

Nepal Education Fund



Issue 5 November 2008
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A Year in Review

Again I am late in sending this newsletter out. The blog, which I update regularly, seems to be the best way to communicate with everyone but I do realize that there are a few who do not have computers.

It has been a very successful year for NEF especially the last few months. When I returned from Nepal in early May I never dreamed that so much would happen before I returned again this coming Sunday.

We had our **first garage sale**, which was huge in late May and two more throughout the summer. All were very successful generating about \$4000. We plan to do the same next year.

We also had a draw for a **progressive dinner** which was planned by Monica Watt and she did a very successful job and we raised another \$3,400.

Along with some other donations we are in great shape to do some meaningful work in Nepal. This will include **help for schools, a new sewing program and help for any families that have medical problems etc.**

I thank everyone who has helped with these projects either physically or by way of donating items or buying them. As you know **every cent goes to the cause!**



The Joy of Shopping for Shoes and Uniforms in Pokharra!

Nepal Challenges!

When I was in Nepal in the spring of this year there were changes which were challenging but have worked out well.

First we registered with the Social Welfare Council as a Nepal charity. This entails much paperwork and time. It required that we have our own office and so we rented a three roomed apartment in which we could have an office and also where I could stay when in Nepal.

We hired Mann in March and trained him which involved visiting every family that we sponsor in one day. He has worked out extremely well and also lives with his wife, Sima, in the apartment. This is a good arrangement as I wanted the apartment to be occupied. It is also in the same building that Jagat lives in so he has access to the office also.

In the spring we increased our number of sponsored children to 140 up about 10 from the previous year. We did lose about ten

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sponsors but fortunately had new ones to replace them.

In March I made the trek up to the village of Chimkhola in the Annurpurna mountain range. This is a very remote area where no trekkers go, there are no guest houses or Western food. I enjoyed the experience very much. I learned a lot more about the caste system which is so evident and alive and well in these remote villages. They tell me it has improved but to me it was quite shocking still. The low caste live at the top of the village and the high caste at the bottom. The fields around the village are owned by the high caste and the low caste have to walk up to two hours to their fields. If there are not enough desks at the school it is the low caste children who have to sit on the floor.

Chimkhola School



Your Support is appreciated by all!

While in Chimkhola I visited the village school. It was a fairly new building but it was basically just walls, the desks were in deplorable condition and the floors dirt and there were no supplies or teaching aids of any kind. NEF through a donation of \$200 was able to repair 20 desks, build two bookcases and tables and buy a few books. From some garage sale money we sent

enough to concrete two floors and make two blackboards. During the summer I did a presentation to the Daybreak Rotary Club here in Duncan and they are now going ahead with funding to refurbish this school with everything it needs. They are working in conjunction with the Pokhara Rotary Club in Nepal. This is great news and something we can really be proud of as this will help 400 children in the three villages that this school services and hundreds of children in the years to come. I will report back to you on the progress of this project in the months to come.

Hattiban School



What a difference in Hattiban School for \$1000!

Also this spring we did some work at this school in the Kathmandu Valley. We had tables, benches and cupboards made for the two youngest classes and also had the rooms painted. This made a huge difference as before the children were crowded on such tiny little benches and the classes were just plain concrete and very dark. The cost of improvements to these two rooms was a \$1000.

Political Situation

There was an election held in Nepal in April which brought about a Maoist minority government. This result was unbelievable to

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Westerners but the Nepalis in their hopeless situation believed the many promises made by the Maoists and in the villages the people voted in fear of Maoist threats. So far things seem peaceful enough and tourism is at its highest since 1999. The general situation of the poor people has not changed in any way.

2009 Sponsor Fees

Due to increasing costs this year we have had to increase the fees slightly.

The cost of government school is now \$80 and private school \$265

Fees can be paid anytime now and the **deadline is February 15th**.

Please make your cheque or money order payable to the Nepal Education Fund and send to:

**Susan Marshall
6718 Beaumont Ave.
Duncan, BC
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The school year starts at the beginning of April 2009.

Tax Receipts

For anyone who really needs a tax receipt, this is possible by putting the cheque through VIDEA in Victoria but they do charge me 10% for this service. This is only available for private school sponsors or donations. They are also an educational charity - you can check out their website and we are on it under "Partnership Projects". If you wish to do this you will have to **add 10% to the amount making it \$291.50 and the cheque has to be made out to VIDEA** but sent to me and I will forward it on to them.

Special Thanks

Again we would like to thank the following who have supported NEF this year.

- 1) **Chemainus Animal Hospital** for their continued generosity
- 2) **Lara Pollock and the Halton Properties Group in Ontario** for their generous donation again this year.
- 3) **Nisha Demers** donated her Nepal fundraising efforts to NEF this summer
- 4) **Individual donors** who have supported us during the year (I will not name them in case they wish to remain anonymous but you know who you are and we thank you.)
- 5) **The Rotary Club** for inviting me to present our Chimkhola project and for taking up the challenge to drastically improve a village school and in so doing helping hundreds of children to a better future.

Volunteers

Most of you know how busy running this charity keeps me and sometimes I do really need some help. I wish to thank those who have come forward to offer their time. Monica Watt with the garage sales and others who showed up to help on the days we needed them.

Barbara Cochrane who helps organize me and the stuff that we get donated and for her collection of sewing items from her friends for our new sewing program. Barbara has many skills and she is always there with her ideas. Larry her husband who takes back the cans and there are many.

Peter Grosvenor who has just started helping me with forms and this newsletter which is so welcome as sometimes it is just hard for me to get these things done.

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Sometimes it is hard for me to ask for help and sometimes I really believe I can do it all alone but the truth is I cannot. Help makes my job a whole lot easier and even little things make such a difference.

Remember this charity cannot run without you the sponsors and the donors and of course my loyal staff in Nepal and I am only one part of it!

Trip to Nepal



We are planning a trip or should I say tour to Nepal in the Fall of 09. I will have more details of this when I return in mid November. It is for sponsors, donors or people directly associated with our work that wish to go to Nepal. Please contact me if you are interested by email or phone 250-746-8936.

with thanks

Susan Marshall

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