

From: [Joan Firkins](#)

I have been asked to forward this information to all clubs in our District by PDG Derek Bottomley from District 5060. Please note this is not a solicitation for funds but rather a solicitation for people who may be interested in participating and being a part of a twenty person team which will "climb the highest mountain in the Americas" and raise a million dollars for Polio"! The intent of this climb is to raise/gain publicity for Rotary as well as raise an additional \$1,000,000 for Polio, over and above our commitment to raise \$1000 per club over the next 3 years.

The climb is scheduled to take place in either December 2009 or January 2010 and will be led by renowned climber Laurie Skreslet, the first Canadian to climb Mt. Everest. The information sheet below outlines how the \$1,000,000 is to be raised - each of the 20 climbers to be sponsored for \$50,000! This is a herculean task but a doable task! Climbers will be looking for sponsorships from individuals, corporations, Rotarians, clubs and Districts - is there someone in your club who would like to be a part of this exciting venture? It would be appreciated if you would bring this to the attention of all your club members - please direct questions or comments to Finbar O'Sullivan whose contact information is listed below.

### **"ROTARY PEAKS FOR POLIO"**

**Aconcagua** is the highest peak in the western hemisphere and one of the worlds famous "Seven Summits". It sits on the Argentina / Chile border, close to the finest wine growing area in South America. It is high, 23,000 feet above sea level, but it has a non-technical route to the summit which makes this an achievable goal for people who are physically and mentally fit, and committed to Polio Plus and the climb. Climbs normally take place in December or January.

The climate in this beautiful part of the world ranges from warm summer temperatures to conditions on the mountain to rival winter in the Canadian Rockies. All of this makes an excellent challenge and an opportunity to raise money for the Polio Plus program.

Other organizations use Kilimanjaro in Kenya as their tool to raise money for important causes. Over the years they have had great success in raising large amounts of money.

Rotary made a commitment to the children of the world to eradicate polio, a terrifying and cruel disease. We are almost there. This goal is achievable.

**Aconcagua will help us to raise \$1 million dollars for Polio Plus.**

#### **Leadership on the climb**

Laurie Skreslet was the first Canadian to climb Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world and Laurie has led over twenty expeditions to Aconcagua. He has an impeccable safety record which makes him the ideal person to guide and lead our Rotary expedition. Laurie has committed to work with Rotary to achieve the \$1 million dollar fundraising goal for Polio Plus.

#### **Raising the money**

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have demonstrated its confidence in Rotary by donating \$100 million dollars to The Rotary Foundation for Polio Plus. Google has also committed a very large donation. Rotary has made a commitment to match these generous donations. Aconcagua will help us to make a significant contribution to the Rotary commitment.

Traditionally, mountaineers raise funds and equipment for major expeditions through corporate and individual sponsorships. A great example is the 1982 Everest

expedition where the climbing team raised several million dollars to put Laurie Skreslet and Pat Morrow on the summit.

In brief, the Rotary expedition will include 20 climbers who will cover their own expenses and will be sponsored for at least \$50,000 each = **\$1 million dollars for Polio Plus.**

We are asking Rotarians, clubs and Districts to help us to identify climbers and achieve the sponsorship of \$50,000 for each climber.

**For more information please contact Finbar O'Sullivan at: 250 862 9352. email: [finbar2@gmail.com](mailto:finbar2@gmail.com)**