

# Vail Daily

BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER  
SATURDAY, 12 • 15 • 18 | VAILDAILY.COM | FREE

## Local & Region

A2 | Saturday, December 15, 2018 | The Vail Daily

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

CALENDAR	B10
COMMENTARY	A6
TOWN TALK	A25
VAIL LIVE	A10
Vol. XXXVIII, Issue 79	

# Still reaching for the top

*Vail Valley organization  
Sherpa Foundation  
leading Everest expedition,  
building houses in Nepal*

By Randy Wyrick  
rwyrick@vaildaily.com

EDWARDS — A house in Nepal costs about the same as one section of a concrete driveway in the Vail Valley.

That's one reason the Sherpa Foundation was able to finish its 187th house in three years in Nepal, and even came up with a clean way to heat them.

Yet there is still so much to do, says Vail Valley businessman Pemba Sherpa, owner of Sherpa Painting.

When a series of earthquakes devastated Nepal in 2015 — killing thousands and leaving tens of thousands homeless — like so many others Pemba wanted to speed to his home village. Instead, he stayed in the Vail Valley and joined with some others to found the Sherpa Foundation.

Since then, the organization has built or rebuilt 187 homes and repaired more than 1,000 others.

A collaboration with the Himalayan Stove Project helps provide a clean way to heat those homes during the brutally cold Nepal winters.

"In a developing country, the money goes a long way," Pemba said. "A house is where everything starts. To repair their damaged homes and put a roof over their heads, that's where it begins."

### EVEREST EXPEDITION

You don't have to take our word for it. You can see for yourself. Pemba and others lead treks throughout Nepal. He has assembled a team of top Sherpa guides to lead an expedition to the world's tallest mountain.

"The Mount Everest 2020



SHERPA FOUNDATION | SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

This is the 187th house the Sherpa Foundation has built in Nepal, following the massive earthquakes and floods that devastated the country in 2015. The Sherpa Foundation was founded in the Vail Valley by Nepal native Pemba Sherpa. Every dime raised goes to help people in Nepal.



SHERPA FOUNDATION | SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

A little money goes a long way in Nepal, which is why the Sherpa Foundation has been able to build and rebuild 187 houses, repair thousands of others and do all sorts of other projects.

Sherpa Guides team simply knows Mount Everest better than anyone in this world," Pemba said.

The team has led 355 major expeditions, summited Mount Everest 170 times, helped 1,190 people from around the globe reach to the top of world and helped them get back down safely, Pemba said.

During the group's 355 major expeditions, the team members have climbed 26,200-foot moun-



The Sherpa Foundation is not only building and rebuilding houses in Nepal, but has partnered with the Himalayan Stove Project to provide a clean way to heat them.

tains more than 1,530 times. Each Sherpa guide reaches the 26,200-foot summit between seven and 13 times per expedition to drop supplies and clean up, Pemba said.

The trip is scheduled for 2020, so you have time to get in shape. And you have to qualify to make this trip, so get on the treadmill today.

If you're lucky, you'll pass through Sotang, a remote farming village. Villagers have no medical facility for giving birth. The nearest one is a two-day walk. It's common for women to give birth along the path on the way. Sometimes mothers and babies live; sometimes they don't.

The facility will help tip those odds in favor of life.

"It's human nature that, until we see something, we don't know

### TO HELP

Sherpa Foundation's mission is to provide humanitarian aid to Himalayan communities while preserving the dignity and integrity of Sherpa and Himalayan culture.

The Sherpa Foundation is a non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible.

To donate, visit [sherpafoundation.org](http://sherpafoundation.org), email [support@sherpafoundation.org](mailto:support@sherpafoundation.org) or mail a donation to P.O. Box 2737, Edwards, CO 81632.

For information about the 2020 Everest expedition, email [info@sherpaguide.com](mailto:info@sherpaguide.com).

SHERPA FOUNDATION, A9