



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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B.C. Father-Child Duos Ready to Conquer a Mountain for Anything for Alzheimer's

Vancouver, B.C. — This year, the Alzheimer Society of B.C. is excited to have four participants who are doing *Anything for Alzheimer's* by hiking Africa's highest mountain, Mt. Kilimanjaro! Starting September 10, father-daughter duo Salim and Safiya Kamani and father-son team Bill and Spencer Der will literally conquer a mountain in order to make a difference to those who face dementia.

While the four will face various challenges on their 19,341 foot hike, Bill has an additional one: he is visually impaired. One driving factor of Bill's summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro is to focus his energy to help others reach their summit of life, just as others have helped him to overcome his obstacles battling glaucoma. He is also hiking in memory of his wife Lana, who passed away last year. If this wasn't enough – Bill is also raising \$15,000 each for the Alzheimer Society of B.C. and The Down Syndrome Research Foundation.

"Alzheimer's disease and other dementias are no strangers to our family," says Bill, who has lost a family friend to dementia and whose long-time friend, Vic, is currently living with the disease. "It's difficult to watch Vic and his family as they go through the changes and challenges presented by the disease."

Salim, a family dentist, has been inspired to hike because of the increase he's seen in the number of his patients and their families affected by dementia. "My daughter and I want to do our part to bring awareness", he says. The pair is also hoping to raise \$50,000 for the Society.

"We are thrilled to have the support of the Ders and the Kamanis," says the Society's Resource Development Director Patrick Estey, "They are wonderful examples of committed fundraisers who do *Anything for Alzheimer's* across the province to support those who face dementia. The initiative makes it easy for participants to take their unique idea and make it a success. As well as hiking mountains, participants have held bake sales, charity concerts, cycle challenges and butterfly releases – you truly can do *Anything for Alzheimer's*."

Funds raised from *Anything for Alzheimer's* events support programs and services in the province that improve the quality of life for people living with dementia and their families, as well as helping to fund research into the causes and cures. For more information on *Anything for Alzheimer's* or to learn more and support the Kamanis and Ders please visit anythingforalzheimers.ca.

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About Dementia

Dementia is a term that describes a general group of brain disorders. Symptoms include the loss of memory, impaired judgment, and changes in behaviour and personality. Dementia is progressive, degenerative and eventually terminal. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia accounting for almost two-thirds of dementias in Canada today.

About the Alzheimer Society of B.C.

The Alzheimer Society of B.C. provides a provincial network of support and education for families impacted by dementia and people concerned about memory loss. Communities across the province count on the Society for support services, information and education programs, advocacy to improve dementia care in B.C., and to fund research to find the causes and cures. As part of a national federation, the Society is a leading authority on the disease in Canada.



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