

# Runner-Funded Hospital to Open in Kenya

## Shoe4Africa to break ground for new facility on New Year's Day.

By Peter Gambaccini Published December 20, 2012

Groundbreaking for just the second public children's hospital in sub-Saharan Africa (the other is in Cape Town, South Africa) will take place on New Year's Day in Eldoret, Kenya, under the aegis of Shoe4Africa, the charity founded by Toby Tanser, *Standard Digital News* reports. Tanser is a member of the board of directors of the New York Road Runners and is the author of *More Fire: How to Run the Kenyan Way*. His royalties from the book go toward the construction of the hospital.

Tanser, who has been visiting Kenya and East Africa for two decades, recalls, "You see children in a hospital waiting room, unconscious and unable to get help. You see girls the age of five or six being the mother for her younger siblings; their childhood stolen from them." The Eldoret hospital, which has received support from celebrities like Hugh Jackman, Natalie Portman, and Anthony Edwards, is envisioned as a project that can begin to ameliorate that situation.

Tanser, who was a *Runner's World's* Hero in 2008, started Shoe4Africa in 1995 after a trip to the continent during which he gave away dozens of running shoes. Gathering shoes for donation was the organization's original mission, but it has branched out far beyond that original goal. Tanser's blog about his recent Shoe4 Africa activities is [here](#).