

## Terma Foundation Receives the World of Children Health Care Award

*Nancy S. Harris, Founder and President of the Terma Foundation, is recognized for her life's work on behalf of Tibetan children*

**NEW YORK (November 9, 2006)** —Dr. Nancy S. Harris, Founder and President of the Terma Foundation, received the 2006 World of Children Health Care Award, an international children's advocacy group dedicated to honoring exceptional child advocates from around the world. Ceremonies were held at the US Fund for UNICEF House (3 UN Plaza) in New York City. Harris was one of three finalists for the award, chosen from over 200 nominations worldwide. The Health Care Award was established to recognize individuals who have made a significant lifetime contribution to the health and well-being of children.



*From Left: WOC Award Recipient Cheryl Perera; WOC Award Recipient Nancy Harris; Terma Foundation Finance Director Amber Fowler; WOC Award Nominee Susan Krabacher; Terma Foundation Lhasa Program Manager, Françoise Begaux; Terma Foundation Associate Director, Heather Mackay*

*"The World of Children Health Care Award is a profoundly moving recognition of our medical work in Tibet. Most importantly, it deeply honors the children we serve. Your tribute sends a powerful message to these children and their communities: our highest responsibility towards creating a humane future is to reduce the suffering of all children." Dr. Harris.*

### **About Nancy S. Harris, MD**

Dr. Nancy Harris has worked for fifteen years to reverse the life-threatening health challenges affecting the lives of nearly one million underserved Tibetan children in the remote Tibet Autonomous Region and adjacent Tibetan ethnic areas of China. Harris first noted unusual growth stunting in children while visiting the region in 1990. For seven years, she and her tri-cultural team of Tibetan, Chinese and Western health workers weighed, measured and examined several thousands of children. The resulting data, published in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine in 2001, documented that these children were not "short but healthy" as previously believed, but were in fact severely malnourished and chronically ill. As a result these children are at high risk of death from easily preventable and treatable conditions such as diarrhea, pneumonia and tuberculosis. To prevent this needless mortality, Harris worked with local traditional elders, women, and villagers to develop six integrated child and community health programs. Programs are implemented by local Tibetan staff as meaningful, culturally acceptable and sustainable community-based interventions, with emphasis on health education. Spending six to eight months a year in the field, Dr. Harris continues her dedication to generate

awareness and direct resources to address this dire situation, which now includes emergence of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

### **About Terma Foundation**

The mission of the Terma Foundation is to implement an integrated approach to child and community survival in vulnerable indigenous populations. Terma has a demonstrated 14-year track record and is one of the longest running nonprofits implementing culturally sensitive grassroots healthcare and education initiatives in the Tibet Autonomous Region and adjacent ethnic areas of China. Direct beneficiaries are women, children, the elderly, and tuberculosis patients and families. The approach is both preventative and curative, employing low-cost solutions while remaining respectful of cultural worldview and tradition. Field programs, based in Lhasa, have reached over 300,000 child and community beneficiaries per year and over 100,000 children in the past 3 years.

### **About World of Children**

Established in 1998, World of Children, Inc. ([www.WorldofChildren.org](http://www.WorldofChildren.org)) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to honor, illuminate and inspire action on behalf of children by raising global awareness of the plight of children and by recognizing and bringing together individuals who have had a profound positive effect on the well-being of children. The World of Children was created to recognize and provide financial assistance to those making a difference in the lives of children through its annual awards program. Throughout the past nine years, 53 child advocates from 20 countries have been honored with nearly \$2 million in grants, which has helped touch the lives of 300 million children worldwide. Nominated by their peers, Award honorees are chosen during a three part selection process, which includes a review by the Selection Committee and the International Advisory Council with final approval from the World of Children Board of Governors.

Of the finalists chosen, "We are incredibly honored to recognize their selfless giving to make the world a better place for children everywhere," said WOC Found Harry Leibowitz, PhD. "They are powerful role models, and their examples should remind us that one person does have the power to make a difference."

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**Terma Foundation**

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