



# Himalayan Connections

## Newsletter of Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas

www.himalayanfriends.com

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**DANIKA GILBERT AND TEAM MEMBERS AT EVEREST BASE CAMP unfurl the flag of Afghanistan in support of the young Afghan women who have been impacted by the takeover of the Taliban. Gilbert will be the featured speaker at the WCFH special meeting on April 29, at 7:00 pm, in the Chipeta Room of the Ute Indian Museum. A short annual meeting will be held. A Silent Auction will be on display and chai and snacks will be served. Everyone is invited to attend.**

### From the President...

#### *Greetings Dear Friends,*

It is my pleasure to report that the WCFH continues to promote education, literacy, health, and hygiene and provide relief for underserved, impoverished villages in the Himalayas. Our board members are grateful for the ongoing support from our community and from friends around the world, on behalf of the many families and individuals who benefit from your contributions.



We extended our efforts to assisting our associate Danika Gilbert in establishing her Hamdeli Fund on behalf of young Afghan women and their welfare, who are refugees from strife in their country. A new committee was formed to oversee our recently formed Memorial Scholarship Fund initiated by beneficiaries of Bill and Nora Duckworth's humanitarian efforts.

Our recent projects outlined in this newsletter are examples of the impact we have on ordinary lives half-way around the world, with simple basic community services and improvements. Thank you, Dhanyabad. We couldn't do it without you.

A special thanks to Montrose Altrusa Club for your belief and trust in our organization. You make a difference.

*Namaste and Tashi Delek,  
Val Burnell*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Peace Pole** dedication in honor of Bill Duckworth at the Montrose Botanic Gardens. Date and time to be announced soon.

## HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS COMPLETED IN NEPAL

The Friends of the Himalayas and Altrusa International Club of Montrose are grateful to have recently completed a joint project in the remote village of Riku in the Rolwaling district of Nepal. There was a great need for a central community toilet structure in Riku. The two organizations jointly funded the purchase and transportation of materials, and, with the enthusiastic cooperation of the residents who furnished the volunteer labor, under the skilled directions of a stonemason, successfully built a double (men's and women's) facility. The toilets consist of stone walls, wooden doors, a concrete floor with ceramic inserts and water faucets for cleansing. Thank you to Pasang Kitar for his oversight and accountability for the project, and Danika Gilbert for her research. A brass plate recognizes Altrusa and WCFH for their much welcomed contribution to village amenities.

### *Constructing the community toilet facility in the remote village of Riku*



### *Installing a fresh water tap in Simagau*



Simagau in the Rolwaling region of Nepal is a remote rural village of which one small cluster of houses is separated from the main area by rugged terrain and, lacking any water source, the residents' daily chore was to haul water from the main village to their distant homes. Water for drinking, cooking, bathing, and cleaning.

Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas organization relayed funds to a trusted representative to purchase and transport pipe, cement powder and plumbing fixtures. The villagers supplied their voluntary labor to install the pipe from the hydro, build a water trough and install the parts. Now they have their own running water linked to the main source. The families are very appreciative of this time and labor saving asset to their community.

### ***CENTER FOR DISABLED ADULTS IN KATHMANDU***

An independent facility for disabled, wheelchair bound men and women was rescued from a dire threat of closure and abandonment when WCFH learned of their lack of funds to buy basic foods and prescription medicines. Covid had prevented the residents from selling their handmade craft products due to restrictions and the lack of tourists, thus losing their major source of funding. Having their authenticity verified by friends in Kathmandu, WCFH provided emergency welfare relief funds which the residents gratefully acknowledged with photos and messages. Recent travelers returning from Nepal have transported their meticulously crafted, attractive boiled sheep's wool (felt) items (including elephants, pixies, dogs, flowers, and coin purses) which WCFH members have had the pleasure of selling locally to supplement the funds which sustain the home and its residents.



### **BILL DUCKWORTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The Bill Duckworth Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce four grants for a total amount of \$2700, awarded to students in Nepal, who have completed their high school education and are enrolling in higher education programs. Congratulations to the recipients, Pemba Jamgmu Sherpa, Mingma Dolma Sherpa, Saka Futi Sherpa and Sanjit Rai.

### **FAMILY RELIEF FUND**

A new Family Relief Fund has given a \$500 grant to a recently widowed mother of two children, whose husband was accidentally electrocuted, and a \$1200 grant to a young woman in great need to provide support for her education in Kathmandu. This Family Relief Fund is being supported by Karsang Sherpa through the Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas.

### **NEW 2022 PROJECT – THE PARAHU LEARNING CENTER**



The Parahu "Let's Study" Learning Center in a poverty stricken region of the Terai in Southern Nepal, serves 280 children of the Musahar population. Financial support will provide school, educational, arts & crafts supplies and sports equipment. The grant will also furnish a sound system and dance supplies to foster preservation of their culture.





Friends of the Himalayas Board of Directors 2021-2022

Wayne Quade; Kelvin Kent, Membership Chair; Val Burnell, President; Nima Sherpa, Secretary; Ang Danu Sherpa, Vice-President; Arlyn Macdonald, Treasurer; and Carol Parker.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

*You are invited to become a member of the Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas to help promote cultural awareness of the Himalayan region and promote world peace through educational and cultural programs. WCFH's educational programs include supporting elementary age children of the Himalayas with school supplies, uniforms, and modern technology, sponsoring secondary education students in Nepal and awarding scholarships to qualifying applicants. Cultural programs foster communication and understanding of the Himalayan people. WCFH also supports relief work in the region and funds construction of solar showers and school toilets to promote health and hygiene. Literacy and the education and well-being of children is a major focus of the organization, including support for rescue and rehabilitation from the horrors of child trafficking.*

*Your membership and other contributions help to foster compassion and understanding by sharing our resources with others, providing educational opportunities for children and expanding awareness of other cultures.*

YES, I want to be a member of the Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas 501(c)(3) \_\_\_\_\_

YES, I am interested in more information. Please contact me \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ [WCFH does not share email addresses]

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual: \$20.00      \_\_\_\_\_ Family: \$35.00      \_\_\_\_\_ Student/Senior: \$15.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Business: \$50.00      \_\_\_\_\_ Donation for projects: \$.....

\_\_\_\_\_ Corporate: \$100.00      Fed Tax I.D. # 30-0117036      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send membership form and check or money order to WCFH, P.O. Box 2022, Montrose CO 81402-2022