing the Baja 1000. We believe this will be a great learning experience for the kids, as well as our race team.

Until the race, we will work diligently on securing funds from general donations and clothing sales. In November, the money will be divided equally between Search and Rescue and El Oasis. We know our mission is possible with the help of the public, as well as the invaluable support we get from our police and fire families. Additionally, our team is trying to seek advice from racing professionals that can get us to the finish line.

To the youth of the HB Search and Rescue and the El Oasis Orphanage, I believe the successful endeavors of the Rescue1000 project will be a tremendous life lesson about sacrifice, dedication, perseverance, and humanity.

The race is merely a metaphor for life. If nothing else, I want the kids to understand that the journey of life can be paved their way with proper focus and determination.

Please visit our website at www.rescue1000.com to make a donation, buy a t-shirt, or see what else you can do to make a difference with the future of our world. **HB**

Eric Ramsey is a police officer with the City of Huntington Beach and currently assigned to the Air Support Unit. He enjoys volunteering with the HB Search and Rescue Explorers and is the Project Coordinator for the Rescue1000 Fundraiser.