

PAPA'S HOUSE MAGAZINE

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TRANSITIONS



PHOTOS: MICHAEL HESS



By Prashanna Bista
Director of the Chelsea Education and Community Center

TRANSITIONS

Since the beginning of the school year 2075 we have been planning for the transition of our Secondary Education Examination (SEE) graduates. There were 18 students (14 young women, 4 young men) who completed Grade 10 at Skylark and who took the SEE in March, but would be waiting for their results until June, and waiting again for the start of college classes in July.

One of the young women chose to go to her village after the SEE exam and did not return, even for the annual Pokhara Tour planned each year for the graduates. Our challenge was to help the others find part-time job placements. After the students had moved into their transition housing and returned from their Pokhara tour, most of them had initially planned to visit their village for two weeks.

Papa, Sunita (Director of Operations), and I met with the graduates after the trip and shared our ideas on how they might use their vacation days, offering a variety of opportunities for exploring possible job options. At the end of the meeting we told them they would need to submit their choice soon since we would need to make arrangements for those who wished to travel to their village instead. The next day, somewhat unexpectedly, 17 of 17 students were on the list of the ones who were choosing to stay in Kathmandu.

Many students outside Papa's House, spend their three months after the SEE watching movies, some enroll in bridge



courses for two hours a day, and a few use their time learning and exploring constructive things. At the Chelsea Center, we planned opportunities for our graduates to help them find work, train them, and prepare them for their life after SEE.

In this issue of Papa's House Magazine, these students describe their experience during this important life transition. You'll read about their worries and triumphs, their fears and breakthroughs, and their gradual gains toward self-confidence. Today, all of the students are doing some kind of part-time job and have enrolled in grade 11 at Herald College.

In addition, the members of the Chelsea Center teaching staff have written articles describing their experiences with the Papa's House children, the community women who attend the daytime classes, and their own colleagues, known collectively as "Team Chelsea." Their dedication to their students, their willingness to innovate, and their drive to grow professionally is remarkable.



By Anu Basnet

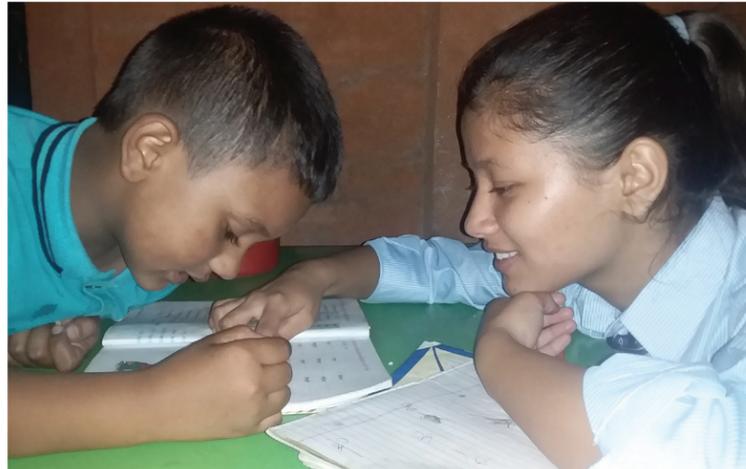
MY TUTORING EXPERIENCE

I did my schooling at Skylark English School. My school was a good one and all my teachers worked us hard so that we would earn really good grades. I miss those moments a lot. My hobbies now are to read motivational books, do craft work, and spend time with my friends.

These days I am a tutor for a student who studies at Skylark English School. He studies in grade three. I chose this job because I think it pays better than other jobs which is enough for me. In this job I can also choose my own working hours, because as a science student I will be very busy with classes. I chose to do the job in the evening after my college classes are finished.

It is easy for most students like us to help the younger students as the courses are almost the same every year. Helping them also helps us to develop a useful skill, when we will have a moment when our student is unable to understand specific subject. At that point we really need to be creative and improve our teaching skills. There will also be enough customers who need tuition with their homework or exams from time to time.

I got ready for this job by taking training with Auntie C for three weeks. After my training I worked as an intern at the Chelsea Center, teaching aunties and helping them in their studies. So, after a few weeks one of my teachers, Samir sir of my school asked me if I would like to work as a tuition



teacher. I agreed with him, thinking, "I can do this." Through him I got an opportunity to work as a tuition teacher.

