



Mountain Fund Gets Grant for Porters in Pakistan

The Mountain Fund is pleased to announce we have helped Ken MacDonald receive a grant for \$3600 to hold a series of dialogues with porters in Pakistan and begin to lay the foundation for a full-fledged porter's program in that country. Ken's mission is to provide unity, safety and collective power to Pakistani porters serving the tourist and mountain climbing industry. Mountain Fund grant writer Molly Loomis worked with Ken on this project and this is a portion of an e-mail thank you we received from him:

I would not have accessed this money had it not been for the Mountain Fund and the support of their wonderful grant writer Molly Loomis. Molly identified a suitable funding program and structured a coherent and effective proposal that matched the funders requirements while being careful to make sure that she was not misrepresenting the goals of the project. It was a delight to work with the Mountain Fund and Molly, and I hope that the condition of mountaineering porters in the Karakoram will improve as a result of their efforts.

Ken MacDonald

Mountain Fund hosts Nepal trek and Medical Team

Mountain Fund Executive Director, Scott MacLennan, has just return from Nepal where he hosted a trek to Langtang and volunteer mission to the Karing for Kids clinic in the rural Rasuwa District. Accompanying Scott was recent med-school graduate Ari Stern and nurse Laura Tashjian. All along the trekking route the medical team was greeted by villagers in need of first aid or medical treatment.

At one village we met an older man who had just cut his hand very badly. Ari attended to the man with 8 stitches. This cut could have become seriously infected and life threatening given the distance to any medical care. We asked the man to come to the Karing for Kids clinic, near Goljung in five days for follow up treatment. On the fifth day he appeared dressed in his finest clothing after walking for over five hours in rough country. The hand was healing nicely and Ari will be checking on his progress again.

All along the trek people asked us to put a clinic in their village, as no one had any access to healthcare. The Mountain Fund and Karing for Kids will work together and try to build some additional clinics, or develop a visiting nurse program to several of the villages. Ari and Laura are staying and working at the clinic for a month, providing not only valuable medical expertise but training to the current clinic healthcare workers.

May 15th - Grand Opening !

Welcome New Member Agencies

Sustainable Travel International and the Zack Martin Breaking Barriers Fund are the newest additions to our member agencies.

Boulder, Colorado based Sustainable Travel International promotes responsible tourism and sustainable development by helping both travelers and the travel industry through educational programs and through the support and use of My Climate travel offset tickets. We are really happy to have them as a member.

The Zack Martin Breaking Barriers Fund was founded in memory of a young climber, Zack Martin. It is administered under the auspices of the American Alpine Club and makes grants available to young climbers willing to do service projects in countries around the world in conjunction with a climb. ZMBBF has identified nearly all of the Mountain Fund Member Agencies as organizations it feels provide good opportunity for grantees to climb and volunteer.

The Mountain Fund now has 12 Member Agencies. If you know of a nonprofit or NGO that belongs in the Mountain Fund, drop us a line at mtfund@mountainfund.org

Climbing Magazine's Annual Photo Issue - May 15th

Be sure to get a copy of this issue of Climbing. Inside you will find a 2/3 page ad for the Mountain Fund. Layout and design of this ad is by Mountain Fund Board Member Stephen Graepel and the striking photograph was provided by Board Member Jake Norton.

KFK proposes healthcare for IMEC Porter Program

May 15th is the official opening date of The Mountain Fund. We've already been very busy and accomplished a great deal. Just think what is possible when we are open for business !

Please send an e-mail to everyone you know and ask them to join The Mountain Fund by visiting www.MountainFund.org. You may also send an e-card from our web site letting people know about us.

Be the Mountain - Join today.

Grassroots.org

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You can get assistance with all of these at www.grassroots.org. Grassroots.org is a 501c3 non-profit organization that serves other nonprofit organizations and information consumers worldwide.

We provide free Internet services to charities, including full-featured web hosting and email services. We also provide legal consulting to charities at no charge including assistance with the following: incorporation, application for tax-exempt 501c3 status with the IRS, general employment, tax and risk management issues. We focus on serving non-religious organizations involved in Education, Environmentalism, Humanitarian Relief, Fighting Disease, Homeless Issues, Crime Control, Political Freedom, Government Reform, Consumer Protection, Youth Issues, Addiction, and other like-minded, non-legislative causes. By providing free services to charities we help them save money and become more efficient. In turn, they can provide additional benefits to their constituents.

