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Trim Your Hair, Dig A Well: Local Charity and Salon Raise Money For Clean Drinking Water In Africa

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Been thinking to convert from a Rachel cut to a Rhianna, or just in need of an inch off the ends? Whether you trim it or get a whole new look at the David Salon in Costa Mesa on September 21, there will be plenty of people who will dig the change. The salon, in partnership with Yorba Linda-based charity With This Ring, is hosting a cut-a-thon to raise money for clean drinking water wells in Yendi, Ghana.

The event is one in a series of "Orange County Gives Back" fall fundraisers being put on by With This Ring and local businesses to raise money for wells in Yendi, Ghana, an area roughly the size of Orange County. Up to \$32,000 of funds raised from the cut-a-thon and other Orange County Gives Back events will be matched by The Well, a group of house churches that meet throughout the Orange County area.

Founded in 2007, With This Ring began when Ali Eastburn, a hairstylist herself, donated her own wedding ring to raise money for a well in Ghana. A year later, over 50 women have donated their wedding rings in response to Eastburn's request. For her, the cut-a-thon is a natural extension. "Rings, jewelry, hairstyles—these are what society often uses to define women," says Eastburn. "So why not take these very symbols of status and turn them into symbols of service?"

The David Salon cut-a-thon will occur September 21, 2008 between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Located at 355 Bristol Street in Costa Mesa, the salon is donating every dollar of every haircut to With This Ring. Reservations (714-549-1160), walk-ins, men, women, and children, all are welcome to participate.

"This organization started as a radical vision," said Eastburn. "Now all of Orange County has the opportunity to join in the adventure."

If you are a business interested in participating in Orange County Gives Back, contact Ali Eastburn at ali@withthisring.org. If you would like to donate your wedding ring for the cause, visit www.withthisring.org for more information.