



Himalaya Lodge, a Mountain Lodges Nepal property, with the Annapurna massif in the distance. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MOUNTAIN LODGES OF NEPAL

Pasang Lhamu Foundation and Mountain Lodges Nepal

Named for the pioneering climber Pasang Lhamu Sherpa – the first Nepalese woman to summit Mount Everest, who tragically died on the descent – the humanitarian [Pasang Lhamu Foundation](#) was established by her family in 1993 to help improve the living standards of Nepalese women and children. In 2022, the family launched [Mountain Lodges Nepal](#), an arm of its Sherpa Hospitality Group run by Lhamu's son, Namgyal Sherpa.

The three entities work closely together to create opportunities in the Khumbu region, where the Nepalese side of Mount Everest is located. During the pandemic, the Pasang Lhamu Foundation launched the Learn to Earn program, which gives vocational training to locals at Lukla Lodge, one of Sherpa Hospitality's 18 hotels. Proceeds from the lodge's café go back into the foundation.

Other long-standing projects have included building the Pasang Lhamu Nicole Niquille Hospital, which supports scholarship programs and trains guides and mountain-rescue personnel. – *T.V.*