



Emma Kowalczyk is remembered by family friend Armand Musey on the summit of Mt. Everest shortly after the infant died in 2008. Photo courtesy of Armand Musey

been touched by Emma's story. In the spirit of solidarity and love that so many expressed during his family's grief, Matt decided to combine his passion for mountaineering with his desire to spread awareness of fetal syndromes.

In 2007, Climb for Kids was born — a nonprofit dedicated to challenging mountain enthusiasts to scale peaks with professional guidance and raise both awareness and money for organizations supporting fetal syndrome.

"I established Climb for Kids because I felt I had to give

back to the community that had given so much to my family," says Kowalczyk. "I figured the best way to do that was by combining the two things I knew the most about, mountaineering and startups."

Since then, Climb for Kids has sponsored summits of Mount Rainier, Mt. Hood, Ruth Mountain, and even the majestic Mont Blanc in the Alps.

It is Matt's hope that the spirit of Emma will continue thriving in the hearts of those standing atop the world's most stunning peaks. And it is Matt's goal that each step will contribute to stamping out fetal syndromes.

*Yitka Winn is a freelance writer living in Seattle.*

## Did you know?

Kirkland's Evergreen Hospital and Medical Center is one of only 10 facilities in the United States currently able to provide treatment for TTTS. Its Fetal Therapy Program is dedicated to the diagnosis and management of complicated fetal problems requiring surgical treatment while the fetus is still in the womb.

### More info:

[www.climbforkids.org](http://www.climbforkids.org)

[www.fetalhope.org](http://www.fetalhope.org)

[www.evergreenhealthcare.org](http://www.evergreenhealthcare.org)



# Climb For Kids.org

## Climbing Can Save A Life

Do you have a passion for the outdoors? Put that passion to good use by participating in a Climb For Kids event! Climb beautiful mountains while helping families struggling with the effects of fetal syndromes. You'll meet new people, learn a little about mountaineering, and who knows, if you're lucky, you may even make it to the summit. Don't climb? Then consider sponsoring a climber who is working hard to make a difference in other people's lives. Learn more at <http://climbforkids.org>

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| 06.05.2010 | Mt. Hood      |
| 06.12.2010 | Ruth Mountain |
| 07.17.2010 | Mt. Baker     |
| 08.25.2010 | Mt. Rainier   |

