

Namaste,

From the shadows of the Himalayas, I have just landed back in the nation's capital glowing from recent expeditions atop some of the world's highest peaks.

Though climbing over 8 000 m has its challenges, it does not compare to that which has come in the wake of my traumatic brain injury. Left with only 30% vision and a life threatening eating disorder, a medical team, hundreds of hands from 7 hospitals across 3 countries, guided me on an expedition of survival.

Following 26 months of medical care, I chose to adventure in some of the world's most majestic mountains while adapting to vision loss and accepting life's trail. From the Andorra Pyrenees, Italian Dolomites, French and Swiss Alps, Slovenia's Julian Alps, Iceland, India and Nepal Himalaya, New Zealand, Argentina, Peru, and the American Rockies, mountain running, climbing and skiing, I embrace the life I nearly lost.

Beginning in Northern Ontario, my story has found a global trail of its own. Several <u>international publications, radio, podcasts, and interviews</u> have highlighted my adventures including CBC Radio, Trail Run Magazine, The Globe and Mail, Outpost Magazine, Red Bull's Red Bulletin Magazine, notable references in Outside Magazine and a feature and podcast with blind climber <u>Erik Weihenmayer</u>.

Following expeditions on Island Peak, Lobuche East, skiing Mera Peak, the technically renowned Ama Dablam (6 812 m), Himlung (7 1 26 m) and Manaslu (8 163 m), I have arrived to train in North America before climbing Dhaulagiri (8 167 m), the official launch of a personal project, Vision 8 000, in the new year.

Vision 8 000, climbing all of the world's 14 peaks that stand above 8 000 m, I aim to break down the stigma associated with traumatic brain injury, vision loss, and eating disorders. Through such challenging mountain experiences, others will witness the power of perspective and possibility despite adversity. The 13 expeditions will each require specific gear and approximately 30 000 USD to unfold safely and successfully.

As evident in this video, being a visually impaired adventure athlete with unique content and the inspiration that is Vision 8000, contagious energy is fabricated into my story. In addition to my teammates at Mountain Safety Research (MSR), I would be grateful to have you and your team become part of the supporting cast. I welcome the opportunity to exclusively wear your gear, goggles and glasses share, my story in person or virtually to inspire your team, promote your company on my website, Mountains of my Mind, social media avenues, publishing and speaking on your behalf.

With appreciation and anticipation of hearing of an opportune time to speak and hear how you *see* your team becoming part of the fabric of my story and a key player in Vision 8000,

Jill

Jill Wheatley



Mountains of my Mind

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