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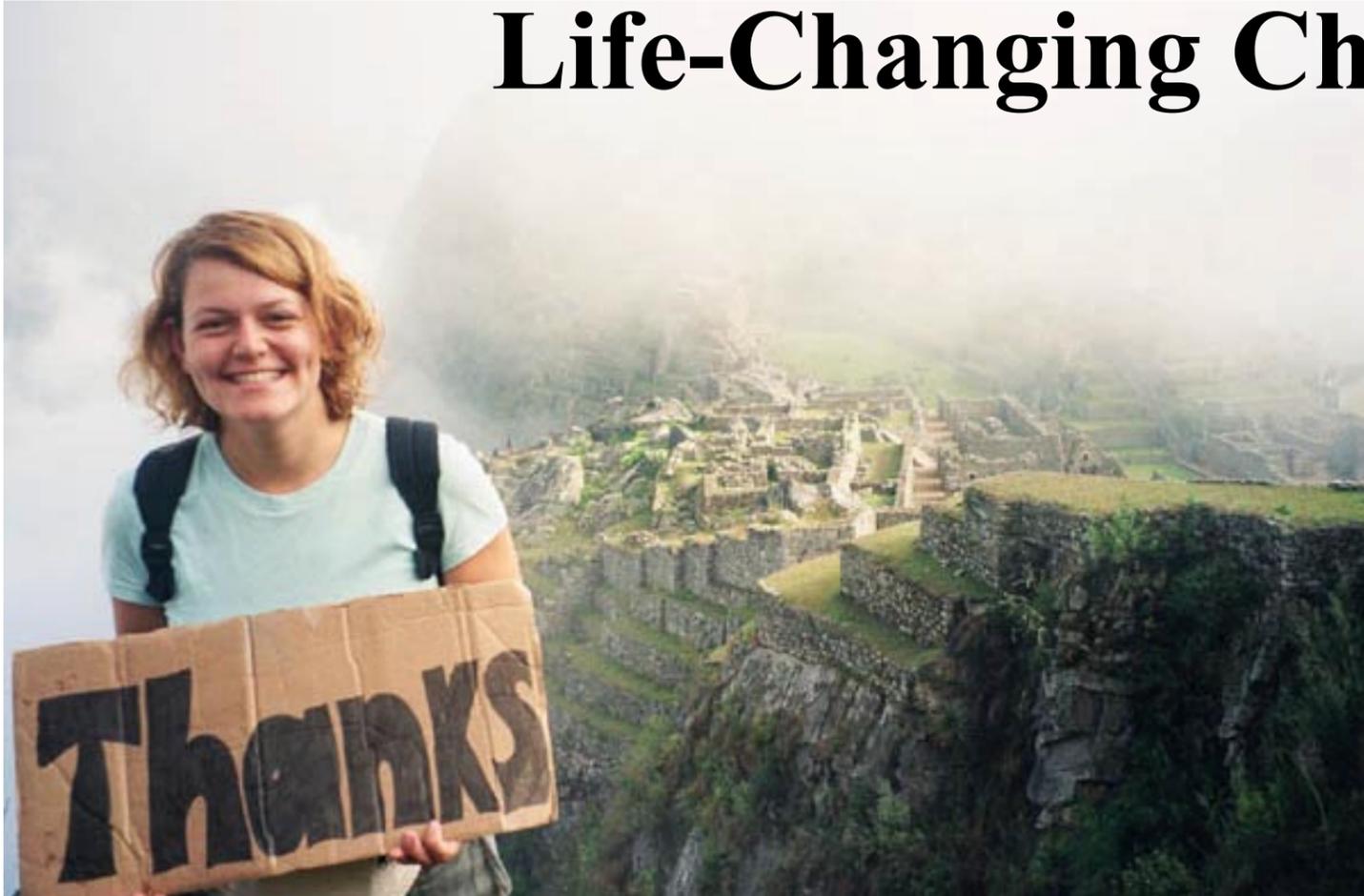
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## Life-Changing Challenge



By Rachel Domingo

**In August 2003, I undertook the Machu Picchu Peru Challenge in aid of the UCLH Charitable Foundation. It was a trek in memory of my mother, Diana, and a challenge that very much involved East Finchley.**

My mother was a District Nurse at Oak Lane Clinic. Sadly she died of cancer last year after a long illness, through which she was able to continue to work, owing to the immense support provided by the nurses she worked with.

The trek was amazing – a life enhancing experience that I will never forget, and although emotional at times, it was a privilege to be able to participate in memory of my mum who was with me the whole time.

Rachel Domingo 'on top of the world'.

### Thank you

The purpose of this article is really to say thank you. I worked as an SEN assistant at Martin Infant School during my gap year and I would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff there. My mum was very ill during that time and the support I received whilst I was there was very special to me and even more so now it continues. I'd also like to thank the parents there that knew me, particularly the

Atkinson family. The PTA managed to raise over £200 for me at a cake sale.

I also need to say an extra big thank you to the District Nurses at Oak Lane Clinic. They remain special people to myself and my family. Their love and support of my mum extended to us throughout her illness, after her death and during my trek training. The memorial garden at the clinic is testament to

their dedication.

I managed to raise over £7,500 for the foundation to help other cancer patients and their families. I have faced possibly one of the hardest challenges of my life in dealing with my mother's death. However, the kindness from people I have encountered, not least from East Finchley, has moved and strengthened me. My mum would have been so touched.

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