



nepal orphans home newsletter

"Hope lies in dreams, in imagination, and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality..."— Jonas Salk

Editor: Jen Kim

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## NEWSLETTER

### INSPIRING DOCUMENTARY FEATURES NEPAL ORPHANS HOME



We are thrilled that the inspiring story of how Nepal Orphans Home came to be has been captured in the upcoming documentary titled *What It Takes to Be Extraordinary*. Filmed over the past seven years throughout four distinct regions of Nepal, the film features the life story of Michael "Papa" Hess, Founder and Director of Operations of NOH. Also shared are several inspiring stories from our NOH children, focusing on the many issues children face in Nepal.



The film is narrated by longtime NOH supporter and friend Amanda Tapping (actress in *Stargate SG-1*, *Sanctuary*, *X-Files*), and features musical performances by sitar master Anwar Khurshid whose eclectic repertoire includes his current work with *Sultans of String* and performances in award-winning films (*Life of Pi*, *Kama Sutra*, and *Love Guru*).



The film's first screening was held in Toronto as part of a Possible Worlds Foundation charitable event in December, and was attended by NOH Board President Peter Hess, NOH Secretary and Treasurer Barbara (Boo) Hess, NOH Vice President Carola Drosdeck, NOH Board Member and filmmaker Toni Thomson, and a wonderful group of Possible Worlds and NOH supporters.

*What It Takes to Be Extraordinary* will air on Canada's documentary channel with CBC in 2016 and will be showcased at film festivals and by broadcasters worldwide. We will keep you posted on upcoming screenings and events as we are excited to share this film's moving story.

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## THE CLEVELAND CONNECTION

By Michael Abraham Triozzi

Ohioans have a long and proud history of trying to get as far away from Ohio as fast as possible. From the Wright brothers (who invented the airplane as a way to get the hell out of Dayton!) to Jesse Owens (who broke world records by simply trying to run for the Pennsylvania border) to astronauts John Glenn, Jim Lovell, and Neil Armstrong, who would boldly go farther from Ohio than anyone has ever gone before.

At NOH we are proud to help continue this grand tradition by sheltering escaped Ohioans like Carola Drosdeck and Michael Abraham Triozzi, who frequently travel great distances to flee their home state. They are given food and a place to sleep, until one day, they may be able to return to the wild.

Therefore, it is no coincidence that we should find another group of Clevelanders (students of John Carroll University) in Nepal, so far away from the shores of Lake Erie.

During their immersion trip, which included an extended visit to Papa's House, the students enjoyed a full tour of the Chelsea Education and Community Center. The JCU students arrived just as our NOH vocational classes were beginning, and they were able to see our computer-based math classes, programming classes, and tailoring classes in action.

The students seemed to enjoy engaging with the children and learning about their daily lives and education. They also left a very generous donation and new clothing, which they had collected from their local community in Cleveland.

We are proud to continue growing the connection between Cleveland and NOH.

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## **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: PAT WITHAM**



EDUC is a school run by Nepali volunteers. They aim to get disadvantaged children ready for the government school system, which usually takes three years. The children live locally, but several of them now live at the school, because the earthquakes had destroyed their homes.

When I teach English and Social Studies classes, teachers will sometimes pop in to explain concepts in Nepali, such as hydro-generated electricity and irrigation. I enjoy these classes as I really get to know the children.

In New Zealand, I have spent most of my working life as a preschool teacher, working with children from babies to five years old. It has been interesting teaching older children.

Sometimes we sit in on lessons with their Nepali teachers. I love that these teachers know their children so well. Recently, women from New Zealand sent homemade knit clothing for the children. The teachers not only knew which children would need which clothing, but they also knew their families well enough to distribute big hats to those with grandfathers at home and tiny outfits to those with baby siblings. The teachers were also delighted to provide the children a Christmas dinner of daal bhat and chicken.

My daughter Marian, who had previously volunteered, told me that the teachers hold parties for their own children and family members at the school as an excuse to provide a feast for the children. When I met the little girl that Marian sponsors, the teachers also pointed out other children sponsored by their own families and by previous volunteers.

For the last few weeks I have also been going to English conversation practice at the Chelsea Education and Community Center, with eight local women, who attend after their English class. These kind and welcoming women are eager to learn about the volunteers and their native countries -- and in exchange, they share their lives with us. This includes filling us in on all the difficulties of the fuel shortage and lessons in cooking over a makeshift wood fire.

They are all so busy. They all introduce themselves as housewives but some are also

business women. All are mothers. One is a grandmother. And now they are also students.

Though they say they have not had much education, they value it tremendously. When the women introduce themselves, they will always share where their children attend school too. Thanks to this regular conversation practice, the women are improving their spoken English as well as their grades.



Something that struck me about both the children at EDUC and the women in the CECC is how much they all value education and appreciate the opportunity to learn. Even though they are all working so hard, they are enjoying every moment.

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## NEPALI TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

By Michael Abraham Triozzi

Last year, the Chelsea Education and Community Center began offering free classes for women living in our Dhapasi neighborhood. This program has grown to include Nepali literacy, basic English, computers skills, and math.



We are especially proud to have two very familiar faces contributing to these new projects: Ashok Yadav and Kabita Karki.

Ashok and Kabita -- our college-aged NOH 'kids' -- have joined the CECC team as teachers, leading classes in English and math for adult learners. Their work has been fantastic so far, and we are so proud to have them on staff.

Though Kabita is earning her Bachelor's Degree in business management, she is now considering a career in teaching --

thanks to her experience at the CECC. She enjoys teaching English classes and has a great rapport with the adult learners.

Ashok's students are particularly enthusiastic about their teacher. They frequently bring him homemade snacks and treats, such as oranges, roti, momos, and thermoses of tea (all of which I dutifully make him share with me). In addition to teaching, he is also taking college courses.

As Ashok and Kabita are teaching others, they are learning themselves and gaining valuable experience and confidence in classroom settings. Working with them has been among the most fun parts of working at the Chelsea Center.

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## 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 want to make contributions for specific purposes. Alternatively, various gift packages and descriptions of current projects are available at [Universal Giving](#).

If you would like to make a donation of stock, please contact Barbara Hess, Treasurer of NOH, Inc., at [bhessnc@aol.com](mailto:bhessnc@aol.com) to obtain the routing number for our account.

Contribute just by conducting internet searches using the Goodsearch search engine at [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and designating Nepal Orphans Home as the recipient of the funds raised by your searches. Goodshop, an affiliate of Goodsearch, can also be used for online shopping, through which leading companies donate a portion of the sales to Papa's House.

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