

NEW HAVEN INDEPENDENT

IT'S YOUR TOWN. READ ALL ABOUT IT.

"Keep Going"

BY **Melissa Bailey** | FEB 4, 2013 8:03 AM

[\(1\) Comment](#) | [Post a Comment](#) | [E-mail the Author](#)

Posted to: [Arts](#), [Music](#), [Immigrants](#), [Sports](#), [East Rock](#)



Aly Tatchol Camara pulled out his dundun and banged out a beat from his homeland, helping 800 runners "jump in the fire" and race up the East Rock hill to raise money for immigrants and refugees.

Camara, of Guinea, kept the rhythm Sunday during the 6th annual Run for Refugees 5K, a fundraiser for East Rock's Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS).



CHRIS RANDALL / I LOVE NEW HAVEN.ORG PHOTO

The race left from Orange Street outside Wilbur Cross High School and wound up the hill towards East Rock.



MELISSA BAILEY PHOTO

Camara (pictured) brought out two dunduns, traditional West African drums, and took a seat on the guard rail on the side of Farnam Drive, waiting for runners to make it up, then down, the last stretch of incline. With two drumsticks, he banged out a "sinte" rhythm traditional to his homeland.

He said sinte is played in Guinea to accompany dancers who "jump in the fire." The beat urges dancers not to stop, he said.

"You've got to keep goin', keep goin'," he said. "If you stop, your feet are going to burn."

Guinea, who works with IRIS to help new arrivals settle in New Haven, was one of dozens of immigrants who attended Sunday's event.



MELISSA BAILEY PHOTO

Fair Haven student Luis Rodriguez.

The race drew strong representation from Fair Haven School, which hosts the city's "newcomer center" for refugee and immigrant students.



MELISSA BAILEY PHOTO

Some 30 students, staff and family members from Fair Haven School joined the race, complete with I ♥ Fair Haven T-Shirts and face paint, to raise money to support the 100-plus “newcomers” at their school.



JEFFREY KEREKES/ I LOVE NEW HAVEN.ORG PHOTO

more of their photos.



CHRIS RANDALL/ I LOVE NEW HAVEN.ORG PHOTO

You must [register for an account](#) and be logged in to comment

If you already have an account, please log in using the link in the [upper left corner of the page](#) | If not, please [register for an account](#).

Comment

posted by: HhE on February 4, 2013 12:40pm

Way cool.

Now if only IRIS could have a down hill only run, one a weekend I do not have my boys, then this 16th generation American would be all in.
