



ALYESKA RESORT
ALASKA

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ALYESKA RESORT EMPLOYEE PREPARES FOR MOUNT KILIMANJARO CLIMB TO RAISE FUNDS FOR GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR AFRICA

February 26, 2010 (Girdwood, Alaska) – Lauren Dreitzler, a sales manager for Alyeska Resort in Girdwood, Alaska will be embarking on a trip to Africa in September to help raise money for HIV/AIDS assistance programs for children in Africa. Dreitzler has been volunteering for Global Alliance for Africa since 2007. “It was such an incredible feeling knowing that your efforts can have such a huge impact on so many people,” says Dreitzler, “And seeing the programs first hand is something that I will never forget.”

Global Alliance for Africa works with African non-profit groups who support children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. GAA strives to provide training to financially strengthen families and communities as well as educational opportunities to prepare adolescents to support themselves. “Our approach helps households and communities to build their capacities to provide children with shelter and a safe living environment, education, health care, food, security, counseling, and legal representation,” Dreitzler said.

This will not be Dreitzler’s first trip to Africa. She first reached the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro in 2007, where she was taken back by the pure sincerity and kindness of the local people. “It definitely makes you put your own life in perspective when you see how these people can appear to be so happy with relatively nothing,” she said. “When I came back it was culture shock to see how much stuff I own. When I’m here it feels important, but over there it just isn’t.”

Mt. Kilimanjaro is highly accessible even though it is Africa’s tallest mountain at 19,340 feet at the summit. The climb goes slowly because of acclimation, taking five days to go up and one day down. “I think anyone who can really focus their energy on this climb can definitely do it,” she said. The trip lasts about 17 days, from September 17 to October 3, 2010, and can accommodate up to 12 people.

Lauren encourages others from the community to join her in the climb. “On the trip you do everything that there is to do in East Africa,” she says, “You visit a giraffe refugee in Nairobi, climb Kilimanjaro, visit the Ngorongoro Crater, go on a Serengeti Safari and relax on Zanzibar Island. We basically did and saw everything that you could think of. ”



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To be eligible for the trip, you must raise a minimum of \$5,000, which goes to GAA to support their programs. The individual cost of the trip is \$5,500, which includes flights to Kenya and Tanzania, transportation, permits, safari, lodging, food and visa. Registration ends on April 1, 2010. If you are interested in participating in the climb or donating to the cause, please contact Lauren at ldreitzler@alyeskaresort.com or 907-754-2214.

About Alyeska Resort (www.alyeskaresort.com)

Alyeska Resort is Alaska's premier year-round destination featuring The Hotel Alyeska, an award-winning 304 room full-service property. Located just 40 miles from Anchorage, Alyeska Resort is your base camp for summer and winter excursions. Alyeska Resort stands out during ski season with 650" of average snowfall annually and the longest-continuous double black diamond ski run in North America. Learn more about the resort at www.alyeskaresort.com or 800.880.3880.

Global Alliance for Africa (www.globalallianceafrica.org)

GAA works with African not-for-profit agencies, faith-based organizations, and local communities to design and develop economic strengthening programs for families and communities who take care of and support children orphaned by HIV/AIDS and other vulnerable children. They are committed to the development of long-term, self-sustaining programs that meet needs identified by Africans themselves.