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Gasparilla Distance Classic Association, Executive Director

**Police Chief Jane Castor To Assist With Distribution
Of Nike Running Shoes At Sulphur Springs R.I.C.H House**

Tampa, FL, February 16, 2010: The Gasparilla Distance Classic Association announced today that throughout this week in Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco Counties, 450+ pairs of Nike Running Shoes will be distributed to the 2010 Let Me Play Kids Running Program participants.

On Thursday, February 18 at 4:00 p.m., Police Chief Jane Castor will assist with the shoe distribution to the Let Me Play Kids at R.I.C.H. House. The R.I.C.H. House is located in the Sulphur Springs Neighborhood at 8218 North Marks Street, Tampa 33604. The R.I.C.H House kids will receive their shoes prior to their scheduled Thursday afternoon training run.

The Let Me Play Kids Running Program, a joint partnership between the Gasparilla Distance Classic Association, City of Tampa and Tampa Metro YMCA, is funded by Nike and Kellogg's. First introduced in 2007 to combat youth obesity and introduce running as a lifestyle activity, this year's Let Me Play Kids have been working and training together to run the final two miles of the 2010 Gasparilla Marathon on Sunday, February 28. The eight-week training kicked-off in January and on a weekly basis, the YMCA staffed Program has featured fun activities that have gradually built the kid's endurance and stamina through running and other physical activities. Through the Let Me Play Running Program, the kids are learning to set goals, be disciplined and stay on task.

The R.I.C.H. House, commonly known as the Weed and Seed House, gives neighborhood children a positive alternative to hanging out in the streets where they are often unsupervised and can get into trouble. Tampa Police Officer Debbie Boles and Site Coordinator Earl Silas run the safe haven and act as role models for the children in the community.