Grassroots.org also provides content and links on the above topics to web users throughout the world. We strive to deliver clear and objective information that is usable by everyday global citizens, with extra emphasis on issues facing the United States. Our opinions and ideas are not influenced by any corporate, political, or religious affiliations. We also have nothing to sell and don't accept any advertising. On most web sites you can't count on that level of objectivity. We have no interest in being politically correct, only factually correct to the extent possible. When faced with no other options, we believe in aggressively promoting a solution which is the "lesser of two evils".

Grassroots.org is a very heavily trafficked web site due to the fact that many other sites feed in to it like Crime.org, Homeless.org, Relief.org, PublicService.org, Diseases.org, and hundreds more related and unrelated sites. Our content and linked sites are viewed throughout the world by many thousands of people each day. In some cases we partner with our non-profit customers to build custom, socially active sites at select URLs.

Grassroots.org's work is benefiting hungry, oppressed, uneducated, and other ailing people more and more each day.

Karing for Kids, based in Kathmandu, Nepal has started a dialogue with International Mountain Explorer's Connection to conduct regular and free health check ups for porters at the IMEC office in Thamel.

On his recent trip to Nepal, Mountain Fund Executive Director, Scott MacLennan, met with the Karing for Kids staff and local IMEC staff as well as several porters and guides to begin the process of designing such a program.

This is the power of one, strong, clear voice! Building teams, finding resources and expanding the capacity of our Member Agencies. Tell us how we can do more for you !!!!

Google Offers Free Search Tools to NonProfits

[Google Public Service Search](#)

Google, through its new Public Service Search section, is offering nonprofit organizations two free search tools for use on their web sites: SiteSearch, for searching within sites, and WebSearch, enabling users to search the Internet by keyword. The new, cost-free service also offers traffic reports, unlimited queries, and allows for customization, and no banner ads or other paid advertising will show on search result pages. For additional information and answers to FAQs, visit the web site listed above.

This information was obtained via the GrantStation Insider News.

Are You a Blogger?

Blogs are a great way to share personal stories and information, but what about using one to further your organization's mission? Find out how four nonprofit blogs got their start, and what the bloggers have learned. http://www.techsoup.org/howto/npostory_article.cfm?articleid=80&topicid=13

Healthy and Secure Computing guidelines

Alpine Fund Opens in Dushanbe, Tajikistan!

by Garth Willis - President, Alpine Fund

I have long wanted to have the Alpine Fund expand to more countries and become a regional presence for youth programs, environmental protection, and mountain tourism development. With the opening of the Alpine Fund in Tajikistan that day has finally arrived.

The goals of the Fund are the same as they were almost five years ago when we opened the Alpine Fund in Bishkek, to get kids into the mountains, and to promote responsible mountain tourism development. But we have learned a lot along the way and now we are starting Tajikistan with a comprehensive program of climbing, hiking, ecology, computers, language, and communication skills.

Starting a new office and program in Central Asia is not an easy task. The first step was to register the organization, then to find office space and staff. I found a comfortable 2 room office in the center of town and purchased furniture, a computer, and a conference table for lessons. There are already two staff: Kamina, who studied in the US for a year on the US State Department FLEX program and is now a student at the university, is the office manager; and Muzafar, who in the days of the Soviet Union trained rescue teams but is now retired, is the Alpine Trainer. The two of them are already a great team, Muzafar teaches about mountains, climbing and safety, Kamina organizes the office and does outreach to organizations. Our initial partner organizations are a local school which houses kids that do not have support, and a street center for children that do not have a safe home to go to after school.

We started work in Tajikistan about a month ago by taking a group of six boys from a street shelter to go climbing outside of Dushanbe. The kids at first wanted to show us how tough they were, and that they did not need to listen to us, but we have an old tough alpinist as the trainer and by the end of the day they listened to what he had to say. After three trips to the mountains it is like they are a new group of kids. It is clear right from the start that these kids grew up on the street and have not had adults treat them with respect, but already with the trips to the mountains we have cut through their tough outside face and now they are asking questions, and proudly show us how they belay for each other, and check each others knots.

Most amazing is that on the second day climbing two of them were already climbing a 5.10 roof at the climbing crag. The other experienced climbers that were helping us were amazed at their ability and complete lack of fear.

