



nepal orphans home newsletter

“In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it.” -- Marianne Williamson

Editor: Randi S. Miller

March 2010



FEBRUARY 23, 2010 UPDATE

What is my life going to be about; what is it going to take for me to feel happy — I mean the happiness that involuntarily springs from my heart and courses through my veins? Is this something we should expect from life, something that will come at some point?

These are questions that started to haunt Palden Schmidt as he drove home each evening after a day of fulfilling the expectations of the advertising company that hired this rising star from Michigan State University with a fresh business degree. Palden at an early age had achieved many accolades and rewards for his efforts and had risen to a level of prosperity enviable to many, but though he had all the goods of success he still felt a little hollow.

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NEWSLETTER

**YOU ARE INVITED:
APRIL 10 CELEBRATION EVENT IN DAVIDSON, NC**



Please join us in Davidson, North Carolina for a special event in honoring the thoughtful support of our community and celebrating five years of Nepal Orphans Home rescuing Nepali children from poverty, neglect and abuse and providing them with a home, a family, an education, and a brighter future.

We encourage everyone who can to take advantage of this opportunity to meet many of our Board members, as well as some past volunteers.

When: Saturday, April 10, 2010, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Where: Davidson, NC

Cost: FREE!

Please contact Boo Hess at bhessnc@aol.com for further details.

APPALACHIAN TRAIL HIKE FUNDRAISER



Sam Maize

Sam Maize, a recent volunteer with [Volunteer Nepal](#), and his friend, Andrew Mills, embarked on a hike up the Appalachian Trail on March

16, 2010. The trail stretches from Georgia all the way up to Maine, goes through 14 states, and covers a total distance of 2175 miles (3500 kilometers). Sam and Andrew hope to complete the entire trail in three and a half to four months. The two friends decided to experience this incredible hike and raise money for our kids at the same time. Consequently, they are requesting that those who wish to support them make donations in the following suggested amounts:

500 miles -- \$25

1000 miles -- \$50

1500 miles -- \$75

2175 miles -- \$100

The suggested amounts are only symbolic and donors are encouraged to give whatever amount is comfortable for them. Donations that are tax deductible in the U.S. can be made via check payable and mailed to Nepal Orphans Home, P.O. Box 2154, Davidson, NC 28036 or [through our website](#). Alternatively, Canadians can make tax deductible donations through the Possible World Foundation at www.possibleworlds.ca. We ask that donors kindly include a note a stating that their donations are in support of the Appalachian Trail hike so that we can tally the total amount raised by this effort.

When they have internet access, Sam and Andrew will post reports about their hike on [their page](#) on the Facebook social networking site. Donors who do not use the Facebook site may request that reports be sent to them via email by writing to Sam Maize at sammaize@hotmail.com. In addition, updates on the hike will be included in future newsletters.

We wish Sam and Andrew a safe and wonderful journey and greatly appreciate what they are doing on behalf of our children.



CALLING ALL YOGIS:

FIRST ANNUAL YOGA FOR FREEDOM EVENT IN NEPAL

We are thrilled to announce that from June 20, 2010 to July 3, 2010, Nepal Orphans Home will hold a very special yoga event in Nepal. For each traveler who participates, enough money will be raised to support one child for one year.

Participants in the Yoga For Freedom event will travel to places and participate in activities usually reserved for the pages of National Geographic. Each person's physical, spiritual and emotional limits will be tested and all will leave Nepal with a new outlook on life, as well as the knowledge that a child's life will be changed.