I have learned to value relationships and take time to know who the students are, what they like, and what they stand for. I also have learned to plan a lesson before teaching anything so that it will remain in their mind for a long time. Having a positive attitude is very important because our attitude rubs off on the student. I also have learned the importance of staying with something even when it is difficult.

I hope I can bring more changes on him as he is not such a good student in school. He failed all the exams in school and hardly passed in the final term. As I am working with him nowadays, I really want to change him to become one of the really good students, so that one day he will be proud of himself and thank me.



By Anupa Gurung

MOST WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE

Srijana and I recently passed the Secondary Education Examination. Now we are working in Baal-kanti Hospital as ECA (extra curriculum activities) teachers in the oncology ward. Baal-kanti (Kanti Children's Hospital) is a pediatric hospital in Maharajgunj, Kathmandu, Nepal. The hospital treats children from all over the country and has separate oncology wings where cancer patients are treated.

Being children of Papa's House we had thought we had gotten all of our happiness and family. But when I went to the Baal-kanti Hospital, one more happiness was added to our lives and made them blossom even more.



In the beginning days of going to Baal-kanti I didn't know about the children's feelings and didn't know how to react to them. But later on, due to many elders helping us, we moved forward and got more confident about talking with them. And after some days we became close with the children and knew more about their feelings.

Feelings of sadness, anger, confusion, and helplessness come to a cancer patient. To keep them far from these kinds of feelings, we play with them, make them do drawings, talk little sweet things, and do



many more things. We regularly do these activities for two hours a day. We are giving our best for them and these days they have become close to our hearts.

The closeness that we feel with them makes us glad that they are willing to be part of our lives and we theirs. I feel that the children and parents have accepted us into their lives and are glad that we are helping their children. One month has gone by so fast and I have been blessed with these wonderful kids. We love being around them and hearing their voices and honestly we feel very attached to them. I always appreciate their closeness with us and I would like to preserve these feelings in my heart forever.

To be part of the family of Papa's House is the first, and part of Baal-kanti hospital is the second of the precious gifts in our lives. Thank you, Papa and Sunita ma'am, for this job opportunity which has given us these wonderful experiences and feelings.



By Apsara Neupane

EXPERIENCE IN A SCHOOL TEACHER'S JOB

After my SEE exam while I was looking for job, Santosh Sir (our Bible class teacher) helped me to learn how to teach kids in a Montessori school. Through him I got an opportunity to join the Shristhi Gyan School as an intern teacher where I learned to work with kids in playgroup level. I enjoyed the experience.

When I was in grade 10 I used to worry a lot thinking, "How will I find a job after my SEE?" So, like all my friends in Papa's House, I started looking for a job as soon as I returned from the Pokhara Trip, after my SEE exam. I had hopes of finding a job, and one day, Santosh Sir asked me, "Did you find a job?" I said, "I am looking for one." Later on he asked me if I am interested in doing internship in his office. I agreed and soon my training started. After a training of about two months, he told me about the vacancy for a teacher in the Montessori department of Shristhi Gyan School. Soon after, I started my journey as an intern teacher at Shristhi Gyan

There I met very young children, and I started experiencing deep love for them. All the kids in Shristhi Gyan were so lovable, but one of them was a child with special needs. With time I started feeling more and more love for him and the teachers told me that he is autistic. I felt like caring for him the most, and started spending more time taking care of him. I look forward to going to Shristhi Gyan every day, and I enjoy teaching. Of all the things I do in the school, telling stories to the kids is



my best experience because they listen so attentively.

The students in the playgroup start from the age two and a half years. Many volunteers visit the school every day, and there is a regular health check-up to ensure everyone's good health condition.

I think that all the students and the teachers in the school are very kind, intelligent, and hardworking individuals. The teachers teach their students and care for them like I have seen nowhere else. Additionally, they engage their students in extra-curricular creative activities.

A few months of my experience in this school has taught me many things. I have realized I enjoy teaching the children, and telling stories, too. Now that my college has started, I will not be able to work, since the school starts at 9 am, and my college ends at 10:15 am. I will miss the kids, and the school. I will forever be thankful to Santosh Sir for providing me this wonderful experience of work life.



