

# Run for Your Life: The Pinoy Ultra Runners' 2<sup>nd</sup> Ultra Marathon from Banaue to Sagada

The "RUN FOR YOUR LIFE" Campaign is an initiative of the Pinoy Ultra Runners to promote the ultra marathon (a run that exceeds 42km.) in the Philippines, while at the same time running for a cause. Kythe is their chosen beneficiary for this campaign. Their first "Run for your Life" held last year was a success, with the team of runners completing a 100km. run. They were also able to raise awareness about Kythe and a considerable amount of funds to support Kythe's Child Life Program.

Last February 9, eight runners of the Pinoy Ultra Runners Team embarked on a second "Run for Your Life," running 64 km. from Banaue to Sagada. Congratulations to the runners for setting a new record in the Ultra Marathon. And thank you to the Pinoy Ultra Runners for continuing to support Kythe.

**Junior INQUIRER**

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# Running for life

By Ruth L. Navarra

**EIGHT RUNNERS TOOK ON THE** difficult and winding terrain of Banaue to Sagada for children battling cancer.

When athletes join a marathon, they don't just get up from bed, put on their running shoes, and pound the pavement. It takes months of training, and physical and mental preparation.

"It was real cold in Banaue but we were able to adjust and use it to our advantage. The run went well, all the runners finished way ahead of the expected time," says Neville Jay Manaois, team captain of the Pinoy Ultra Runners.

The Pinoy Ultra Runners was formed to promote ultra marathon in our country. An ultra marathon is any running event that goes beyond 43 km. Neville's group currently has 11 members, all accomplished athletes with backgrounds in running, biking and mountaineering.

But more than developing athletic challenges and goals for the members, they also wanted to support cause-oriented groups.

They came across Kythe, Inc., a non-profit organization that helps children with cancer. Its volunteers provide activities that enable the sick children to have fun.

and ultimately give them courage while they are trying to overcome their illness.

The runners thought that Kythe fit perfectly with their vision. They decided on a project that will combine their passion for running with their desire to help.

In July 2007, they had their first 100-km Run for Your Life in Metro Manila. Although there were only six runners, they were able to raise thousands of pesos for Kythe. And to further raise awareness and interest in the organization, they also carried Kythe's logo and name in all of their promotional efforts.

On Feb. 9, they once again ran for Kythe. "We wanted to help children with cancer. We admire them for their strength and courage," says Neville. This time, they took on an ambitious 64-km run in Banaue and Sagada.

And now, the group is poised to run for more dreams. They are exploring partnerships with other non-government organizations that might need their support. They know that they can help others by simply doing what they do best.

PHOTOS BY DENISE LEANG AND NARDS C...

To know more about Kythe Inc., visit [www.kythe.org](http://www.kythe.org).