



Nepal Education Fund

Issue 4

6718 Beaumont Ave. Duncan, BC V9L 5X8 250-746-8936

November 2007

A Year in Review

This is the first newsletter this year mainly because I am now using the blog which I update regularly. Some sponsors do not have a computer and so I am putting this together with them in mind.

Our little charity has been so very successful during the last three years and we now have about 120 children sponsored. This last year we added an area of Pokhara where we have 18 children sponsored. I have spent a total of four months in Nepal this year and have just returned from my second trip. Our children are all doing well and we have our first student in college. We are very proud of her. Two years ago she was having some problems because of financial reasons. She was referred to me by the school Principal and earlier this year she took her School Leaving Certificate and did very well finishing in the first division. She is now in college, thanks to her sponsor, and she is working hard in a commerce program.

We have also helped two schools with some sports equipment, books etc. And hopefully we can do more in this area next year. In this way we help many children in poor schools. The money for this comes from donations and fundraisers like the garage sale.

We did have some sadness with the loss of eight year old Dawa Tamang. He was suffering from an untreated ear infection which developed into a brain abscess. We paid for him to have an operation but he died three days later. He had the ear

infection for many months and unfortunately we did not know about it or we could have had it treated. Some families are so poor that they cannot afford to see a doctor.

Also two little girls, Samjhana and Shirjana, have the illness of both parents to deal with. The father went to work in Dubai and got meningitis and now is paralyzed and also cannot speak. The mother had a nervous breakdown and now suffers with depression and cannot work. So now they have no income and this good family is very much destroyed and the girls, thirteen and fourteen, are looking after their parents and going to school and trying to keep up their studies.



On a happier note I have seen so many improvements in the children and families. A little bit of help goes a long way and makes for a lot encouragement towards self improvement.

The tea shop that we started for a recently widowed lady in March has been a great success and she is now able to support her four children and herself plus it has given her new self esteem.

In three years I have seen a lot of the children grow and mature a lot and I can see that our support and interest in these children is making a big difference to their lives

This Year in Nepal

Since the Peace Accord was signed last year life has been much improved in Nepal. Violence is less but the Maoists are still causing problems especially in the Terai in the south of the country. There are also incidences of violence happening on a regular basis although not in the numbers previously. I have visited Nepal seven times and this is the first time that there was not a strike which are usually called by the Maoists. There are no longer armed police and soldiers in the streets, before their presence was everywhere. It is no longer a police state. The elections that were to have taken place on November 22nd have now been postponed because of a disagreement between the Maoists and the Seven

Party alliance which forms the government along with the Maoists. The two sides could not agree on the matter of the country becoming a republic which the Maoists are insisting on. The king has no power now and is basically confined to his palace but the monarchy is still in place. Prices for food are continually rising and petrol (gas) is in short supply with the line ups miles long. Jagat and Kamal go at 3 or 4 am to get in line to get petrol for the motorbike. Tourism was the best I have ever seen it with Thamel (tourist area) extremely crowded. This is looking very hopeful for the Nepalis employed in the tourism sector. Now we will wait and see when the election will take place.

House Roof

One of our extra projects this year was a new house roof for another Tamang family. The parents cannot hear or speak although the three children can. The family lives with the grandmother in a typical red mud Nepali house. The grass roof had been leaking for a long time and this summer during the monsoon season we bought a tarp to cover part of the roof. With some extra money from a donation and from the fund we replaced the complete roof last month. Amazingly the job was completed in one week, usually in Nepal things take forever. It now has a tin roof which will last for years and also the attic floor was replaced and the walls reinforced. Three men worked on it and they did an excellent job all for \$480 including all materials. The whole village of Hattiban was grateful and so happy. Two of the children of this family are sponsored by NEF. The third is allowed to go to school for free because of their poverty. In cases like this the school will allow one child from a family free education.



The motto of the Model Women School in Kathmandu is:

No age boundary for education

This school teaches women who have had no schooling basic education. Hopefully there will be more school like this one as so many women in Nepal are illiterate.

2008 Sponsor Fees

Fees for 2008 can be paid anytime up to February 15th, 2008.

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

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Government school \$ 75.00
Private School \$250.00

The school year starts at the beginning of April 2008

Items Needed

1) Children's shoes particularly black ones. The children have to wear black shoes to school and they are such poor quality in Nepal that they do not last more than a few months.

2) Children's clothes

3) Barbie dolls and clothes

The Barbies are a great hit with the children and we have a hard time finding dolls and clothes.

I will have more luggage allowance on my next flight in February.

Thanks

I would like to thank the following businesses who have supported NEF this year:

1) Chemainus Animal Hospital

2) Lara Pollock and her company in Ontario

3) Eggplant Inspiration. An internet card company www.eggplantinspiration.com. Please check them out.

4) Body Beautiful/Sun Rayz a beauty salon in Ontario.

Donations from these companies allowed us to do the extra projects such as the sewing program at SBCH, the roof, the supplies for the schools and the money we used for medical costs.