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Bodhi Tree Foundation Founder to Speak at Squaw Valley Institute Event

OLYMPIC VALLEY, Calif. – Squaw Valley Institute brings Sarah Ferris, world traveler and philanthropist, to PlumpJack Squaw Valley Inn on March 27 at 7:00 PM for a presentation on her experiences in Nepal that led her to create a foundation that assists women in the region. After an enlightening 16-day trek in the Annapurna Circuit in 2006 with her husband and two children, Ferris, a registered nurse at Tahoe Forest Hospital where she works on the “OB Floor” doing labor, delivery, postpartum and newborn care, decided to create a nonprofit called Bodhi Tree Foundation to support and promote community-based activities that focus on maternal-child health in the District of Humla, Nepal.

Humla, one of the most remote districts in Nepal, is located in the northwest corner in the mid-western region next to the Tibetan border. The population of 45,376 is served by one hospital that is scarcely used due to lack of supplies and medical personnel. The two doctors assigned to the vast district are rarely in the region. After her experience, Sarah decided to organize a women’s trek through the territory to help with the issues of the region including literacy and infant mortality.

The journey was the first all women's trek through the region. They visited Katmandu, Bodhnath, and Bhaktapar before visiting Humla. In Humla, the group organized and funded a 5-day training for 30 local women to learn about safe birthing and newborn care. They also distributed 300 clean delivery kits as well as children’s medicines.

Breathtaking scenic vistas, cultural experiences in Hindu villages and Buddhist monasteries, raging rivers and waterfalls, all of these elements play in Ferris’ adventures. Ferris, through her Bodhi Tree Foundation, presents an evening of photos and discussion about the foundation’s work in improving maternal-child health in this forgotten region of Nepal.

A donation of \$10 per person is requested. No charge for students and children 12-and-under. A no-host bar opens at 6:30 PM. For tickets, more information, or to become a member of Squaw Valley Institute, visit www.squawvalleyinstitute.org or call 530.581.4138. A complete calendar of events is listed on the site. In October, Greg Mortensen, co-author of *New York Times* bestseller, *Three Cups of Tea*, will be speaking as part of the Squaw Valley Institute's speaker series.

Squaw Valley Institute thanks Plumpjack Squaw Valley Inn for sponsoring this event.

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