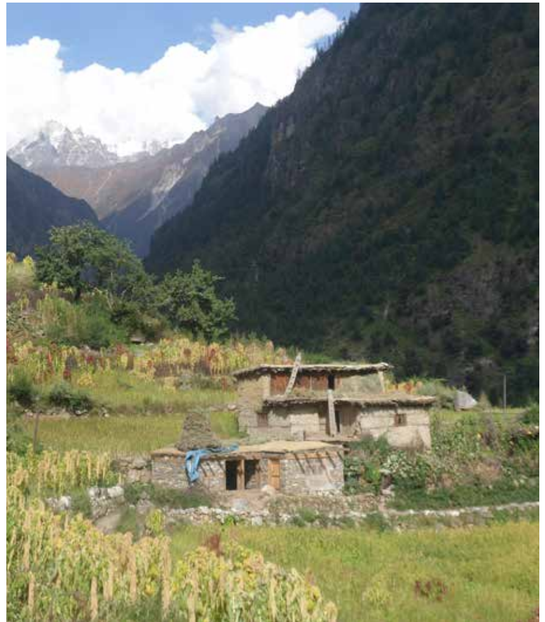
THE MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE

CONSERVATION. CULTURE. COMMUNITY.

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



Dear Friends of the Mountains,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce The Mountain Institute's work over the past year. Our "roll up your sleeves" programs help mountain communities build better lives for themselves and protect the vital environmental services that mountains provide, such as water essential to the well-being of lowland communities. These programs would not have been possible without the support of many remarkable people, including the strong and resilient local mountain people with whom we work, our far-flung and dedicated staff – most of them mountain people themselves, our partner organizations including the hard-working local NGOs working in remote areas, and our donors and supporters. Extraordinary individuals have come together to make the world a better place.

A few years ago, my husband and I had the opportunity to hike into eastern Nepal with staff from The Mountain Institute's Himalayan Program and a local NGO to visit isolated high-altitude mountain communities. Yak herders generously offered us their attics for lodging. We awoke each morning to the snow covered peaks of Kanchenjunga. Most memorably though, we got to see The Mountain Institute's medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) program up close and personal.

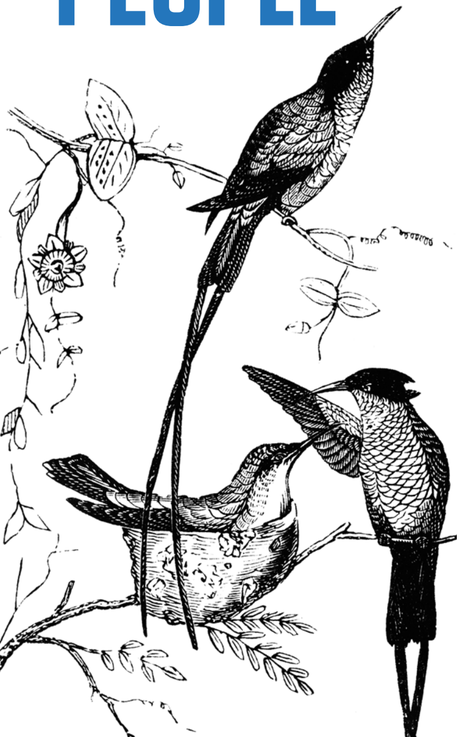
Through this program more than 16,000 farmers, like Mikmar Bhote in Chepuwa, are working extremely hard to cultivate and bring to market medicinal and aromatic plants which are in high demand in Nepal, China and India. The resulting income has helped them transition from subsistence farming and foraging in local forests to a more economically and environmentally sustainable way of life. The benefits for Mikmar have been clear. She is now able to send one of her daughters to school and she was able to replace the bamboo roof on her house with a metal one, improving her family's quality of life and saving innumerable bamboo plants – a major food source for red pandas and black bears.