At first the girls at the school did not want to go, and their parents did not allow them to go, but now that they have seen pictures of what the guys did we have three girls from a local school attending trainings. We will gather their parents together and explain what the Alpine Fund does, how it helps them in many ways not just to know mountains but to get ahead in life. We are confident that within a few months we will have a team of boys and girls that are already experience hikers and climbers and the Alpine Fund in Tajikistan will be on its way.

And in a great step forward I decided to buy a van right from the start of the program, it will be the van that takes kids to new heights, it will be their magic bus and when it pulls up they know that an adventure is waiting.

To see a set of guidelines for commonly used technologies in the following areas:

PC hardware
PC software
LAN technologies
Server technologies
Internet technologies
Security and privacy
Ergonomics

Visit this site: <http://www.consultantcommons.org/node/153>

Sites worth Seeing

Board Cafe - from CompassPoint. The online newsletter for nonprofit board members that is *Short enough to read over a cup of coffee.*™

The URL is <http://www4.compasspoint.org>

NEW, or NonProfit Enterprise at Work is a listing of many sites related to marketing and advertising for nonprofits. The URL is <http://www.new.org/resourceconnect>

The Fundraising Success Advisor at <http://gal.org/fsadvisor>

The Foundation Center at <http://fdncenter.org>

The Philanthropy journal at <http://www.philanthropyjournal.org/>

NonProfit Online News at <http://news.gilbert.org>

TechSoup at www.techsoup.org

Grantstation at www.grantstation.com

Guidestar at www.guidestar.com

Set these sites up in your RSS system and have a great digest of hot topics.

One World On-Line News - Become a Reporter

There are also a lot of other challenges unique to Tajikistan. There is almost no tourism here, even though there are some of the greatest mountains in the world. Where in Kyrgyzstan there was a transfer of knowledge as the Soviet climbing teams metamorphosed themselves into private companies, in Tajikistan there was a civil war in the mid 1990's and just about everybody that was active in mountaineering left the country never to return. Now that the country is once again safe and quiet the tourists are starting to return, but there only a literal handful of guides and companies that are prepared to work with clients. To help meet this need the Alpine Fund will start to train university students on basic skills so that there will be a base of guides starting this summer. We will also be working on a website with climbing information for all of Tajikistan.

So as you can see, we have a lot of work to do, but there is an excitement in the air as the programs get started, and we already seeing positive results in the kids we work with. Be sure to follow our adventures, and come over an join us if you can.

The Alpine Fund is a Member Agency of The Mountain Fund

Does your organization have current and active news to report? If so, take a look at www.oneworld.net.

OneWorld's network of autonomous centres have partnerships with a wider community of more than 1,500 civil society organizations based in 90 countries. Our partners include charities, human rights NGOs, grassroots community groups, UN and government agencies, university departments, environmental organizations, trade unions, research institutions, advocacy groups, and feminist organizations — groups of all shapes and sizes.

For all their diversity, our partners share two key attributes:

- a commitment to human rights, sustainable development and social justice; and
- a conviction that our whole community can be stronger than the sum of its parts.

Every weekday, OneWorld's many different country, continental and language editions highlight our partners' latest news, their best features, their most compelling campaigns. The result: OneWorld partners reach new and larger audiences, and our readers get a valuable alternative source of news and opinion.

Send Us Your News!!

The Mountain Fund publishes two regular newsletters; the one you are reading right now that goes to our Member Agencies and one that starts this month, May, and goes to individual members and supporters of the Mountain Fund. We need news from you to tell the membership! What did your organization do this month, this week? Have a success story to share like Ken MacDonald did? Starting a new program or just letting the members know more about the programs you already have. Please give us content. The purpose is to let our supporters know why they should be supporting you. Send your articles to MtnFund@MountainFund.org today!

Swahili Saying

The saying below and translation was provided by Mountain Fund Member Agency - Kilimanjaro Guides and Porters - who's motto is "Together we will go Further"

“Muacha Mila ni mtumwa”

Translation:

The one who forgets his/her culture is a slave.

Meaning:

Leaving your own culture and worshiping someone's culture is a slave to that culture. It is very expensive to adopt someone's culture, and sometimes you will never suit to it.

Some of the African cultures have changed and now young generations have started adopting western culture. Such nice beliefs and habits have been abandoned!

The way of worshiping, the ways of producing food and some of the like have been rejected.

Wa-Arusha and Wa-meru who live along the slopes of Meru see the problems facing them; shortage of water and drying Rivers as a curse because Arusha National Park has stopped them using the Mountain for worshiping.

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