

Climbing 4 Spina Bifida Final Newsletter 7-6-11

Greetings friends and supporters as well as sponsors. This is the final edition of my Climbing 4 Spina Bifida Newsletter. It is with regret that this will be the last edition for us but I have no choice because I have no climbers besides myself.

It has been a very rough road over the last 17 months for me losing Erin. She truly inspired great things from many people and she is deeply missed. Erin was my world and the person I have always and will always loved most. She showed me what love truly was and though her life was very hard she lived a life full of love, grace and dignity. No matter how hard her life was she lived it with a smile. Anybody who wished can sign her guest book online or check out the website I built to honor her.

http://www.meaningfulfunerals.net/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=520566&fh_id=11435

<http://erin-page.memory-of.com/About.aspx>

I started this because I wanted to raise awareness about Spina Bifida. It was very important to me to show people that people with Spina Bifida are just normal people with the same hopes and dreams as everybody else. I wanted to show people that there is no such thing as being "disabled" because I always believed that they are in fact able. Erin was the inspiration for this adventure. She inspired many people around the world and people around the world know her because of the Myspace that it all began with.

I found a lot of climbers who were eager to participate in this but none who went the distance. I have two climbers in Gwen and Brian out West that still climb for us. They have not given up and I thank them for that. They honor Erin and all I have tried to do. Other climbers on the West Coast I never hear from with the exception of Don Enos who is still determined to top all of his peaks and I believe he will just as I believe Gwen and Brian will. In those climbers I have found true friends.

It has been very unfortunate that Joe Lesson has decided to quit C4SB and keep all the gear that you the sponsor donated for this cause. Mr. Lesson has over 5000.00 of the gear you donated for C4SB but has refused to return it though he hasn't climbed in 2 years. The gear sits in his house collecting dust but he refuses to return any of it. He has refused to return personal things of mine such as DVDS. Mr. Lesson has even refused to return the summit photos of Erin and team gear such as team jackets, ice axe etc. Mr. Lesson has dishonored all we tried to do and himself by doing this. Mr. Lesson has chosen to attempt to charge me with harassment when I try to ask him to return this gear that belongs to C4SB.

Mr. Lesson was in charge of obtaining photos for our winter gear sponsor Mount 7 and failed to provide anything for the so we lost our winter gear sponsor.

Mr. Lesson had high hopes or so he told me about C4SB but has chosen to instead dishonor the very people who tried to bring him to new heights. He had big plans of higher peaks and we had hope to help him get there. It is with a heavy heart that I tell you all Joe Lesson is no longer part of C4SB and in the end Joe Lesson was full of nothing but spite and meanness.

If Joe Lesson approaches any of you for a sponsorship of any kind I urge to reject him

because he will not follow through with anything he says. Though I doubt he will climb anything again please do not sponsor or donate to him or any organization he may wind up on. If you want your gear returned please contact Mr. Lesson.

I have tried getting out for smaller peaks but with no partner is it difficult to go on trip alone for safety reasons. I continue to climb and will do so.

Though I failed to climb 67 peaks I found that in the end I was where I should have been and that was with Erin.

Maybe I expected too much from the many climber I put my faith and trust in. I had so many climbers with only Don Enos and Nancy Rios returning gear so we could use it. I trusted far too many people in this journey and lost much gear and the only way to get it back is small claims court. It makes me sad that I believed in so many people and trusted Joe Lesson more than anyone and in the end I stood alone.

I am sorry we let you the sponsors, supporters down and did not fulfill our end of the bargain but I thank you for your help in everyway you helped. I hope to continue to climb and reach these peaks in honor of my Beautiful Daughter Erin but it will take time and gear will be at my own expense. I have minimal gear because I took care of my climbers before myself but that is o.k.

In the end climbing 4 spina bifida mattered to only 3 climbers and that makes me very sad.

Thank you to all of you who have supported us in every way you ever could.

I wish you all the best!

John Page

John Page
218 Latham Works Lane
White River Junction, Vermont 05001
[802-698-8042](tel:802-698-8042)

<http://erin-page.memory-of.com/About.aspx>

Expedition Leader/Founder
Climbing 4 Spina Bifida
www.climbing4spinabifida.org