

## **Financial Planner Raises Awareness - and Money - for Relief Bus as He Takes on Ironman Challenge**

*Source: Financial Planning Association of New Jersey*

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*Triathlete, CFP sees an opportunity to serve as he logs the miles to benefit a nonprofit by raising \$10,000*

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### **Service to Others: Financial Planner Raises Awareness - and Money - for The Relief Bus as He Takes on Ironman Challenge in Hawaii**

*Triathlete sees an opportunity to serve as he logs the miles to benefit a nonprofit*

**Montclair, NJ (September 2014)** - Although **Financial Planning Association of New Jersey (FPANJ)** member and Certified Financial Planner™ Jim Parks calls his entry into the Ironman competition in Hawaii a potentially selfish endeavor, nothing about his race to benefit **The Relief Bus**, <http://www.reliefbus.org/>, a nonprofit organization which brings much needed meals and services to the homeless throughout the New York City area, seems to be self-centered.

An avid runner and triathlon competitor over the past 14 years, Jim had the opportunity to serve as a volunteer with The Relief Bus, and called the experience eye-opening. The impetus to serve was brought about through Jim's involvement with the New Canaan Society, which recognizes the role we have to serve others, as well as the charge from a leadership speaker, who reminded him, "Life is people - be useful."

His race, which will take place on October 11, will raise money for the Relief Bus and currently has raised more than \$6,200 on his "**Race for the Relief Bus**" <https://www.crowdrise.com/ironmenforthehomeless/fundraiser/reliefbusrace> funding page. He and fellow triathlete Arnold Bunagan are hoping to reach a goal of \$10,525, or \$25 for each mile the pair will log in participating in races throughout the year.

"We are proud to call Jim a member of FPANJ, because he exemplifies what so many of our members do for their clients, communities and the public: provide selfless service," said Maria Eckert, Executive Director of FPANJ.

Jim also drew similarities with his profession, saying that it comes down to connecting with people, helping to meet challenges and making good things happen through partnership. It's also what keeps him involved in competition.

"I enjoy the camaraderie of racing, because people are so encouraging while they are also your competitors.

It's a shared challenge, and when you don't feel like you're going to make it, someone is there to encourage you, just as you're there to be encouraging to others."

For more information, contact Jim Parks at 973-951-1647.

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#### **About The Relief Bus:**

The Relief Bus outreach help the poor and homeless through two mobile buses with volunteers who serve meals to them. In the 20 years that The Relief Bus has operated, they have provided over 4.5 million servings of food and beverage, connected with 191,000 people to help, and mobilized more than 48,000 volunteers to serve with outreach.

It also has connected people to shelter, job training, medical care, detox and faith-based drug alcohol rehabilitation centers, transforming someone's future and making the difference between life and death.

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