Due to the positive response that we have received, the number of spaces has been increased from 20 to 24. Five spaces are still available and we cannot add any more -- so grab one before they are gone! [Please see our website for the itinerary and other details.](#)

For further information or to reserve your spot with a \$100 non-refundable deposit, please contact:

Jesse Bach
theimaginebenefit@gmail.com
facebook.com/imaginebenefit

DHIRAJ GOES TO SPACE



In his own words, Jesse Bach, NOH's Director of Making Dreams Come True, Chief Fun Raiser, and teacher extraordinaire, shares this wonderful and inspiring story:

This past summer I was in Kathmandu with [Nepal Orphans Home](#). One particularly hot day I was sitting in the shade, wondering why the heck it was so hot; when a small boy came up to me. I had seen him before but never really had a conversation with him. His name

was Dhiraj and he asked me if I knew that man had been on the moon.

I responded yes, a little shocked. He informed me that it was Neil Armstrong's birthday and that Neil Armstrong had been on the moon. There was an article that day in the Nepali newspaper; Dhiraj had just found out about the lunar landing. That day Dhiraj proclaimed to me that he would be the first Nepali astronaut.

I did the best I could to find him everything I could about space, a downloaded shuttle launch, a picture of the lunar landing and a few newspaper articles about Neil Armstrong. Dhiraj was hooked, I tried as hard as I could to remember everything from science class so many years ago. I listened as he asked me question after question regarding distance to the moon, food on the moon, loneliness on the moon. I couldn't answer his questions. I'm just a shop teacher.

I asked Dhiraj to write down all of his questions to NASA (Dhiraj at first thought NASA was a person's name) and I promised that they would get the letter.

Flash forward to a meeting in my principal's office three months later: Sitting across from me at the conference table is self-professed physics god, Jason Weaver, a co-worker and friend. On his bag were space patches. I inquired about them and he said that he "Went to space camp". I called him a nerd and then informed him about my promise to Dhiraj.

Around a week later, I heard from a friend in Nepal that Dhiraj's Christmas wish was to go into space.

Weaver took this as a personal challenge and found astronaut Don Thomas. Our astronaut generously autographed several pictures from space, gave his mission patch, and came up with all of the answers to Dhiraj's questions. Weaver delivered them to me and the two of us giggled with delight, wondering how Dhiraj would react on Christmas morning.

I arrived in Kathmandu on Christmas eve and snuck the package into Dhiraj's presents. I was so excited to see his reaction.

On Christmas morning, I made it through the crowd of children to be near Dhiraj as he opened his presents. He found the white envelope and slowly opened it; all I heard was a gasp. He had no words. For Christmas, Dhiraj got to go into space.

Imagine what's possible if we just try.

VOLUNTEER REPORT

Papa's House Rocks Out With Eric Foerster



Eric Foerster, the widely known and critically acclaimed rhythm guitarist for the popular German metal band *Kingdom Come*, started a two month volunteering stint with Volunteer Nepal in February. During Eric's orientation week he performed for all of the Papa's House children and spent many hours helping with homework; playing basketball; and working one on one with several children, cultivating their musical interest.

Eric then left for Papa's Lawajuni Home in Narti, where life is quite a bit more spartan, and helped the girls there in a similar manner.

In addition, surprised and delighted to learn that he had fans in Nepal, Eric generously arranged to offer a guitar workshop in Kathmandu, with all of the proceeds going to Nepal Orphans Home. As reported in the [Himalayan Times](#), the sold out workshop was a resounding success and it brought joy to many musicians while helping our children.

Jiminy Cricket! It's the Jersey Cricket Team!



On Thursday the 25th of February, the children of Papa's House were the beneficiaries of a visit by the entire Jersey Cricket Club -- including 14 players and the team's management (Jersey is part of the Channel Islands, which are located off the coast of Normandy, France and are possessions of the British Crown). They were in Nepal as part of the Division 5 World Cricket Tournament and went to Papa's House because they wanted to understand the issues facing

young people in Nepal. Chris Hurst, the team's International Cricket Council ("ICC") representative, worked closely with our Volunteer Nepal manager, Emma Brakes, to coordinate this effort.

