



STACY BARE

Tall and strong, trustworthy and compassionate, Stacy exudes the confidence of a natural leader. Leading men in battle had been a childhood dream, yet it has played out a bit differently than he expected. After his trials in the war and battling emotional wounds after discharge, Stacy has found another way to lead men and women. He started *Vet Expeditions*, a nonprofit organization to help others like himself overcome the emotional injuries incurred by their experiences in the military. Stacy challenges vets to conquer not only mountains, but also their fears, helping them find a lost belief in themselves, as well as a new beginning along the way.

Stacy is currently in charge of all outdoor programs for the *Sierra Club*. He lives in Utah and feels great satisfaction that his job offers the opportunity to help others.



**IMAGINE...**

being 11 years old and knowing you want to lead men into combat.

**IMAGINE...**

getting an ROTC scholarship and feeling like you got picked first in the NFL draft.

**IMAGINE...**

a barracks room full of 18 other men.

**IMAGINE...**

knowing that statistically, three of them will not come back, but you don't get to know who—not yet.

**IMAGINE...**

going to war in Iraq.

**IMAGINE...**

war.

**IMAGINE...**

coming home from war and no one even knows there is a war, much less where that war is on a map.

**IMAGINE...**

people afraid of you because you went to war.

**IMAGINE...**

the shallow appreciation of a nation you went to serve and the stinging discrimination because you did.

**IMAGINE...**

the depression, the suicidal thoughts, losing friends, their lack of understanding, your inability to adjust, the fits of rage, and the isolation of returning home from war.

**IMAGINE...**

feeling granite, earth, solidarity in your hands as you go vertical on a rock face for the first time since coming home from war.

**IMAGINE...**

being on the side of a mountain, and the sense of utility...the sense of self...the sense of purpose coming back to you.

**IMAGINE...**

on the rock, no one cares whether you went to war or not.

**IMAGINE...**

bringing this experience to thousands of veterans around the world.

**IMAGINE...**

bringing non-veterans up on the rock with veterans.

**IMAGINE...**

a world where non-veterans listen to veterans and take on the burden of reintegration, treating them like normal people, giving them a chance.

**IMAGINE...**

knowing we are all the same. Don't imagine, just know it.

**IMAGINE...**

peace.





DR. BARBARA BLOK



DR. COMILLA SASSON

“It’s just what we do.” This is what Dr. Blok and Dr. Sasson say when they are asked about the night they were caring for the many victims of the Aurora Theater Shooting, near Denver, CO, in 2012. Their humility gives you a sense of both reassurance and awe as you realize they handle emergencies every day. They thrive in the hectic environment of the ER, always able and willing to share a reassuring smile with their patients.

The six nurses and doctors in the photo represent the many medical professionals, police, firefighters, and allied health professionals who helped that terrible night when a gunman burst into a sold-out movie theater and sprayed the crowd. A lifelong bond connects them now. Deeply saddened by the many lives lost that night, they are also proud of what they accomplished. For had they not “done their jobs” and worked as hard and fast as they could, the night could have been much more devastating. Now they must focus on the fact that they were able to give some of the injured a chance to live. This community of caretakers truly does “care” for people in need.

community  
Barbara Comilla  
Barbara Comilla  
community

**IMAGINE...**

pulling the midnight shift as the attending physician in the ER of a hospital three miles away from a movie theater where hundreds of shots ring out as a gunman sprays the crowd...the flashing lights...the wailing sirens, and the screeching tires of nine police cars interrupting the silence and darkness around your hospital as officers drop off victims in such bad condition they couldn't wait for an ambulance.

**IMAGINE...**

the scene, ripped from a war movie, as blood-soaked victim after blood-soaked victim arrive.

**IMAGINE...**

the moans of pain and terror that cascaded around the hospital and community that night.

**IMAGINE...**

realizing your life will never be the same.

**IMAGINE...**

the victims—one barely four months old—with ghastly gunshot wounds to their heads, arms, legs or torsos; so many victims they are doubled or tripled up in rooms and hall spots designed for one.

**IMAGINE...**

being in charge of coordinating their medical care.

**IMAGINE...**

thinking that no amount of schooling or training could prepare you for the horror you're seeing.

**IMAGINE...**

hoping for a miracle to help save them all.

**IMAGINE...**

running on adrenaline and gut instinct, knowing that any hesitation or delay could result in death.

**IMAGINE...**

the team effort that night as the hospital staff—doctors, nurses, residents, physician assistants, nurses' aides, the cleaning crew and others—stepped up and did their part to ensure all victims received medical care.

**IMAGINE...**

nine of the 23 victims in your ER in critical condition, requiring extensive surgery, extended hospital care or long-term rehabilitation.

**IMAGINE...**

no deaths among the patients who arrived alive at the University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora, CO, that morning of July 20, 2012.

**IMAGINE...**

a night that changed everyone's life, united a community and could have been much, much worse.

**IMAGINE...**

a miracle.

*\*Written by Eric Romine, Comilla's fiancée.*





BRENDON McCABE

Brendon is 29 years old. He has cerebral palsy, yet he refuses to allow his physical limitations and blindness to cloud his perceptions of life. While simple tasks that most of us take for granted are difficult for him, his outlook remains positive. He just takes things in stride and plows along, embracing the challenge. He takes each day as it comes and revels in life's little pleasures. He enjoys the present without dwelling on fear or concern for the future. His handicaps are his enablers, and he loves to interact with anyone—without fear of rejection. In fact, Brendon seems to have no fears at all. He is an accomplished musician, and can be seen with his guitar at open microphones in Rochester, NY.

Brendon wakes up happy every day with the single goal of making it the best day of his life, but Brendon doesn't even have to try. Walking a mile in his shoes could make us see more clearly and realize that it's life's simple pleasures that can make us truly happy!

Brendon  
**happiness**  
McCabe  
McCabe  
**happiness**  
Brendon

**IMAGINE...**

waking up every day without fear of what the day will bring.

**IMAGINE...**

spending 15 minutes just putting on your socks.

**IMAGINE...**

you can't see, yet you see everything as an opportunity rather than a challenge.

**IMAGINE...**

spending ten minutes just to pour your cereal, and then savoring every bite.

**IMAGINE...**

never even considering that you are handicapped.

**IMAGINE...**

feeling a sense of accomplishment with any task you complete in your day.

**IMAGINE...**

never asking for help, but always expressing true gratitude when receiving it.

**IMAGINE...**

interacting with complete strangers without judgment or fear of what they might think of you.

**IMAGINE...**

loving music and making some yourself.

**IMAGINE...**

going on stage with your band and entertaining a bunch of complete strangers.

**IMAGINE...**

staying happy without even trying.

*Imagine*

