

Nepal Orphans Home Winter 2018 Newsletter

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nepal orphans home newsletter

“Never believe that a few caring people can’t change the world. For, indeed, that’s all who ever have.” - Margaret Mead

Editor: Jen Kim

Winter 2018

NEWSLETTER

PAPA'S UPDATE

On January 1st, 2017 I was supposed to retire, but that did not quite work out. However, this January 1st I am retired. I have faith in Mrs. Pandey and our excellent staff to carry on.

While I remain in Nepal, it will be as Papa only to the children. There are most assuredly regrets for programs I was unable to accomplish, especially in educating the remote areas through a teacher training program, and closer to home, to take over and completely manage the care of abandoned babies that are presently at another facility and improperly cared for. This program was set back a year and has only now just begun, but it will evolve under Mrs. Pandey's capable guidance.

In my dedication to my NOH children I will attempt to write the stories of each, for they all have remarkable stories to tell. These children have taught me the most important lessons that a long and inquisitive life could hope to learn. I have been blessed. [\[Continue reading here\]](#)



Winter Camp at Chelsea Center

By Prashanna Bista, Assistant Director of the Chelsea Center

This winter break, we wanted to empower the NOH adolescents in grades 7, 8, and 9 with better communication skills and the ability to articulate their feelings.

Our primary goal: To help our kids be able to express their points of views clearly and with more confidence.

That said, we dedicated the first day of Winter Camp (Jan. 7) to forming the following clubs:

- **Public Speaking Club:** Designed to enhance communication and public speaking skills, with attention to clarity of their perception and understanding
- **Drama Club:** Designed to help empower expression of feelings
- **Literature Club:** Designed to help kids improve their writing skills, particularly poems and short stories



Though the first day started slow at Public Speaking Club, the club quickly transformed thereafter. Each day, the kids showed a different level of energy, which boosted the learning process. Observing the kids growing so fast in the club was a great feeling.

Unlike the other two clubs, the drama club was full of fun and learning starting on day one. Spirits were high and the expression, free and intense.

We struggled the first few days in Literature Club. But after gaining some momentum, the kids started exploring creative ways to write. The results were surprisingly amazing.

During the mornings, we helped our kids develop interest in various professions and also think more about their future careers. Most of our kids are interested in professions like social work, IT, medicine (nursing/doctor), and engineering. To help them develop practical ideas about what their journey would look like, we invited different professionals to lead interactive workshops with the kids. The professionals shared their experiences and their own journeys, providing basic ideas about how to be a professional in the related field in Nepal.

At the end of each session, the kids asked the professionals questions about their respective fields. They showed initiative like never before; they were asking questions and inquiring with a different level of confidence and willingness to learn. These moments were full of warmth and gratitude for us too, because the kids were starting to explore their world now.

The journey of the 13-day Winter Camp was full of learning and perseverance. Since the kids had learned a lot, they were excited to share what they had learned for the finale. They demonstrated dedication and were in high spirits. Practicing at the Chelsea Center was priceless experience for all involved.

At the final presentation on Friday, Jan. 19, our kids were happy, but anxious too. The performances touched many hearts in the crowd and also challenged the performers' personal beliefs about themselves. It was an amazing day! During the last performances, many kids showed tears as the final drama performance reflected their respect, gratitude, and deep-rooted love for Papa. We experienced a new energy at Chelsea Center on that day that touched every person's heart.



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Sports Day!
By Sita Timilsina, Class 9





Every year our school conducts an event for parents. This year, it was Sports Day. We had practiced for three weeks for Sports Day. Each one of us was very excited for the big event. We had worked hard preparing for the day. It was held on January 6, 2018. We walked to Maharajgunj Police Academy. It took half an hour to get there. I enjoyed spending time with my friends on the way there. When we were there, we waited for parents to arrive.

Our Sports Day began with a march, which the Armed Police Force (APF) taught us. I was afraid, nervous, and yet excited. We were divided into four different houses: Eliot (Green), Keats (Blue), Milton (Yellow), and Shelley (Red).

We had many events and competitions like running (100-meter, 200-meter), jumping, ball passing, guiding the blind, relay, etc. We cheered for our own houses.

We also performed a dance, whose theme was saving our planet Earth. We performed a Zumba-style dance, too. Dancing was really fun. Our senior brothers and sisters were presented medals with the announcement of their grades. There were many games and we enjoyed them all a lot. We were very energetic, cheering our teams. Personally, I enjoyed cheering for my team.

Our Sports Day ended at 2:30 in the afternoon. Our principal handed over the trophy to the winning team of the two houses, Milton (Yellow) and Shelley (Red). It was a very special day for me.

Christmas at Papa's House

By Heather Schultz, Volunteer

Christmas time at Papa's House was full of light and joy. The celebrations began on Christmas Eve with the lighting of candles around the yard, which softly illuminated faces full of anticipation. Soon quiet conversations bubbled over into a playful game of trying to blow out each other's candles. As the children laughed and played, Santa suddenly appeared on the roof, showering the excited onlookers with small candies! They began to shout, "We want Santa, we want Santa!" spurring him to descend into the yard. One of the girls eagerly grabbed my arm and said, "Look Sister, Santa has come!" All of the children gathered excitedly around him, awaiting their turn to have their picture taken with him as Papa passed out steaming cups of hot chocolate.



Once Santa had gone, the children settled in with handfuls of popcorn to watch the movie *Elf*, which was conveniently projected onto the side of the house.

The next morning, many of the children arose early in anticipation of receiving Christmas gifts. Under the tree, each child discovered a package with their name on it – inside, a warm hoodie, lovingly imprinted with 'Papa's House' on the front. Then everyone gathered in a large circle for a gift exchange. The children joyfully celebrated with one another as, one by one, they revealed for whom they had gotten a gift. As the children were excitedly showing off their presents to each other, Christmas brunch was prepared.

The holiday feast included the classic Nepali dahl bhaat and tarkahri, as well as many other delights, such as meat dishes, papadam, fruit, cake and various desserts. Once everyone finished the delicious meal and enjoyed conversation with their sisters and brothers, several of the children performed dance and song routines which they had arranged just for the occasion.

My first Christmas with the children of Papa's House was a joyous event. It was wonderful to see the happiness and excitement of the children as well as their desire to make others feel happy and included as well. When one of the girls realized I had not been part of the gift exchange, she seemed sad for me, though I told her it did not bother me in the least. Several minutes later, two of the girls came and offered me chocolates – their thoughtfulness was really touching.





Holiday FUN-draisers!

A special thank you to everyone who participated in the gingerbread house decorating fundraiser in Marin County, California. Judy Key and her daughter Abigail hand made over 30 gingerbread houses and hosted a decorating event for children at their home. Gingerbread house kits were also delivered to donors to spread the fun far and wide.

We are also grateful to the group of Marin County students who organized the 7th annual holiday bake sale for NOH in San Francisco. Thank you to everyone who baked, volunteered, and stopped by the sale to purchase treats to benefit our NOH community.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

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**. Get an inside look at Nepal Orphans Home for **donation ideas**.

If you would like to make a donation of stock, please contact Peter Hess at pehess@davidsen.edu to obtain the routing number for our account.

Did you know?! You can contribute a penny for every internet search to NOH by designating Nepal Orphans Home as your cause on the **GoodSEARCH search engine**.

Love to shop online?! Did you know, you can buy cool stuff on **GoodSHOP** while designating a percentage of what you spend to NOH?

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