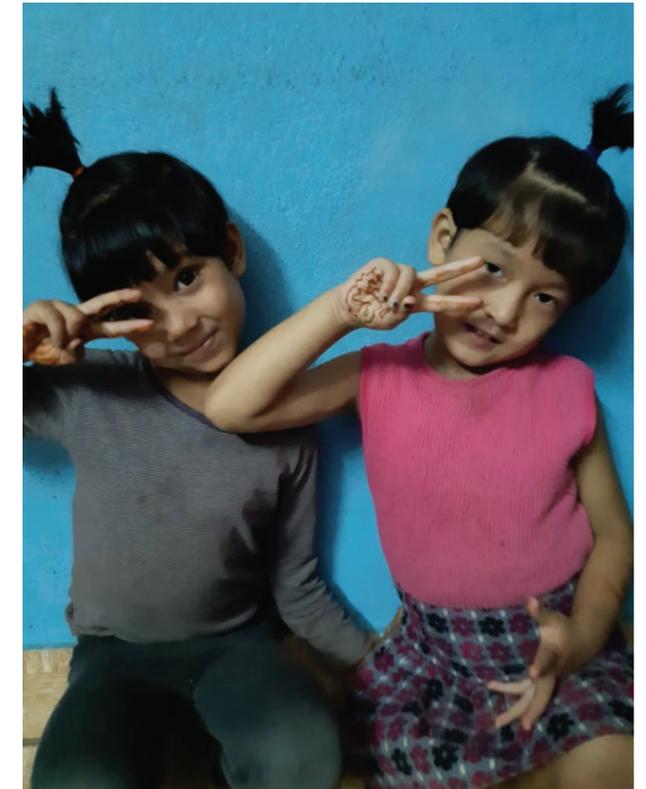
By Bimala Gurung

THEY ARE WONDERFUL KIDS



Sunita ma'am had told us there was job working at a child care organization if Mina and I would be willing to help. We were very happy to help the children, but I was wondering are they small or big? At first I went to Kapan to see those children with Saroj brother. When I reached the organization I was surprised but happy to see that the kids were small. I thought, "If I work in this organization it will be a help for them. The children will learn how to speak English."

These days I am working at the organization. There are eleven children who are under the age of ten. The children of the child care organization are very sweet and kind. Slowly everything went well while working there.



I felt really happy to be with all the little kids. To be honest, they all have an eagerness to learn do something important in the future. I have faith that in the future they really will do a great job. They are very small, but they are very smart and talented as well. They all are so dedicated towards their studies. At the same time I really feel happy being their teacher and to teach them. They are wonderful kids.

I feel grateful for getting the privilege to do this work. I have learned that although it is hard, we have to keep learning, and trying to make things better in life. I have also learned to work hard.



By Gita Khatri



By Kamana Nepali

MEMORABLE MOMENTS AND LIFE CHALLENGES

Life is always so beautiful with many challenges and obstacles. I am going through some of those things and I really appreciate that everything is going a better way in my life.

Recalling those days before taking the Secondary Education Examination (SEE), how we eighteen of us studied and how studying together brought us closer to one another, I have a deep and powerful memory of my life. I enjoyed sharing ideas, helping each other, staying up late and getting up early to work on our studies and was happy because we were able to do every test or exam better.

We completed our SEE exam, but it is the rule that when the students pass the exam they move from the Papa's House to the Transition House. There was time to pack everything up and move out from the house where it seemed like we had spent our whole life. I wished I could stay for more years inside and enjoy all the things that Papa has given us, but that was not possible.

Life was challenging when we moved outside. When I moved out of Papa's House, I had not experienced the challenges of living outside the family. I experienced a new problem every day, but I had the