Encouraging farmers to add high-value medicinal and aromatic plants to their terraced farms in the Himalayas is only part of the story though. Our local staff and partner NGOs have tirelessly helped the farmers make connections to local and foreign markets and ride out market fluctuations. One of our staff members negotiated clear and reliable tariffs – a major improvement over previous unpredictable and often corrupt levies that impeded their progress and stripped away profits. The success of the MAPs program and the positive impacts for Mikmar and thousands of other farmers has been the result of a true team effort.

In this annual report, you will also learn about our work to protect freshwater resources and develop environmental stewards in places like the Andes and Appalachians. Similarly to the MAPs program in Nepal, our local staff in the Andes and Appalachians work hand-in-hand with remarkable local people to develop and implement impactful initiatives. Without the support of the many individual donors, foundations, companies and agencies listed in this report, The Mountain Institute and its programs would not exist. We thank you for your support and we look forward to working with you as we move forward to broaden and deepen our work in the mountains.

RUTH GREENSPAN BELL
CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OUR PEOPLE



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OUR IMPACT

EST 1972

Founded in 1972, The Mountain Institute works to conserve mountain environments, preserve mountain cultures, and sustainably develop mountain economies. We listen to those who live in the mountains and work hand-in-hand with them to identify and implement solutions to their most critical challenges. We are headquartered in Washington, D.C. with locally-staffed offices in Nepal, Peru, and West Virginia. Our regional locations are no accident, as they are in the world's highest, longest, and oldest mountain ranges — the Himalayas, Andes, and Appalachians.

CONSERVING

FRESHWATER RESOURCES AND MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS

Mountains are the Earth's water towers. They provide up to 60%-80% of the world's freshwater resources for domestic, agricultural and industrial consumption. Mountain communities are the stewards of these freshwater resources and their role will become increasingly important as the global climate changes and human population increases. Our role is to help mountain communities in this stewardship role which is vital not only locally but also for large populations living downstream.

In 2013: *We started working in the Nor Yauyos-Cochas Landscape Reserve in the highlands south of Lima, Peru to provide technical assistance to Peru's National Protected Area system (SERNANP) and help local communities adapt to ongoing and anticipated climate change impacts such as water scarcity. Using an innovative approach called Ecosystem-based Adaptation, specific measures for adaptation were identified through a participatory planning process with local people from the villages of Miraflores and Canchayllo. These measures, to be implemented in 2014, include restoring wetlands, communally managing native pasturelands, and recovering traditional water management techniques and infrastructure dating back to the time of the Incas. Approximately 1,600 acres in Canchayllo and 1,000 acres in Miraflores will be positively impacted by these activities.*

THIRTEEN

NEW IRRIGATION CANALS

=

SIXTY FIVE

ACRES OF
AGRICULTURAL LAND

&

SIXTY

ACRES OF
REFORESTED HILLSIDES

We partnered with communities in the Rodikot and Dharma watersheds of Nepal's remote Humla district to develop two watershed user groups that will oversee the sustainable management of these two watersheds. Through these two watershed user groups, 13 new irrigation canals were constructed providing water to 65 acres of agricultural land, 60 acres of reforested hillsides were reforested using such tree species as pine, apricot, walnut and dhatelo to help stabilize soil and improve water storage capacity, and 13 freshwater springs were protected and enhanced through tap improvements and sanitation plans.

We continued our efforts to conserve the Páramo, an endangered alpine wetlands/grasslands ecosystem extending from Peru to Venezuela that harbors tremendous biodiversity and is a critically important water source for Peru's heavily populated coastal lowlands. In the Piura region of northern Peru, we have brought together five municipalities into a commonwealth to protect the Páramo and promote the sustainable development of the communities living below this alpine ecosystem. The Mountain Institute is sponsoring agricultural and craft livelihood opportunities in areas located adjacent to the Páramo to reduce the pressure on Páramo lands. In addition, Peru's Ministry of Culture has nominated the Páramo ecosystem in Peru to be designated as a national cultural landscape which will help preserve indigenous healing traditions that take place at Páramo lakes.

IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS

Remote mountain regions often harbor extreme poverty due in part to geographic isolation, harsh topography, limited livelihood options and workforce outmigration to urban areas. In response, The Mountain Institute has worked with mountain farmers in remote areas of Nepal's Himalayas for nearly a decade, teaching them to cultivate and sell medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs).

These agro-enterprises enable the farmers to earn more money and meet their families' basic needs while also protecting native MAPs and local forests from destructive harvesting practices. We primarily work with farmers in the districts of Ilam, Panchthar, Taplejung and Sankhuwasabha in the Kanchenjunga region, and the districts of Rasuwa and Dhading in the Langtang region. In addition, building upon our knowledge, experience and success in Nepal, we have expanded our MAPs program to the Peruvian Andes as well.

In 2013: *452 farmers (42% female) in the Upper Arun Valley of Nepal's Sankhuwasabha District participated in our beginner MAPs cultivation training courses. Each farmer was provided with 150 grams of chiraito (Swertia chirayita) seed, and the farmers made a cumulative commitment to utilize approximately 200 acres of land to grow MAPs species.*

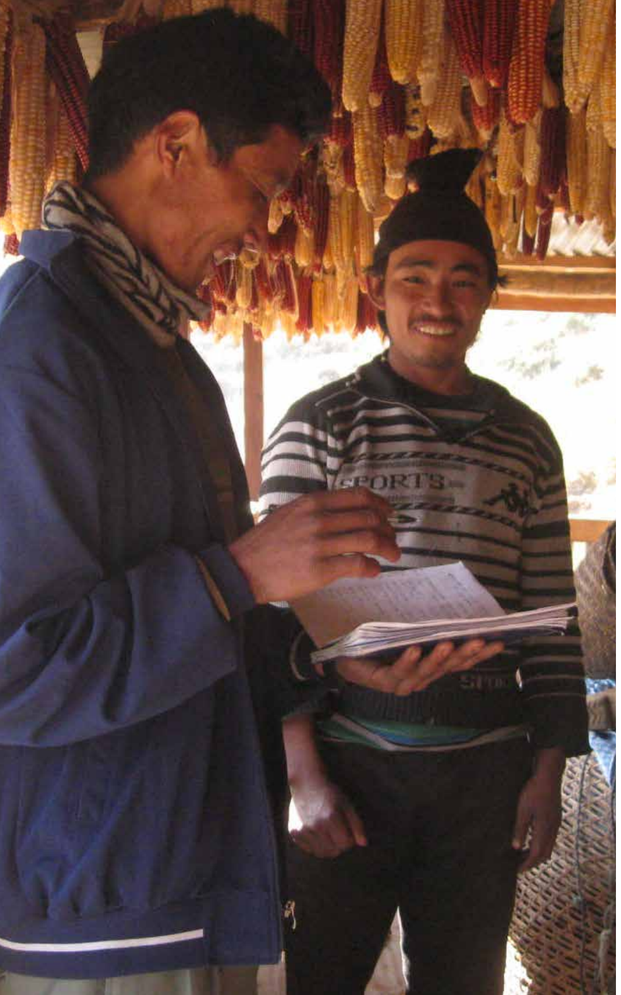
452 FARMERS

PARTICIPATED IN OUR BEGINNER MAPS CULTIVATION TRAINING COURSES

ADDITIONAL FARMERS **479**

PARTICIPATED IN OUR ADVANCED MAPS CULTIVATION TRAINING COURSES

479 additional farmers (45% female) who previously attended our beginner training courses participated in our advanced MAPs training courses. These follow-up training courses focused on harvesting, transplanting, storage, and quality control.



159 households in the Upper Arun Valley were able to sell their mature plants resulting in cumulative earnings of $25,344, an average of $159 per household. This average represents nearly a 50% increase in annual household income as many of these households live on approximately $1 per day.

CUMULATIVE EARNINGS OF

$25,344

We continued to grow our pilot MAPs programs in the communities of Huasta and Aquia in the Ancash Region of central Peru. By the end of the year, we were working with 41 farmers (83% female) in these communities. These farmers are currently growing 30 different species of MAPs.

