

Austin Gutwein Bio [LONG]:

At the age of nine, Austin was moved when he learned there were over 15 million children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, of which 12 million lived in sub-Saharan Africa. Thinking everyone was doing something to help these children, Austin decided to try and do his part. He decided to try and make a difference for just one orphan, one free throw at a time.

That first year, Austin went to his school gymnasium and shot 2,057 free throws to represent the 2,057 children who would lose their parents during his school day. Now, in its sixth year, Austin's basketball marathon--called *Hoops of Hope*--has spread throughout the world. Austin's passion has motivated tens of thousands of kids, teens and adults to make a difference and has raised over two million dollars for orphan children in Africa. Since 2004, *Hoops of Hope* has helped build 2 medical clinics and a high school for 1,000 children in rural Zambia, 2 hope centers in Swaziland, and built a water project in Kenya. They have provided hundreds of bicycles and supplied the medical clinics with 1,000 medical caregiver kits to assist HIV/AIDS infected parents to possess the basic supplies they need to live longer so they can provide for their children. The money Austin's organization has raised literally helps keep thousands of children in Africa from becoming orphans.

Austin's *Hoops of Hope* is now building a second school in India and will provide 1,000 filled backpacks to children at the high school in Zambia. His next undertaking is the *Hoops of Hope All Star Tour*. With 12 stops throughout the US and a goal of raising 6 million dollars, *Hoops of Hope* will host the largest one-day free throw festival in the world. The event proceeds will go to transform 12 villages in Africa through water, health, education and economic development.

Now 15, Austin is a highly sought after speaker. Thomas Nelson Publishers released Austin's first book titled *Take Your Best Shot*, in September 2009. He has been a keynote speaker at several schools, universities & conferences around the world with stops in Beijing, Luxembourg, Qatar, as well as the United States Air Force Academy. Austin has been awarded the *Prudential Spirit of Community of Service Award*, the *Baron Prize for Young Heroes*, the *Build-a-Bear Huggable Heroes Award*, and this past Fall was selected as one of the top 10 most caring Americans by the Caring Institute for his work on behalf of AIDS orphans. Austin has been featured in magazines as well as in the national broadcast and electronic news, including *CBS Sports' NCAA Pregame Coverage*, *NBC's Today Show*, the *NBC Nightly News*, *CBS Evening News*, *Time for Kids* and *Christianity Today*.

Austin Bio [SHORT]:

At the age of nine, Austin was moved when he learned there were more than 15 million children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. His simple idea, a free-throw marathon to represent these children, has spread throughout the world. His organization, *Hoops of Hope* has enlisted tens of thousands of participants and has raised over two million dollars to build 2 medical clinics and a high school in rural Zambia, 2 hope centers in Swaziland, a water project in Kenya and is currently building a second school in India.