



Taking Advocacy to New Heights

Hartford Engineer and Entrepreneur Rohan Freeman treks to North Pole to raise money for children's non-profits

WEST HARTFORD, Conn (March 29, 2016)-- Rohan Freeman, the President and Founder of Freeman Companies of Hartford, has already accomplished more than most people will in their lifetime. He emigrated from Jamaica to the US where he built his own engineering company. He has climbed the seven highest peaks of the world. And he sits on the boards of several not-for-profits as he works tirelessly to ensure that children from all walks of life are afforded the same opportunities. On April 1st, he'll combine his passion for advocacy and adventuring as he embarks on a journey to the top of the world—the North Pole.



Freeman's excursion, or "Expedition for Opportunity," as it's been called serves a larger purpose than fulfilling his sense of adventure. During his trek, Freeman will be raising funds for three charities for which he is an active board member. Each organization's mission is dedicated to serving families and socioeconomically disadvantaged children.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Hartford, Camp Courant and The New Children's Museum in West Hartford will be cheering on Freeman's ascent. Money raised through Freeman's GoFundMe page will be divided equally among the three organizations.

"The mission of these organizations is to nurture and develop young people to achieve their highest potential," says Freeman. "Doing whatever I can do to support this objective is very important to me. Also, this is a good way to bring awareness of the outdoors and environment to the kids in a way that is fun as well as educational."

Freeman himself struggled financially as a young man. He was forced to leave college to take on multiple jobs to pay for his degree and eventually went on to graduate from UConn with a B.S. in Civil Engineering in 1995. After working for several of the area's prominent design firms Freeman took a leave of absence in 2009 to climb Mount Everest. Shortly after his successful summit he founded

Freeman Companies, LLC. In the years since, this multi-disciplinary, Hartford-based land development, engineering design and construction services firm has thrived.

For eight days, Rohan Freeman will be trekking through the arctic cold on his quest to reach the North Pole. Facing an average temperature of -30°F and dangers such as thin ice and open waters, Freeman is looking forward to the adventure: “Everything before us is as it was centuries ago, when early explorers first ventured into this truly remote region...the feeling is one of isolation and exclusivity, as if we are the first to discover the North Pole.”

Those interested in donating and following Freeman’s “Expedition for Opportunity” are encouraged to visit his GoFundMe page: www.gofundme.com/Trek4Kids. The three not-for-profits and Freeman Companies will also be chronicling the adventures and their coordinating programming with the hashtag #Trek4Kids.

Freeman will be personally matching the first \$1,000 raised, dollar-for-dollar. He will make a 10% match on donations \$1,000 through \$10,000. If the \$10,000 goal is met before April 13th, Freeman has also volunteered to take a celebratory “polar plunge” into the water of the Arctic.

Located at eight sites throughout the Capitol Region, Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford enable all young people, especially those most in need, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens. In more than 156 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford have provided program opportunities for over 7,000 boys and girls every year in areas such as character and leadership development, education and career growth, arts and cultural enrichment as well as fitness and recreation. To become a member, volunteer, donate, or learn more about Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford please call 860-929-7667 or visit www.bgchartford.org.

As the oldest and largest FREE summer day camp in the nation, Hartford’s Camp Courant provides a safe, exciting and educational environment in which Hartford’s youth, ages five (5) through 12, participate in active learning opportunities and fun activities focused on positive youth development and healthy lifestyle choices. Camp’s mission is grounded in the central premise that fun yet educational experiences will have a positive and lifelong impact on young campers, many of whom lack structured programming during the summer months. More information is available at CampCourant.org.

The New Children’s Museum and Roaring Brook Nature Center are the region’s premiere destinations for exploration and education. Home to over 100 live animals, the Museum features hands-on exhibits, out-of-this-world digital planetarium shows, and programs for young children and families. The New Children’s Museum and Preschool are located at 950 Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford and Roaring Brook Nature Center is located at 70 Gracey Road in Canton. More information is available at www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org.

For more information about “Expedition for Opportunity” please contact Michael Knowles of Freeman Companies at (860) 604-5141 ext. 114 or mknowles@freemancos.com.

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