

Nepal Orphans Home Fall 2017 Newsletter

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nepal orphans home newsletter

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another..." — Charles Dickens

Editor: Jen Kim

FALL 2017

NEWSLETTER

PAPA'S UPDATE



Left to right and youngest to oldest, Yeshodha, Rojina, Lila, and Sushila

Late one Saturday afternoon in the early fall of 2006, four sisters arrived. They wore their only clothes, ill-fitting government school dresses and matching jerseys. They had been given a blessing when they left their mountain home early that morning, the red remnants marking their foreheads as memory of their mother's last touch.

They descended down a narrow winding path, the smallest, Yeshodha, riding on her mother's back to a one-shop village where a worn-out bus would take them to Kathmandu, 6 hours away.

The mountain, and the little village an hour's walk below, were the only environment they had ever known. In 2006 the Maoists brought terror to remote villages; they would close schools, conscript older students and teachers, and impose themselves upon families for food and shelter. If you were caught sheltering them you were in trouble; if you refused you were in trouble. These were trying times...[\[Continue reading here.\]](#)

WELCOME NOH'S NEW BOARD TREASURER, RAJ!



We are so pleased to announce that Raj Trivedi has accepted the position of Treasurer on the Board of Directors for NOH!

Born in India, Raj has traveled to Nepal several times, concerned with the welfare of Nepalese children and helping orphanages there. He also spent his honeymoon in Nepal, about 125 miles from where he lived in India.

Raj left India about 20 years ago, first living in New Zealand and Fiji, before coming to the U.S. in 2002, and settling in Florida. He is a U.S. citizen and works in the Internal Audit Department at "one of the World's Most Innovative Growth Companies" as described by Forbes Magazine. Raj discovered the NOH website in 2016 and was in contact with Michael for a few months before traveling to Nepal in January 2017.

While staying at the Volunteer House, he spent time with Michael learning firsthand about the children's homes and the NOH organization as a whole. He felt a compelling affinity when he learned that Michael had lived in Florida as a carpenter for most of his life, and was inspired by the story of Papa's House and all that Michael has done in Nepal in the past 12 years.

"I felt a real connection with Michael, with his concern for the health and safety of children in Nepal," says Raj.

His extensive experience in accounting and auditing, as well as his volunteer experiences with non-profits, make for a perfect fit and welcome addition to NOH.

Barbara (Boo) Hess, who has served diligently and meticulously as Treasurer since NOH's inception in 2005, has been facilitating a smooth transition during the past few months. She says, "I like that his heart is captured by the children at Papa's Houses and the possibilities for their future. He described the many ways he and his family serve others, volunteering to work with the disabled, volunteering in hospitals, and counseling children and orphans. We've found a really good Treasurer!"

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS AT THE CHELSEA CENTER

By Hillary Bernhardt, Director of Chelsea Center

Signs of the upcoming Dashain and Tihar celebrations were in full form for families across Kathmandu with flying kites and entire families riding on motorbikes to complete their holiday shopping. The wrapping up of classes, exams, and activities at the Chelsea Center also coincided with my mom's first visit to Nepal, which gave me the chance to share the warmth of Nepali people—especially the NOH children and staff—with her.

Before the NOH children, CECC women, and Team Chelsea left for their villages and hometowns, we held a number of special events. See the highlights below:

The week before the CECC women started their month-long break, they prepared for and took exams in English (both theoretical and practical), math, Nepali, and computers. On the last day of classes, the women met with their teachers to review their answers and receive their results. The women who received top remarks were thrilled to share the good news with their husbands, children, and extended family members.



A few days before the NOH children left for their villages, we held a party for Children's Day, a Nepali holiday that celebrates children. Together we enjoyed a seven-pound sheet cake and dance party in the Chelsea Center's workshop and library. It was an event filled with joy and energy that I hope will be the first of many to come.

With my mom at Nepal Orphans Home—spending time at Papa's House, the Volunteer House, and the Chelsea Center—I had the chance to view all the meaningful work we're completing through fresh eyes. It is a privilege to be a contributing member of an organization with so much positive energy channeled towards improving and empowering Nepali children and women.





NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HEALING BUDDHA FOUNDATION

We are proud to announce that Nepal Orphans Home and United States-based The Healing Buddha Foundation have partnered to expand the work we are doing to support the Kanti Children's Hospital's Oncology ward. For many years, NOH's efforts through "Hope's Fund" have provided entertainment, birthday parties, chemotherapy, pain medicines, fresh fruit, and day trips to help afflicted children.

We are so grateful to Mr. Yu-Ming Wang, the Director of The Healing Buddha Foundation, and his team, and look forward to collaborating together for this important initiative.



Above, see kids celebrating a recent birthday with balloons, cake, juice, candy, and a special gift for the birthday boy or girl. There was no shortage of smiles among the patients, family members, volunteers and hospital staff.

NEW PLACEMENT FOR VOLUNTEERS

By Shreya Upadhyay

We are delighted to announce a charming, new placement near Pokhara for volunteers who are interested in teaching English to local children. We recommend spending at least two weeks in this placement.

The first impression that people will have of this 300 year old village is the slate-roofed houses, paved courtyard, museum, Buddhist monastery and friendly people. You will also enjoy plenty of majestic views of the Himalayas and valleys.



The school teaches around 30-40 kids and has class levels from Nursery to Grade 5. The age of the children varies from 4 to 12 years old and you can decide which age group you would like to teach. On average there will be 8 kids per classroom and volunteers can spend up to 6 hours a day at the school. The schools have very basic facilities and the main resources you will have in your classroom are a blackboard and a piece of chalk. The children will often have a very basic English language skill, so you can focus on leading a conversational English practice class with some vocabulary games.



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 Peter Hess, President of Nepal Orphans Home, Inc., at [pehess@davidson.edu](mailto:pehess@ davidson.edu) to obtain the routing number for our account.

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. 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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