



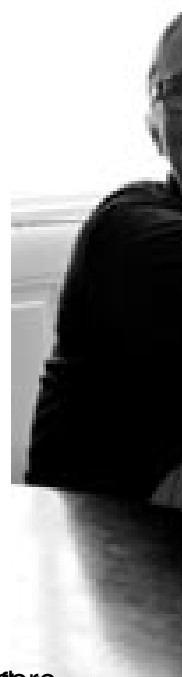
By Tess Malijenovsky

Emerald Isle – By the time she made it to my apartment, Deborah Walters, a 63-year-old grandmother, was halfway through a 2,500-mile journey from Maine to Guatemala. She's traveling in a kayak. Alone.

“A lot of people go out paddling for a day and then pull a short night and sleep,” says Walters. “Well that's all I'm doing. The only difference is that I'm doing it day after day after day until I get to Guatemala.”

Walters isn't kayaking simply for the sake of going farther than she's ever gone before – and perhaps farther than any woman her age has gone before solo. [She wants to raise](#) \$150,000 for children living in Guatemala City's garbage dump by stopping along the way to tell their story.

“In large parts of the world people come up with a hand out, but I don't get inspired then,” Walter says. “In Guatemala, it's the people (who are) working really hard to help themselves and, with just a little bit of help from outside, I see how it can make a big difference.”





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