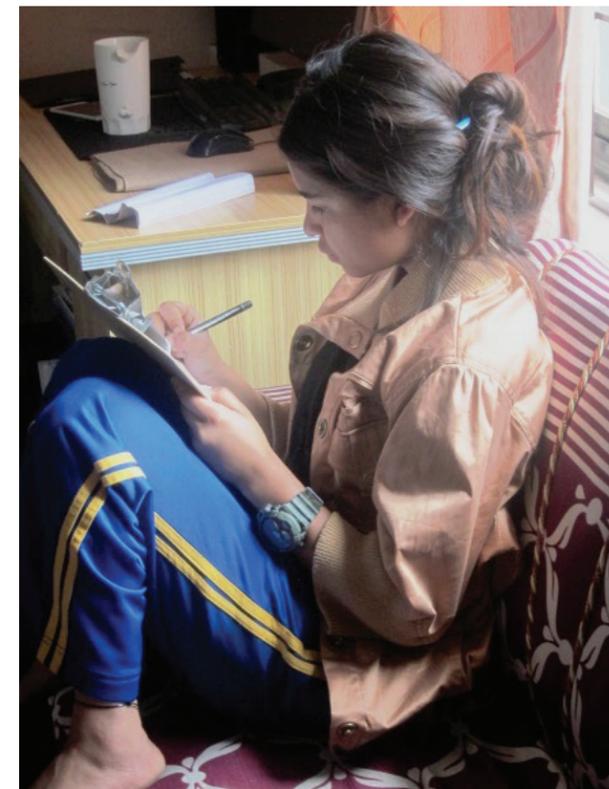


strong support of people at Papa's House: Sunita Mam, Papa, Prashanna Sir, and Auntie C. Those people made my life more comfortable and I progressed every day.

Sometimes living in the transition house gives me the feeling of moving away from something important, but I am learning many new things as well. While working in the Chelsea Center, I am learning how to teach the kids and communicate with them properly. It is challenging to deal with them, but I am trying my best. I like the kids and I like to spend time with them. Their voices make me feel good and more connected and loved in their presence. I am enjoying working with them at the Chelsea Center and I am learning a lot.

MY NEW EXPERIENCE

Every place where we live can be lovely, but once we get attached to it, it's very difficult to leave. Recently a group of us moved from Harmony House to the College House.



The first thing that I missed about Harmony House was being with my close friends, and I also missed my school. I have missed a lot of things, like Dhankumari's food, Papa's hair braiding, and watching new videos and series with my friends. I also miss those days when I used to tell Mankumari a story. It was such a good time. We really had fun, and we also enjoyed going to workshops. I missed the chatting and laughing with juniors and the silly jokes of Sujan.

Now I live with the other new college girls. We are more than a FAMILY. I'm also getting to know everybody better and better. I never thought that we would be so close, but we definitely are. It's so comfortable to be with them. I like all the rules and regulations where we are living now. Mainly, I like all the people because they have a feeling of caring and loving. They share everything with one another like their own sisters.

I have also learned how to cook and get to my job by myself. Going to work was the most challenging thing for me, but it all has turned out very well!!!



By Khusbu Kadayat



By Mina Kumal

LOOK BACK ON MY YEARS AT SKYLARK



I still remember the day when I stepped my foot into Skylark like it was only yesterday and it feels so weird that my school classmates and I aren't all together. Fighting over silly things, cracking jokes, gossiping, sharing our silly secrets are favourite things done with you, my classmates. We laughed and talked together, went to school smiling together, and created wonderful memories. Life will never be the same again as we have chosen different colleges and streams and we have to go on our own path.

We faced many obstacles but easily solved them together. Giving each other nicknames was part of the culture in our class, but sometimes it led to disagreements

though they usually didn't matter as we ended up closer together afterwards. I'll remember all the arguments we had and group projects we did such as class decorations and EPH projects. It's taken me time to come up with a good way to tell you I'll miss you truly and I'm grateful to have met you in my life.

Time is a thief. Part of me wishes we would have more years to spend with each other at Skylark and create even more wonderful memories than ever. Before we go our own separate ways, I want you all to know how much you mean to me. You all will always be there in my heart and memories. I love you all to the moon and back.

MANY MORE SPECIAL MOMENTS

Finally the nine years of living inside the Papa's House has come to the end. We, the SEE graduates of 2075, were very busy with the Secondary Education Exam, and I was sad too, because we were about to be apart from each other. I knew it would be difficult to be apart from my classmates since we have known each other for a long period of time. I knew I would miss the teachers who taught me for a long period of time.

The day came when Skylark said goodbye to us. That was the hardest moment for me. Skylark was a second home for us; we got such a variety of wisdom and knowledge from Skylark. The teachers were like parents to us.

Then the day came when Harmony House said goodbye to us. I cried for a while. There is someone whom I love more than myself. Of course it's Dhankumari Mummy. She has become part of my life. She has given me the love of a mother. She never discriminated between her sons and daughters. Her sons are very lucky to have mother like her. I wish I had a mother like her in my life. She gave equal love and care to everyone. She was worried about everyone not only for her sons.