AN AVERAGE OF

$159 PER HOUSEHOLD

= NEARLY A 50% INCREASE IN ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME

We conducted a market study in Peru identifying additional communities that are collecting and using MAPs. In addition, we were able to gain a better understanding of the MAPs market chain and overall use and prevalence of MAPs in Peru in order to improve our project strategies.

PRESERVING CULTURE

Mountain communities harbor unique cultural traditions that have been shaped by their natural environments for thousands of years. Preserving these extraordinary cultural traditions has been a focus of The Mountain Institute since our founding. We have found that for mountain communities to maintain their vibrancy, they need to be not only ecologically, economically, and socially healthy, but spiritually healthy as well.

In 2013: *We obtained additional funding from the US Embassy in Nepal to continue our work to preserve the ancient Drikung Kagyu Thubten Rinchenling Monastery located in the village of Halji in the Limi Valley of northwestern Nepal. Known as Halji Gompa, this monastery is the spiritual center of the three villages of the Limi Valley. Recent unexpected floods related to a high mountain glacier located above the village threaten to destroy the monastery. The new funds will be used in 2014 to build stronger walls along the riverbank to prevent the rapid erosion that threatens to sweep the monastery away and to plant native deep-rooted trees to further stabilize the soil.*

DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

The Mountain Institute's Spruce Knob Mountain Center, located on the slopes of Spruce Knob – West Virginia's highest mountain – continues to serve as an environmental and outdoors education center for West Virginians and others located throughout the Appalachian region and along the east coast of the United States. Our links to the West Virginia public school system, in particular, enable us to reach out to underserved and isolated schools to provide them with opportunities for world-class project-based learning. In 2013:

WE PROVIDED HANDS-ON TRAINING & EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR MORE THAN

ONE THOUSAND

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

We continued to provide hands-on field-based watershed education for West Virginia public school teachers and students through our Appalachian Watershed and Stream Monitors (AWSM) program. Through workshops, multi-day field trips to our Spruce Knob Mountain Center, and comparative assessments of mountain streams and local streams teachers and students develop an understanding of watershed science, water quality, and land use. We worked with 28 schools in West Virginia, directly serving 35 teachers and 850 students, and indirectly serving hundreds more as teachers took lessons back to their classrooms to incorporate into the curriculum.

Every one of the 285 fifth grade students from the eleven elementary schools in the Randolph County school system in West Virginia participated in a two-day course focused on their local environment and culture. For more than a decade, we have operated this program as a supplement to classroom learning to get kids excited about the outdoors and to help them better connect with their local environment and heritage.

56 teenagers participated in our new Mountain Trail Monitors program. This program, carried out in partnership with the US Forest Service, provides teenagers with the opportunity to learn about protected area maintenance and management in the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia. In its inaugural year, the participants enjoyed forests, fields, streams, and mountain views while working together as a team to remove fallen trees and brush, maintain trails and trail markers, and monitor and manage erosion.

HELPING MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The Mountain Institute plays a leading role in the High Mountains Adaptation Partnership (HiMAP) – a community of practice focused on high mountain glacial watersheds. The goal of HiMAP is to strengthen the scientific, social and institutional capacity for climate change adaptation, resilient development and disaster risk mitigation and management (especially for dangerous glacial lakes) in high mountain regions of Peru and Nepal.

HiMAP hopes to accomplish this goal through: (1) building knowledge and capacity, developing adaptation plans, increasing resilience, and informing climate-smart development at the local level, particularly for mountain communities; (2) building stronger institutions and fostering the next generation of mountain-scientists and development practitioners through competitive small grants and mentoring; and (3) building a global community of practice for high mountain glacial watershed technical analysis and sharing of knowledge and lessons learned.

