



# Rusty Funk

*Expert in clean water, volunteer engagement, and inspiring American Christians to fight global poverty*

Rusty is the national director of Team World Vision.

In 2007, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in youth ministry from Olivet Nazarene University and moved to Chicago's East Garfield Park—one of the city's most underserved neighborhoods—to work alongside men experiencing homelessness with Breakthrough Urban Ministries.

In 2008, while still at Breakthrough, Rusty ran his first marathon with Team World Vision. He was not a runner—in fact, he was out of shape, overweight, and hated even the thought of running when he signed up for that first marathon. But training for the race with his church team and fundraising for the global poor changed his life forever.

In 2011, Rusty joined the staff of World Vision, inviting and empowering people to walk or run with Team World Vision to raise money for clean water in Africa. In his current role, he gets to speak to groups across the country about the need for clean water, what World Vision is doing about it, and how churches, companies, and students can help end the global water crisis. He is a compelling yet funny and down-to-earth speaker who encourages and inspires every audience with stories from his trips to Africa, seeing World Vision's work with clean water, and meeting his sponsored children.

Rusty is passionate about helping “average Joes and Janes” overcome fears for the sake of others, and he's committed to leading by example. He has completed over 30 full marathons, four 50K (31-mile) races, five Comrades Marathons (a 56-mile ultramarathon in South Africa), two full Ironman triathlons, a 100-mile run, and a “longest day” marathon where he ran from sunup to sundown on the longest day of the year.

Rusty and his bride, Annalisa, currently reside in Chicago and are living out their passion for connecting the American church to the global poor in innovative ways that use every last drop of their privilege to serve those in need.

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World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Visit [worldvision.org](http://worldvision.org) for more information.