



# *Himalayan Connections*

## **Newsletter of Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas**

Volume 3— Issue 1 February 2019

### **VICTORY ON THE MOUNTAIN**

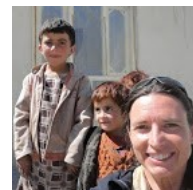


### **WCFH SPONSORS A FILM NIGHT WITH MOUNTAINEERING GUIDE DANIKA GILBERT**

Danika Gilbert captivated Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas members and friends with her program last year about the difficulties and rewards of climbing mountains with young Afghan women. She joins the friends and members of the WCFH on Friday, March 30, at 7:15 pm in the Chipeta Room of the Ute Indian Museum for an update on the program.

She will show the HBO Vice Impact Production film which follows Afghanistan's first female mountaineering team as they attempt their first ascent of a previously unclimbed peak in the stunning Panjahir province. They not only conquer the mountain, but also conquer the complex social boundaries of being young women in Kabul returning home victorious.

Gilbert has been the Expedition Leader and team guide with Ascend since 2015. She received one of the 2016 Peace and Humanitarian Medals from the Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas for her outstanding efforts to expand mountaineering to young women in Afghanistan and for her humanitarian work.



#### ***TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP***

***Support the humanitarian and peace work of the Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas by renewing your membership today.***

***(See membership dues schedule on page 2.***

#### ***NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING***

***The Annual meeting of the WCFH will be held Friday, March 30, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Ute Indian Museum.***

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual—\$25.00

Students/Seniors—\$20.00

Family—\$35.00

Business—\$50.00+

Corporate—\$100.00+

Checks may be sent to WCFH, P.O.  
Box 2022, Montrose, CO 81402-  
2022.

You may also make an additional donation. Your gift makes a difference.



## NEW WEBSITE READY SOON

A new website at  
[www.himalayanfriends.org](http://www.himalayanfriends.org)  
will soon be up on the Internet.  
The new website will include photos  
of current and past projects, partnering  
opportunities, upcoming events,  
and more.

## 2018 SUCCESSES

\$655 to Child Rescue Projects

\$4,000 to Chhulemu Hygiene  
Project—Phase III

\$1500 to Khumjung School  
Scholarships

\$500 to Himalayan Medics

\$50 to Ute Indian Museum

\$200.00 - dZI Foundation

## 2018

## FUNDRAISING PROJECTS

Upscale Yard Sale

Sir Chris Bonington Program



## FAMILY SHOWER COMPLETED

Phase III of the Chhulemu Hygiene Project was recently completed with the building of a Family Shower in the middle of the village. Solar panels and the water tank are housed in a separate building. The stone structure will accommodate families with the addition of a dressing room adjacent to the shower section. Phase II of the project completed a Children's Shower at the school with separate showers for boys and girls. The Children's Shower was the first shower ever in the village of Chhulemu. Phase I was the completion of a toilet building for the boys and girls attending the school. WCFH partnered with Altrusa International of Montrose who contributed financial support to the projects which totaled \$12,000.00. Thank you members of Altrusa and WCFH for making a difference in the lives of the people of Chhulemu in the Solukhumbu region of Nepal.

## WCFH Ongoing Projects Need Support

You can designate your donations to go to ongoing projects supported by contributions. Just mark your donation for your selected project or donate to new projects.

\*Scholarships - Khumjung School

\*Child Rescue Nepal

\*Himalayan Medics

\*Clothing Distribution

\*Cultural Programs

\*New Projects

\*Emergency/Disaster Relief Fund

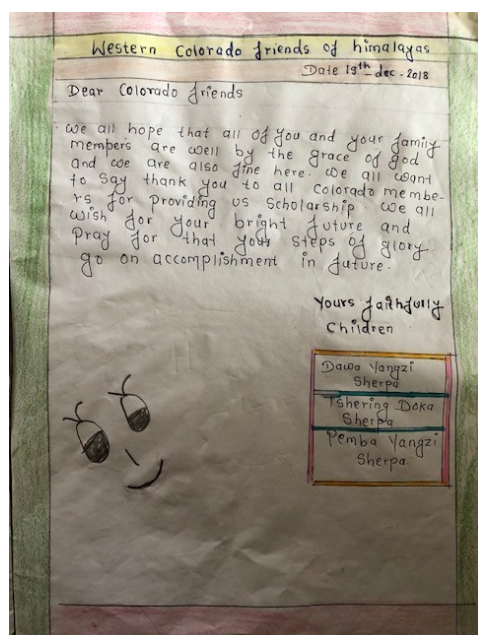
100% of all donations goes to projects approved by the WCFH Board of Directors, who are all volunteers. With the help of responsible and respected project supervisors in Nepal, funds are used exclusively for materials and/or services to successfully complete the project using local workers and supplies. All monies are accounted for and used specifically for the designated projects with full reports upon completion. Projects are chosen that most benefit the people served.