Sometimes Mummy and I used to talk with each other and share what was happening and why it was happening. I used to tell her jokes and we used to laugh a lot. Those times were the best memories for me. There are many good memories with her. Maybe being a part of my life, she used to understand everything that I wanted and what was important for me. I always wanted to go to her house in her village once. And she took me when I had vacation after the final exams of Class 9. She was happy to have me there. At that time she was building her house, so she

was busy with housework. I used to make dinner and breakfast for everyone. Everyone loved me very much and I was happy to be loved by everyone. Some of the people told me to get married to their son. Those were the funniest moments for Dhankumari Mummy and me. I went to cut grass with her which reminded me my village. I got to know more about family in her village. After a week we came back, but I had gotten to know what village family means. Thank you, Mummy.

The moments that I had with my sisters and Dhankumari Aunty were very precious to me. I have spent a lot of time with Papa as well. Whenever I talk with him I feel like I am talking to my father. In my life father is more important. I know most of them say mother is more precious, but in my life I had a father when I was small, but my mother died when I was 5. My father looked after me. So for me father is more precious.

Although Papa and I still talk with each other nowadays, mostly we are busy with our own work. I have spent lots of time with him. I wish I could go back in to be with him and know more about him. I miss the moments with him. I miss the movement when Papa used to braid my hair. I used come after a long time to have my hair braided. Thank you for these best moments, Papa.

There are many more special moments which are still in my mind: The food made by Dhankumari Mummy. Going for a run early in the morning with Papa. Getting a hug from him. Playing basketball with friends and small sisters. These were the best moments for me. I wish I could have all of these moments once again. I would enjoy them more. But no one can stop the time; it passes very quickly. I just wonder why there is no rule to stop time.



By Rajan Yadav

MY EXPERIENCE AT THE TRANSITION HOUSE

All of grade 10 students in Papa's house took the Secondary Education Examination. Then we moved into transition house, just few days after the examination.

All the things needed were there for us in the house. The very next day we had a pizza party at Papa's home. We were told all the rules that had to be followed at our transition house. We had a plethora of things to learn which made our experience at transition house more interesting. The first thing we learned was cooking food for ourselves.

We had a three-month vacation before college classes would start, which is a long time. Therefore I wanted to utilize my vacation to its fullest. After we moved in we had nothing to do, so Papa offered us the job of cleaning out the water tanks which were in Papa's House. Doing this job for a few days I experienced how important hard work is and of course how dirty water tanks get when not cleaned for a long time.

After about one or two weeks at the transition house, we went for a trip to Pokhara which was three days long. We had a splendid experience there. The best part at Pokhara was the climate and beautiful places there. After a great trip in Pokhara, we came back home. Then we were given a sheet of paper which consisted of a list of jobs which would be possible for us to work at part time. Out of all the options I chose to be an intern at the Chelsea Center which was led by Auntie C and Prashanna sir. We learned a variety of teaching strategies. We usually discussed for an hour and went to different classes and applied what we had learned. It gave me ideas about how an effective teacher teaches students.

Our internship at the Chelsea Center lasted for a month. After completing the internship at Chelsea, I got an offer to be a supervisor for the Saturday classes. This was a perfect job for me as it happened during weekends and I would get plenty of time throughout the week to study. At present I have been participating in a photography session at Anamnagar, a place in Kathmandu, which will last for a week. While participating in this session I am getting to know a lot of things about photography. We will be going to college after a week and I hope it will be great too.



The experiences I've had while living in the transition house have allowed me to relax, try some new things, get ready for college, and also know better about living by ourselves.



By Ranjita Chaudhary

LIFE AFTER SEE

After taking the Secondary Education Exam (SEE) we know we all have to find a job. So for now I am working at Ashok brother's café and it is great. We four (Shanti didi, Renu didi, Shanta and I) are working there. Working is all about helping, learning, meeting new people, and making new connections. Everyday in my life I meet many people who I have never met before, and I have to have proper communication skills to connect to them. I have always felt grateful for the opportunity I have gotten to explore a wider world after completing my grade ten. I am deeply thankful to Ashok brother for providing me this opportunity as soon as I completed my SEE exam, when I needed it the most.