MORE THAN

50

SCIENTISTS

The Mountain Institute, in partnership with USAID and the University of Texas at Austin, hosted an international workshop in Huaraz, Peru in July 2013 where more than 50 scientists from Bhutan, Bolivia, Japan, Nepal, Peru, Switzerland, Tajikistan, and the United States convened to share research results and learn new field methods in high mountain sciences. These hands-on lessons included ground penetrating radar (GPR) demonstrations at Pastoruri glacier, conflict resolution methods at Lake Paron, and new methodologies for developing local adaptation management plans in the Quilcay watershed. In addition, 47 participants journeyed to Lake Palcacocha to learn about the glacial lake's history and growth since the 1941 outburst flood as well as engineering methods being used to lower the lake's water level.

IN 2013

THE MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE WAS CHOSEN TO REPRESENT THE GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY SECTOR ON THE MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP'S STEERING COMMITTEE

REPRESENTING MOUNTAINS ON A GLOBAL SCALE

The Mountain Institute believes that not enough is being done today on a global scale to protect mountain environments and support mountain communities. Perhaps due to their remoteness and seemingly immutable nature, mountains do not receive the level of attention they deserve for the services they provide to humankind. The Mountain Institute is playing an active role to ensure that mountains and mountain peoples are recognized in the global sustainable development policy agenda.

The Mountain Institute was chosen to represent the Global Civil Society sector on the Mountain Partnership's Steering Committee. The Mountain Partnership is a United Nations voluntary alliance of partners dedicated to improving the lives of mountain people and protecting mountain environments around the world. Currently, 53 governments, 13 intergovernmental organizations and 162 major groups (e.g. civil society, NGOs and private sector) are members of the Mountain Partnership. The Mountain Partnership will be a critical voice for mountains and mountain people as the United Nations develops new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which are expiring in 2015.

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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
SEPT. 30, 2013

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	*$284,673*
Grants and contributions receivable	*$1,665,505*
Employee and other receivables	*$114,715*
Prepaid expenses	*$3,202*
Total Current Assets	*$2,068,095*
Investments	*$112,688*
Endowment Investments	*$387,312*
Property and Equipment, net	*$330,551*
TOTAL ASSETS	*$2,898,646*
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	*$115,982*
Refundable Advances	*$13,863*
Total Current Liabilities	*$129,845*
Lines of Credit	*$598,000*
TOTAL LIABILITIES	*$ 727,845*
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	*($793,605)*
Temporarily Restricted	*$2,577,094*
Permanently Restricted	*$387,312*
TOTAL NET ASSETS	*$2,170,801*
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	*$2,898,646*

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPT. 30, 2013

	Unrestricted	*Temporarily Restricted*	*Permanently Restricted*	*Total*
REVENUE AND SUPPORT				
Grants and Contributions:				
Multilateral Organizations	*$37,087*	*$1,267,543*		*$1,304,630*
Government Grants	*$86,250*	*$262,460*		*$348,710*
Private Foundations	*$64,764*	*$163,318*		*$228,082*
Other Organizations	*$173,729*	*$35,410*		*$209,139*
Consultants and Contracts	*$542,950*	*$281,659*		*$824,609*
Tuition and Fees	*$407,715*			*$407,715*
Individual Donations	*$91,278*			*$91,278*
Interest Income		*$8,264*		*$8,264*
Net Assets Released from Restrictions				
Satisfaction of Purpose Restrictions	*$1,231,388*	*($1,231,388)*		
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	*$2,635,161*	*$787,266*		*$3,422,427*
EXPENSES				
Program Services:				
North America	*$759,428*			*$759,428*
Asia	*$573,375*			*$573,375*
Global	*$572,100*			*$572,100*
South America	*$253,901*			*$253,901*
Total Program Services	*$2,158,804*			*$2,158,804*
Supporting Services:				
Management and General	*$528,395*			*$528,395*
Development and Fundraising	*$6,843*			*$6,843*
Total Supporting Services	*$535,238*			*$535,238*
TOTAL EXPENSES	*$2,694,042*			*$2,694,042*
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	*($58,881)*	*$787,266*		*$728,385*
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	*($734,724)*	*$1,789,828*	*$387,312*	*$1,442,416*
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	*($793,605)*	*$2,577,094*	*$387,312*	*$2,170,801*

