It was in 2007, two families — Lhakpa Dorje, Nenuwang and Kama Tenzing, and Perina and Puwang (also known as Perina and Puwang Tshering and Dorje) had climbed Phortse, and the idea of building a climbing centre there was born. Jennifer was married to Conrad Anker, the then Outdoor Leadership School President. The couple knew that there had been tremendous loss of life amongst the Sherpa community in the Phortse valley. “We knew that one of the main reasons behind the tragic incidents could be attributed to lack of proper training for high altitude workers,” Jennifer shared. “While the volunteers carried out construction work of KCC, we added English language program because proper communication in any dangerous situation is important.”

Jennifer believes that English is the lingua franca in most of the high-altitude situations. “Over 16 years, we have seen more than 1,300 graduates from KCC, as they learned technical climbing skills including belay techniques, knot tying and how to use ice tools, tool and safety,” Jennifer informed.

According to Jennifer, Joni and leisure ski to manage the KCC project, ALCF brought together the guides who had experience in the climbing world including the world’s foremost high-altitude mountaineers and climbers who are revered in the Sherpa community. “The KCC facility boasts the world’s highest indoor training wall in the world at 3,400m. In recent years, there were over 500 KCC graduates, and material support to the KCC facility. It has also been serving as a community centre and earthquake refuge for the village of Phortse at an altitude of about 3,800m. In recent years, there were over 500 KCC graduates,” Jennifer added. “The KCC facility is being overseen by the Himalayan Trust. It has also been serving as a community centre and earthquake refuge for the village of Phortse at an altitude of above 3,800m. In recent years, there were over 500 KCC graduates,” Jennifer added.

Jennifer attended the opening ceremony of KCC on June 12 along with other prominent Sherpa climbers and mountaineers such as Ang Dawa Sherpa, Diki Sherpa, and Barry Bishop. “It is our hope that the KCC facility will be a place of support for the local KCC and Phortse leadership,” Jennifer said.

A lot of volunteers worked for the project over the past years. “I also must stress how grateful I am to our international and local workers, trekkers, climbers, guides and Sherpas who helped in the construction and rebuilding of the facility,” Jennifer said.

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