



Kristen Sandquist Advocate and Business Owner



Kristen is the CEO of K2 Adventures Foundation, a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit, national and international organization whose mission is to care for children, adults and families with special needs and/or life changing medical circumstances. Started in 2009 with President and co-founder Kevin Cherilla, K2 provides individuals with the services, support and funds necessary for their educational and medical enrichment. In tandem with K2 Adventures Foundation, Kristen and Kevin own an adventure travel company called K2 Adventure Travel that combines international hiking adventures with community service projects.

Kristen has been passionate about nonprofit service for over 20 years. Prior to co-founding K2, she launched her first nonprofit, Circle of Friends, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin to help under-served individuals in the community obtain basic necessities. Her small idea started in one school and is currently running 24 years later in over 25 schools.

Today, Kristen serves disabled populations in the U.S. and abroad in Tanzania, Peru and Nepal. Her service is founded on her core belief that all individuals, disabled or not, deserve the opportunity to fulfill their potential.

In Tanzania K2's support provides safety, education and nourishment for blind and albino orphans who face persecution because of cultural beliefs and stereotypes surrounding their diagnoses. In Peru, K2 donates adaptive equipment, as well as monetary resources, to enhance the educational opportunities of students with physical and cognitive disabilities. In Nepal, K2 is committed to aiding the recovery of local populations devastated by natural disasters, offering continuous humanitarian support and relief materials such as food, clothing and shelter.

Domestically, Kristen has made it her mission to offer individuals in the disabled community adaptive recreational opportunities and financial assistance through K2's catalog of local programs and awards. Whether it is hosting an adaptive game of baseball for kids, or purchasing personalized prosthetic equipment for a wounded veteran, K2 is proud to provide services and support that would otherwise be unattainable for many local families.

Kristen graduated from Arizona State University in 1992 with a BA in Education, and received a Master's Degree in Education from Cardinal St. Ignace University in 1997. She is an international mountain guide and a certified NOLS Wilderness First Responder with 13 successful summits of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Kristen is a mother of four boys and strives to be a role model to all her children. She has incorporated a junior board of directors within K2 Adventures Foundation for youth to be involved in community service and exposed to an ethics of compassion.



What Others Are Saying About Kristen

“I have had the pleasure of hearing Kristen speak to many audiences over the last 10 years. Kristen has a powerful message that opens people’s eyes to the non-profit world and how to be of service to others. Kristen is a true example of strong leadership and positive thinking that affect the lives of everyone she meets.”

Kaki O’Shaughnessy

K2 Donor & Client

“We are always looking for inspirational speakers to share their story with our Scottsdale Chapter members and Kristen far exceeded our expectations! She not only shared her journey of how she became co-founder of K2 Adventures Foundation, but also left a lasting impression on our mothers and daughters to dream big and be open to a world full of possibilities. They are still talking about how awesome she was!”

Past President, NCL, Inc. Scottsdale Chapter

For more information on K2 Adventures Foundation, please visit www.k2adventures.org.