

The PUSH

Images by **Keoki Flagg**
Captions by **Grant Korgan**

*An expedition
to the South Pole*

HIGH FIVES FOUNDATION

The **High Fives Foundation** is a Tahoe-based, nonprofit organization dedicated to raising money and awareness for athletes who have suffered a life-altering injury while pursuing their dream in the winter action sports community.

The program services of the High Fives Foundation include: the Winter Empowerment Fund, BASICS and the CR Johnson Healing Center. Through the Winter Empowerment Fund, 21 athletes have been awarded grants to pursue a dream in the winter sports community. One such dream that was the brainchild of Roy Tuscany (co-founder and president of the High Fives Foundation) was to send an adaptive athlete to the South Pole on the 100th anniversary of the first exploration.

The co-owner of a professional snowmobile team Alpine Assassins, Grant Korgan was hurt in March of 2010 while filming for the upcoming movie, "Alpine Assassination." Korgan suffered an L-1 burst fracture that left him paralyzed from the waist down. The High Fives Non-Profit Foundation has funded his recovery and helped prepare him to make his amazing trip to the South Pole. *For more information on High Fives, visit highfivesfoundation.org.*



FLAGG DEBUTS IMAGES

Keoki Flagg unveils a new image, "Timeless PUSH," from The Push expedition to the South Pole at **Gallery Keoki** on **Feb. 17 from 6 to 8 p.m.** The photographer also will unveil other images from the expedition. As well, the gallery is currently showcasing the sit-ski and other equipment that Grant Korgan used on his expedition, as well as showing a revolving slide show of the Push adventure. The gallery is selling imagery from this amazing adventure and donating a percentage of proceeds to The Push. The gallery is **open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.** The Feb. 17 event includes hors d'oeuvres and is open to the public. For details, call **(530) 583-1404** or visit **gallerykeoki.com**.



COLD, VERY COLD

Temperatures of roughly -30 to -55 degrees Fahrenheit with wind chill were a constant antagonist, which required tremendous strategy to work with for the nearly 9+ hours per day that Grant and the team spent in full-tilt workouts and remained highly exposed to for the almost two weeks that the team spent with only a tent to return to.

HEROES

Every story has a hero and to Grant, achieving his dream of leaving the sit-ski behind and skiing the final 100' of the team's 75-mile trek across the barren ice to the South Pole comes down to the heroism of synergy, brotherhood and team. Both Doug and Tal each gave one ski and one pole to Grant, strapped the gear on his feet, helped him up and with Korgan in the middle, both men walked by his side the final 100 feet into the reality of Grant's personal dream to stand and ski the final leg to the geographic South Pole.

TEAM WORK WAS THE NAME OF THE GAME

While Doug navigated upfront, Grant and Tal worked a delicate and constant dance of keeping Grant moving with minimal stops. If Grant stopped moving for more than a few seconds, his body temps would drop dangerously low. Thus, Tal was everyday, all day, on top of putting snacks directly into his mouth (no stopping to eat, and certainly no lunch), having strategic underwear on the ready to address changes in weather, temperatures and/or body heat, and making sure Grant had everything he needed to never stop moving forward during the daily 9+ hours of all-out effort the mission's success required of him.





IN THE END, LOVE TRIUMPHS OVER ALL

Elated to be in the success of a year-long endeavor, Grant Korgan and his team arrived at the South Pole on the historic Jan. 17 date, topped only by being rewarded with the surprise of his life – his soul mate and wife Shawna was flown to the pole (in secret and as a surprise to Grant) to be there for the arrival of the expedition. Tears, hugs, emotion and pure gratitude filled our team, and all who surrounded this scene (20 people at the pole with another 150 scientists with their faces smashed to the Scott/Amundsen station window nearby) with the purest joy that is unconditional love.

SUCCESS

The South Pole Expedition team (Tal Fletcher, Doug Stoup, Grant Korgan, Shawna Korgan, Keoki Flagg, Tom Day and Petter Nyquist) celebrate the victory of the journey by surrounding the geographic South Pole scepter. We are scattered around the world as each and every one of us are in different time zones in this photo.



THE PUREST AIR

Antarctica's air has a feeling and a taste all its own. Here Grant Korgan takes a moment from one of his nearly 250,000 push strokes necessary for he and the team to complete their mission to the bottom of the globe, to break open the entombed enclosure frosted together for most of the day. With both of Grant's arms and hands completely devoted to keeping him moving (or staying warm depending on how you look at it), working to keep an open airway is critical in both breathing and caloric intake for Grant's daily progress.

SOUTH POLE PUSH A SUCCESS

After nearly two weeks and 75 miles of pushing in his sit-ski, with the help of his incredible teammates, Tal Fletcher and Doug Stoup, Grant Korgan (center) strapped on standing skis, and skied the final 100' to the bottom of the world, in -45 degree Fahrenheit conditions, on the centennial anniversary of the Robert Falcon Scott Terra Nova expedition, to raise awareness of the High Fives Foundation, spinal cord injury recovery awareness and to showcase the enduring human spirit.