

Karin Schwegler Volunteering, Raising Funds for Charity Dedicated to Educating Children

Karin Schwegler's organizational and marketing talents extend far beyond the daily demands of working for the Products Marketing practice within Accenture.

As a volunteer with Room to Read, Karin has used her skills while working on translation, event planning and marketing projects for the organization. Among their goals, Room for Read is dedicated to helping underdeveloped areas establish libraries and schools to provide better education for children.

Karin will be climbing to new heights in her volunteerism from September 26 to October 3, 2009, as she is actively planning to complete a hiking tour to one of Morocco's highest peaks, M'Goun. With a goal of raising US\$25,000 for the organization, which is the amount needed to fund 10 scholarships for 10 years each, Karin is currently looking for 10 to 12 participants to join her in meeting the fundraising goal and also willing to take part in the hiking tour.

Money collected helps support the continuing efforts the organization is making in nine rural areas—Nepal, Vietnam, Cambodia, India, Sri Lanka, Laos, South Africa, Zambia and Bangladesh—as Room to Read builds schools, establishes bi-lingual libraries and funds long-term scholarships for young girls.

[Karin's personal page](#) provides details on joining her hiking team and information on donating to the fundraising goal.

Karin was first introduced to Room to Read while reading the book *Leaving Microsoft to Change the World*, written by the charity's founder, John Wood. In it, Karin learned of Wood's desire to aid in educating children in underdeveloped countries after a trek he took in Nepal. Wood was a former senior executive at Microsoft who quit his job to begin working in communities where educational resources were lacking.

"While reading the book, I got really excited. I thought it was a terrific idea and I wanted to learn more," Karin said. "I am a trained publisher and have traveled to many of the countries that John wrote about. I want to share the love to read and the love for books with children. The ability to read and write is so important to be able to learn, grow and understand the world and to form your own opinions. If you give children a good education, it enables them for life."

Since its creation in 2000, Room to Read has built 765 schools, established more than 7,000 libraries, funded 6,817 long-term girl's scholarships, established 179 computer and language labs, and helped improve the education and daily existence of more than 3.1 million children.

After completing John's book Karin began researching the organization, gathering information from the [Room to Read](#) website and reading interviews in German newspapers. Ultimately, she touched base with the Room to Read organization to begin helping in their mission.

Volunteering on her own time, Karin is able to focus on areas pertaining to her expertise as Room to Read gives volunteers the opportunity to pick projects they would like to work on when their schedule allows. Some projects Karin took on recently include working with an editorial team and graphic designer when she was responsible for creating a German brochure publicizing the organization. Last Christmas season she also helped develop a calendar that was to be sold as a fundraising gift. And now her efforts are focused on organizing the trek for a good cause.

"I like volunteering because I can put my skills and experience to great use. When I read about Room to Read in John's book, I felt like it was the right thing to do," Karin said. "Okay, I don't bring experience in fundraising, but I can help raise awareness and use my marketing skills to help benefit Room to Read."

If you want to join her hiking tour or seek more information on the Room to Read organization, contact [Karin Schwegler](#).