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The Team Everest '03 expedition is first and foremost about promoting the potential of people with disabilities. This 18-month campaign culminates in a **spring 2003 expedition to Mt. Everest**, the world's highest peak. The expedition will include a team of people representing a diversity of disabilities who will trek to the base camp of Mt. Everest Base Camp, and a summit team who will attempt to reach the 29,035ft summit. TE03 plans to raise \$1 million for the expedition and to promote the work of CTD.

www.teameverest03.org

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD) is dedicated to ensuring that people with disabilities enjoy equal opportunities to live, work, play and participate fully in the community of their choice. CTD was founded in 1978 and is an IRS-approved 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Challenge Trek: 15 team members, the majority from Texas, have committed to the mission of TE '03: to carry the message of the endless potential of people with disabilities to the 17,300ft base camp of Mt. Everest, higher than any point on the continental US. The team represents a variety of disabilities and includes members who have amputations, use wheelchairs, and have hearing, visual, mental and learning impairments.

"By making it, you are defeating the limitations that others put on you, simply for being disabled. You can prove to them that your heart can do what your limbs may be restricted from doing." Matt Standridge, paraplegia, Challenge Trek Team Member

Summit Team: From base camp, expert mountaineer and amputee Gary Guller will attempt to be the first climber with one arm to reach the summit.

Everest Permit: His Majesty's government in Nepal has awarded Team Everest '03 permission to climb Mt. Everest; only 20 permits worldwide are awarded each year!

Media: 2003 marks the highly publicized 50th anniversary of the first summit of Mt. Everest. Since its February 2002 launch, TE '03 has been highlighted in *TIME* Magazine and countless local, state and national media. There has been strong interest from *Sports Illustrated*, *Texas Monthly*, *ABC* and *CBS* television and *EverestNews.com* among others. A November 20, 2002, press conference hosted by Texas Governor Rick Perry hit the national wire of the Associated Press. Media giant The Belo Corp., with 22 major market TV stations and a dozen newspapers including its flagship *Dallas Morning News*, will have an on-site photographer and reporter for dedicated coverage from the expedition.

Gary Guller and Kirk Watson at TE '03 Kickoff

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