IN LOVING

MEMORY

OF **D. JANE PRATT**

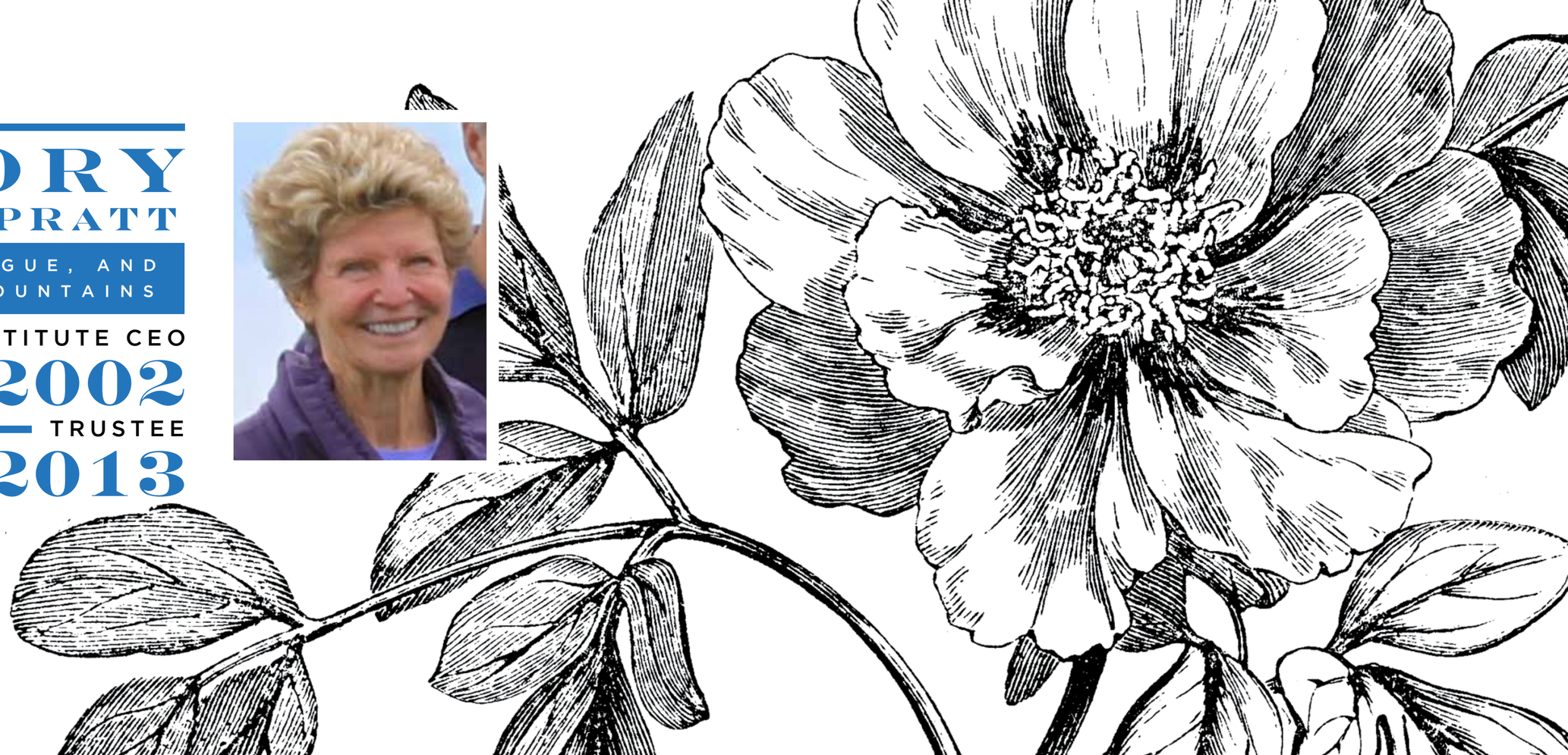
FRIEND, COLLEAGUE, AND GUARDIAN OF MOUNTAINS

THE MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE CEO

1994 TO 2002

TRUSTEE

2011 TO 2013



DESIGNED BY // MARGARET HAAG // 2014