

# TREKKING KIDS

**IMPROVING TODAY, SECURING TOMORROW...ONE STEP AT A TIME**

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**NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED AUTHORS HOPE EDELMAN and ALLISON GILBERT  
TO TEAM UP WITH TREKKING FOR KIDS TO CELEBRATE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF PUBLICATION OF *MOTHERLESS DAUGHTERS***

Hope Edelman, author of *Motherless Daughters* and Allison Gilbert, author of *Parentless Parents*, announced today they are joining forces to take 16 devoted readers on a once-in-a-lifetime expedition to Peru. The trip, which takes place July 30th – August 9<sup>th</sup>, is in partnership with the nonprofit organization Trekking for Kids. The group will volunteer in an orphanage near Cusco and then hike to Machu Picchu. The journey is in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the publication of Edelman’s groundbreaking book *Motherless Daughters*.

When the authors learned about Trekking for Kids and its mission to organize purpose- driven treks to improve the lives of orphans around the world, they envisioned a perfect partnership.

Gilbert remarked, “As writers, Hope and I have been fortunate to tell our stories and share the pain of losing our parents. This trip brings together women from across the globe to turn loss into an opportunity to help others.”

Edelman added, “Every woman on this trek has grieved the death of one or both parents. Some cared for parents during long-term illness; others suffered the shock of unexpected loss. All of these participants share a commitment: to use these unwanted experiences as a catalyst for growth.”

Turning Loss Into Service: *Motherless Daughters* and *Parentless Parents* Unite to Help Orphans in Peru begins outside of Cusco, Peru where trekkers will work at the Ninos del Sol children’s home on sustainable projects to improve the orphanage. Each participant agreed to raise a minimum of \$1,000 to fund such initiatives as

building a greenhouse and purchasing solar water heaters, a new van, and computers. The women will then trek through the Lares Valley to Machu Picchu. The group will finish their journey with a return to the orphanage.

Trekking For Kids Executive Director Cindy Steuart said the venture is already a success. "This is the first custom trip in our organization's history. Hope and Allison have built a community of readers who are eager to give back. Sign-ups happened quickly and we have a waiting list. We look forward to planning similar tailor-made trips in the future."

The following is a list of participants and their hometowns:

Joanna Askew – Dubai, UAE  
Andrea Barbalich – Larchmont, NY  
Martha Brower – Camden, ME  
Cathy Draeger – Huntington Beach, CA  
Allison Durant – Metairie, LA  
**Hope Edelman – Topanga, CA**  
**Allison Gilbert – Irvington, NY**  
Maryjo Green – Edmonds, WA  
Karen Gresham – Phoenix, AZ  
Megan Higgins – North Vancouver, BC  
Shannon Husk – Victoria, BC  
Erica Keyes – Edmonton, Alberta  
Laurie Lucas – Newport Beach, CA  
Renee Lorme-Gulbrandsen – Victoria, BC  
Laura McCoy – Fort Wayne, IN  
Katherine Maguid – Boulder, CO  
Linda Miller – Portland, OR  
Angela Schellenberg – Chiang Mai, Thailand

For more information:

Hope Edelman [www.hopeedelman.com](http://www.hopeedelman.com)

Allison Gilbert [www.allisongilbert.com](http://www.allisongilbert.com)

Ninos del Sol [www.ninosdelsol.org](http://www.ninosdelsol.org)

Trekking for Kids [www.trekkingforkids.org](http://www.trekkingforkids.org)