

real life

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THE NUMBER OF
THE WORLD'S HIGHEST
PEAKS THAT BOOKER
HAS CLIMBED

Health hero: Wendy Booker

She aims to be the first person with MS to climb the Seven Summits

When this mother of three was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, her youngest asked, "Mommy, are you going to die?" That was all the motivation Booker, now 53, needed. Though doctors discouraged it, she began climbing, easing symptoms such as numbness with daily medication. The Massachusetts native challenges stereotypes about MS sufferers—she recently ascended Argentina's Mt. Aconcagua. Next on her "big 7" list: Mt. Everest. "I want others with a chronic illness to go find their own mountains."