## DUFFLE BAGS FULL OF CLOTHING CARRIED BY TREKKERS TO NEPAL

Warm coats, long-sleeved shirts, and pants are personally carried by trekkers, associated with the WCFH, to remote villages in extra duffle bags along with their own luggage. Blankets are laid out in the center of the villages and the clothing spread out. Each person receives something warm to wear. Children are especially thrilled to receive a warm jacket or shirt. WCFH has purchased new jackets and collected good used clothing for distribution. In the past, personal kits with items such as scissors, thread and needles, and other small personal items have also been transported in the duffle bags. Toys are often included, which the village children enjoy. Val Burnell, President of WCFH, is pictured in the center photograph,



*Thank you letter from Khumjung students receiving scholarships in 2018.*

*Dear Colorado Friends,*

*We all hope that all of you and your family are well by the grace of God and we are fine here. We all want to say thank you to all Colorado members for providing us scholarship. We all wish for your bright future and pray for that your steps of glory go on accomplishment in future.*

*Yours faithfully,  
Children*

The Khumjung School was built in 1961 by the Sir Edmund Hilary Himalayan Trust. It now has over 350 students in pre-school, primary and secondary sections. WCFH provides five scholarships to help with room and board for students who stay at the school during the school year.

Did you know that most items delivered to remote villages have to be carried in on the backs of porters or strapped to the backs of donkeys?

Did you know that 8 out of the 10 highest mountains in the world are found in Nepal?

Did you know that Nepal has the densest concentration of World Heritage Sites?



WCFH Board of Directors enjoys chai at monthly meetings.

WCFH Board of Directors meets at 4:00 p.m. on the third Monday of every month at Guru's Restaurant. The January meeting was a full house with several guests attending.

Pictured from left to right, Donald Ludlow (guest), Wayne Quade (Advisory Board Member), Barbara Krebs (guest), Carol Parker (Board Member), Danika Gilbert (guest), Arlyn Macdonald (Board Treasurer), Val Burnell, (Board President), Nima Sherpa (Board Secretary), Pasang Lhamu Sherpa Akita (guest), Marv Ballantyne (Board Member), Stu Krebs (Advisory Board Member). Absent were Ang Danu Sherpa (Vice-President) and Kelvin Kent, (Board Member.)

## SAVE THE DATES FOR WCFH COMING EVENTS

**March 30** - Film and lecture by mountaineering guide, Danika Gilbert, 7:15 p.m. at the Ute Indian Museum. Short WCFH Annual Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Donation—\$10 per person.

**April 19** - Armchair Adventures with Special Guest—TBA—Guru's Restaurant, 7:00 pm

**May**—Cultural Festival at the Ute Indian Museum—TBA

**June 21** - Armchair Adventures with Special Guest—TBA, Guru's Restaurant, 7:00 pm

**July 5**—Dalai Lama's Birthday Dinner at Party at Guru's Restaurant, 6:00 p.m.

**August 23** - Taste of the Himalayas Outdoor Party, Burnell's Backyard, 11:30 am –1:30 pm, potluck, music, dancing, and summer fun.

**September 20**—Annual Peace Dinner, Guru's Restaurant, 6:00 p.m., buffet, program, peace awards

**October 18**—Armchair Adventures with Special Guest—TBA, Guru's Restaurant, 7:00 pm

**November 15** - Armchair Adventures with Special Guest—TBA, Guru's Restaurant, 7:00 pm

Check the website for more details about the Armchair Adventures. Have dinner at Guru's and then stay for the adventure.

*Himalayan Connections* is the newsletter of the Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas, P.O. Box 2022, Montrose, CO 81402-2022. All rights reserved.

Editor - Arlyn Macdonald  
Contributors - Val Burnell and Arlyn Macdonald

Do you know a person who is deserving of the WCFH International Peace Award or a Peace Medal?

Do you know a person who should be recognized for his/her peace and humanitarian work?

Nominations may be sent to President, Val Burnell, at [mtnhighwall@gmail.com](mailto:mtnhighwall@gmail.com)

CHRIS BONINGTON.