In conjunction with the Nepal Tourism Board, a film crew from the ICC arrived early to film the Jersey Cricket Club's visit. Two of the teams players, Captain Ryan Driver and Andy Dewhurst (shown above with Sangita and Hikmat), both teachers at the same school in Jersey, took time to film interviews with some of our children in order to share with their students the stories of boys and girls who have led lives involving slavery and kidnappings by rebel armies. Ryan and Andy are hoping to promote a lasting exchange between their students and some of the children of Papa's House using video conferencing and letters. They also intend to hold fundraising events at their school.

It was a fun and memorable day with a lot of cricket and kind attention given our children. In addition, we are pleased that their visit was reported on the [ICC's website](#).



Palden Schmidt



As reported so eloquently in Michael's February 23 update, Palden

Schmidt spent six months with us finding out what makes him happy while teaching English and putting together a boys basketball team at the Skylark school. In his report, Michael briefly mentions "the principal and many of the teachers who Palden taught to find joy in teaching instead of simply dispensing information and formulas". In Nepal, children are taught through memorization and rote repetition and in art classes, they are taught to copy pictures with great precision. Entirely missing from their lessons are thinking and creating. For this reason, along with our dream of building our own campus where the children can all live together and attend their own school, we imagine having a school on our campus where teachers will be trained to see their roles differently and utilize other teaching methods. In showing the principal and teachers at the Skylark school how to find joy in teaching, Palden has taken the first step towards realizing this dream. Thank you, Palden, for imagining what is possible and trying.

[Read about other volunteer experiences »](#)

THANK YOU!!!



Jesse Bach, a member of our Board of Advisers, cannot stop making special and noteworthy contributions long enough to stay out of an issue of our newsletter. It seems that his generosity is contagious as his father caught his fever and jumped into the act: Donald Bach recently donated a prototype of a water filtration system designed for developing countries to Nepal Orphans Home.

Donald actually designed the filtration system that he donated and, in fact, has been working on such systems throughout his career (hmm, maybe it was Jesse who caught the bug from his dad . . .). In support of his son's very committed efforts on behalf of Nepal Orphans Home, Donald wanted to see how he might also help. Consequently, at great personal expense, he sent this system to us and it is now providing the children of Papa's House healthy and clean water. In addition, his company, Norweco, generously covered the cost of shipping the water filtration system to Nepal.

The children and staff wish to thank Donald Bach and Norweco for this very noble act.



Thank you to Canadian Jessica Bohnet, a 2009 Volunteer Nepal participant, who left Nepal wanting to do more. She continued to give by producing a 2010 calendar to sell to her friends, family and interested supporters. Her calendar featured portraits of girls who were rescued from slavery and are now living in one of the four children's homes in Dhapasi. It celebrates our beautiful girls and their new lives, while also gently offering a reminder 365 days of the year that the practice of bonded servitude still exists in Nepal.

Jessica presented a check for the net proceeds to Nepal Orphans Home.

Finally, American Crystal Stafford, who plans to volunteer this summer, is already fundraising for Nepal Orphans Home by earning money as a musician. Her musical talent on guitar, keyboard and vocals provides entertainment at restaurants and house parties. We are grateful to Crystal not only for raising and donating money, but also for introducing Nepal Orphans Home to her widespread audiences.

DONATE

Nepal Orphans Home receives no government support and relies on the contributions of individuals sharing our mission to provide for the welfare of children in Nepal who are rescued from slavery, orphaned, abandoned, or otherwise not supported by their parents.

Please help support our amazing kids by [making a donation](#) in any amount at [our website](#). A [wish list](#) is available for those who wish to make contributions for a specific purposes. Alternatively, various gift packages and descriptions of current projects are available at [Universal Giving](#).

Contribute just by conducting internet searches using the Goodsearch search engine at www.goodsearch.com and designating Nepal Orphans Home as the recipient of the funds raised by your searches. We have also recently been informed that it is possible to donate money while you browse the web on a new, free, Firefox-based browser called [GlobalMojo](#).

