

- **Visionary advocate**, believing that the values and knowledge inherent in rural and marginalized communities has the potential to transform global society for the better.
- **Exceptional references** supporting over 20 years of grassroots experience inspiring measurable improvements in economic development, education, health, and quality of life for Nepal's most remote communities.
- Internationally recognized communicator, public speaker and influencer, sharing true stories in film and writing that have achieved **global relevance**.
- Accomplished **adventurer and explorer**, seeking to better understand human nature, culture, and our relationship to the natural world.
- Effective **team and project leader** skilled at **motivating diverse groups** to establish and execute around a common vision.
- Proven ability to pair big-picture creative problem-solving with tactical execution on a granular level to ensure effective program delivery in extremely complex and rapidly-changing contexts.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

**Grassroots mobilization | Community organizing | Project management | Fundraising - Major gifts and Grants
Networking | Budget management | Cross-cultural management | Strategic thinking | Program design
Communications | Monitoring and Evaluation | Documentary film production and direction | Writing
Fluent in spoken Nepali, beginner reading**

EXPERIENCE

COVID Alliance For Nepal | Nepal / USA

April 2021 - Current

Co-established and helped lead an informal volunteer network of Nepali activists directly addressing the deadly second wave of the COVID pandemic. The Alliance currently works with hundreds of volunteers and over a dozen local organizations to provide immediate relief while advocating for international humanitarian and vaccine aid.

Founding Member (Volunteer)

- Established working ethos, attended daily coordination and planning meetings. Led sustainability strategy and communications.

Lead, #Vaccines4Nepal Campaign (Volunteer)

- Established a global campaign to advocate for direct vaccine aid to Nepal, built working teams in the US and UK
- Ran a nationwide advocacy campaign targeted at the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, successfully mobilized approximately 50,000 members of the Nepali diaspora in the USA. Nepal featured prominently in a FRC hearing on the US international COVID response, leading to increased aid.
- Led media campaign that mobilized social media influencers, experts, and public figures to advocate for vaccine aid to Nepal. Secured coverage in numerous international publications including Time Magazine.

dZi Foundation | Nepal / USA

2007-2020

Led a decade of growth from a small boutique NGO to a recognized voice in community-led rural development. Established and refined dZi's unique 'deep development' model – bringing measurable gains in education, health, income, community unity, and overall happiness for 40,000+ people in Nepal's most remote communities. Inspired local community members to contribute over 110,000 days of volunteer labor to joint projects. Grew annual budgets from \$500,000 to \$1.7million, while establishing a robust reserve fund. Directly raised approximately 40% of annual revenue from individual donors and institutional funds. Initiated a successful handover of organizational leadership and governance to Nepali staff.

Executive Director 2018-2020

- Inspired global growth to achieve highest levels of impact and revenue in the organization's 20 year history.
- Successfully managed complex projects through periods of post-earthquake recovery, major political restructuring, and COVID-19. Managed a diverse global staff of 33 people.
- Created a global management structure, sharing resources and strategic vision between US, UK, and Nepal offices.
- Supported Nepali leadership to increase local fundraising and management capacity, with the goal of establishing local autonomy by 2021.

Nepal Country Director 2007-2018

- Established dZi in Nepal, created and continually refined the 'deep development' model for community-driven development, reaching 40,000+ people in extremely isolated communities in Eastern Nepal.
- Managed a diverse Nepali staff of 28, responsible for all aspects of office operation and human resource management with nearly all communication in Nepali language.

Partnering with leading media brands to share true and inspiring stories from Nepal with audiences across the globe, specializing in little-known cultures and adventure.

Writing:

- Regular contributor to Outside Magazine and Climbing Magazine, including recent publications on the impact of the COVID pandemic on high-altitude workers on Mt. Everest
- Features and op-ed writer for the Nepali Times, bringing attention to issues around international development and equity. Recent publications include advocacy for vaccine aid for Nepal, and an open letter to the US Ambassador to Nepal which gathered more than 40,000 signatories.
- Story producer, translator, and fixer for National Geographic Magazine and NGTV, responsible for all aspects of story development, pitching, production, and social media content.

Documentary Film:

- ***The Last Honey Hunter*** (2017, 37 minutes) - *Concept/Producer* - Oscar-qualified short film that won 17 major international awards including Best Mountain Culture (Banff Mountain Film Festival), Best Short (Camden International Film Festival), Staff Pick (Vimeo.com) and Audience Choice (Kathmandu Mountain Film Festival).
- ***Mothered by Mountains*** (2018, 17 minutes) - *Director* - Popular short film produced for YETI coolers featuring two Nepali women climbers. Wide festival tour and online release.
- ***Other Projects*** - Wrote, directed and produced four other documentary short films released for festival tours and online. Currently working on two projects, both featuring inspiring stories of women in the face of adversity.

Himalayan Disaster Relief Volunteers – “Yellow House” | Nepal

April - June 2015

Led the establishment of local volunteer group in the first days after the 2015 Nepal Earthquake that utilized local knowledge and new media tools to mobilize hundreds of local volunteers, becoming one of the top five distributors of humanitarian aid in Nepal during the critical first month.

Founding Member (Volunteer)

- Established initial strategy of informal and decentralized decision-making and rapid distribution of shelter, food, and medical aid. Created tactical methods for volunteers to effectively self-organize and track impact using social media and digital tools.
- Hosted daily strategy meetings and managed press appearances.
- Coordinated complex logistics of humanitarian material procurement and distribution, team safety, and data management. Successfully oversaw over 300 relief missions across Nepal.
- Managed partnerships with partner agencies and supporting organizations including the UN, Google, and Facebook.
- Supported crowdfunding efforts to raise over \$100,000 from global donors.

Porters' Progress | Nepal/USA

1999-2008

Established Nepal's first local organization advocating for the rights of trekking workers across Nepal. Supported workers through global awareness raising, collective bargaining, skills training and provision of warm clothing for travel to altitude. Provided life-saving services to over 10,000 porters and trekking workers and changed the national discourse on porter rights and treatment standards.

Founder/Executive Director 1999-2008

- Established global offices in US, UK, and Nepal.
- Raised \$200,000+ in funds from individual and institutional donors including the International Labour Organization and the US Department of Labor
- Managed global staff and volunteers

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science - Concentration in Creative Writing | Bates College, Lewiston, ME. Magna Cum Laude
Semester Study Abroad in Nepal | Pitzer College

AWARDS & AFFILIATIONS

- Bates Alumni Community Service Award**, Bates College, 2020
- Board Chair**, Maine Outdoor Wellness Center
- Board Member**, United States Education Foundation (Fulbright Commission), Nepal
- Trustee**, Community Action Nepal
- Explorer**, National Geographic Society
- Fellow**, Royal Geographical Society, UK

INTERESTS

- Outdoor activities: rock climbing, mountaineering, mountain biking, trekking, and fly fishing
- Sustainable Forestry
- Poetry
- Social Justice and Equity
- Travel and Exploration