



Trekking for Kids Contacts:

Bridgit Fried
bridgit@trekkingforkids.org
(301) 996-1673

Josephine Parr
joey_parr@hotmail.com
(646) 734-6449

Man Attempts to Become First in World to Complete Ultimate Global Challenge: Climb Highest Seven Summits, Ski to Both Poles and Run Across Four Deserts.

Len Stanmore Uses Last Desert Race to Raise Money for Orphans around the World

Washington DC – July 30, 2012 – Len Stanmore has announced he will run across The Last Desert in Antarctica in November 2012. When he completes the race, he will become the first person in history to climb the highest peaks on seven continents, ski to both the North and South poles and run across the four major deserts. This race, the fourth and final race of The 4 Deserts series, is a grueling 250 km, self-supported race across Antarctica. [Stanmore](#) will use this history making run as a fundraiser for [Trekking for Kids](#), a socially-conscious trekking organization that benefits orphans around the world.

“I started climbing in my late forties because of a friend’s challenge,” said Stanmore. “Completing the Last Desert Race at 60 is a great personal accomplishment, made even better because I can use this race to help children in orphanages who face bigger challenges than I can imagine.”

After building several successful telecommunications businesses, Stanmore was 49 years old, overweight and out of shape. A friend challenged him to change, causing Stanmore to decide to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro in 2001. This proved to be a life changing experience for him as he conquered his fear of heights and began his extraordinary attempt of the ultimate global challenge. The Last Desert will mark his final expedition as part of that challenge. In 12 years, he will have climbed each continent’s highest mountain, including Everest, skied to both poles and run through four deserts.

“It’s been an incredible experience and adventure,” said Stanmore. “I’m looking forward to finishing this challenge and, now, charge someone else to take up this ultimate global challenge. I did it in 12 years and raised thousands of dollars for people in need. I hope the next person beats both my time and my dollars raised.”

Stanmore was captivated by the plight of orphans he met during his expeditions and wanted to find a way to help. He was introduced to Trekking for Kids in 2009 during a tour of an orphanage in Quito, Ecuador. He decided to use his trek to the South Pole as a way to raise funds and awareness for Trekking for Kids. Stanmore will again raise money for Trekking for Kids as he makes his historic race across the Last Desert this November.

“Len started his incredible global explorations at an age when most people are thinking of slowing down,” said Cindy Steuart, executive director of Trekking for Kids. “Len exemplifies how ‘it’s never too late,’ which is a great message for the kids with whom we work. We’re honored that he continues to raise money for our efforts to make a difference in children’s lives.”

Stanmore will begin his Last Desert run on November 19, 2012. Donations in honor of Stanmore’s incredible effort can be made by going to www.trekkingforkids.org. Additional information about The 4 Deserts Series can be found at www.4deserts.com.

###

About Trekking for Kids

Trekking for Kids (TFK) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, which organizes purpose-driven treks for socially-conscious hikers in some of the world’s most remote and iconic locations. A Trekking for Kids expedition is like no other because it provides Trekkers with a truly unique opportunity to combine their thirst for adventure and the outdoors with their desire to help those less fortunate. TFK focuses on orphaned and at-risk children who live in the shadows of the world’s most coveted adventure destinations.

STANMORE'S EXPEDITION TIMELINE

Seven Summits	Mountain	Location
June 23, 2001	Mount Kilimanjaro	Tanzania, Africa
Dec 17, 2003	Vinson Massif	Antarctica
July 20, 2004	Mt. Elbrus	Russia
Jan 11, 2005	Aconcagua	South America
Feb 9, 2006	Kosciusko	Australia
May 24, 2006	Mt. Everest	Nepal
June 26, 2006	Mount McKinley	Alaska

Poles

April 17, 2007	Arrived at North Pole
Jan 14, 2012	Arrived at South Pole *

<u>Desert Crossings</u>	Desert	Location
March 12, 2011	Atacama Desert (250 km)	Chile
July 2, 2011	Gobi Desert(250 km)	China
Oct 8, 2011	Sahara Desert (250 km)	Egypt
Nov, 2012	The Last Desert	Antarctica (anticipated)

*North Pole expedition started in April 2007. The team met in Svalbard and flew to the Polar Cap to the Russian ice station in Barneo and skied to the North Pole arriving on April 17, 2007. South Pole expedition started in Jan 2012. Team flew from Punta Arenas to Union Glacier located in the Antarctic. From Union Glacier flew to 89 degree south and from there started skiing expedition and arrived at the South Pole January, 2012