At first, I chose this job because I didn't have any job, and didn't know what I wanted to do. I didn't know what the people outside of Papa's House would be like and how I would connect to them. I was scared to talk to them. After discussing with Ashok brother and Prashanna Sir, I felt like I could do the work at the café, so I decided to work there, to learn to interact with people who I have never seen or known before.

Four of us (Shanta, Apsara, Sujana, and I) were training there for a month. After the training, Ashok brother chose two of us (Shanta, and I), and that's how I got the job. Now I can interact with other people better than ever before.



Until now it's been three months that I've been working there. I have learned how to cook different items and gotten to know that we have to learn as much as we can so that we can work more easily later on. Even if the work is difficult, we have to learn to adjust and to find a way to tackle each situation. Once again, thank you to Ashok brother.



By Shaloni Kunwor Yogi

THE EXPERIENCE OF SHIFTING TO THE NEXT HOUSE

I feel this year's transition was not an entirely new experience for me. As soon as I passed to become a 10th grader, every day was full of anticipation for life after the Secondary Education Examination (SEE). I always used to think about what I would do after my SEE, and how the transition house would be.

On April 2, after the completion of our SEE exam, we (the SEE graduates from Papa's House, 2019) shifted to the transition house (Sanctuary House). Luckily, Sanctuary was not a new house for me; I lived in this house when I was in grade 6 and 7.

On April 11, we went to Pokhara and visited many beautiful places. Some of the places I remember were the bat cave, temples, the gravity house, and boating on the lake. We had a lot of fun there. My favorite place was the bat cave because the experience of entering the cave, the struggle to get out of it, and the joy of successfully exiting the cave were delightful.

After we returned from Pokhara we went to Papa's Home for pizza, and he shared with us the constitution of our new house. During the holidays, we went to the Chelsea Center for different classes. I took a class with Auntie C which was for learning to teach the women who take classes there. It was so interesting, but after some days I got a job in finance in which we collected money from different places. After some time it got difficult to handle



because I didn't have enough experience to do that.

Next, I got a job offer from Santosh uncle who is a very good human being, who is always motivating us and providing us opportunities. I went to talk to him, and got the job of an intern-teacher in a Montessori School. Now, I assist an experienced teacher in a play group.

In the new house I got a lot of opportunities to better understand myself. I have learned to believe in myself and have learned to create a balance in different aspects of my life like money, relationships, friendship, work, and study.



By Shanta Kumal

THE EXPERIENCE OF WORKING IN BROTHER'S CAFE



We all knew that after Grade 10 we'd have to find a job. Suddenly our turn came. At first when we moved to the college house we had a lot of time to relax as well as read, explore, and play games now that we were finished with school.

Soon after that, we had a meeting with Prashanna Sir (The Director of the Chelsea Center) and other teachers at the Chelsea

Center about the possible job opportunities available in the market for SEE graduates like me. Also he provided us with a list of possible jobs that we could apply for. That's when I thought of applying for a job at Ashok Brother's Cafe.

Fortunately, after completing an internship-training for a month, I got the job. I learned the work from the senior staffs in the café, who were working there for the last two years. I chose this job because I'm going to study hotel management and thus it relates to my studies. We all had to choose our time for work, so I chose to do my job from 11 am to 4 pm, so that I would get some free time to study and do my college work.

While working for Ashok brother, I learned to make different food, use my time productively, and how to deal with problems in order to solve them. In the beginning days I did not know how to cook anything properly or to make the daily bills. But I have learned most of these skills that has made my work more easy and effective.

From this experience in my life I learned that, although a job is sometimes hard to do, we should never give up.



By Sita Timilsina



By Srijana K. C.

MY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

“Winning is important to me, but what brings me real joy is the experience of being fully engaged in whatever I’m doing.” – *Phil Jackson*

When I passed my grade 10 from The Skylark English School, I chose to learn to teach because I wanted to build up my confidence and improve my relationship skills. For me, the Chelsea Center has always been a place to learn and experience new things in life. Since I am interested in painting I thought of teaching art. Initially, I thought I would be able to teach art to the younger kids, but that did not happen because I could not find such an opportunity. So, after I finished my internship in Chelsea I started tutoring the young students (Grade 2 to 7). This experience has been a hugely empowering one for me: an opportunity to learn, meet challenges, and grow through them.

After I returned from the Pokhara trip, our internship at Chelsea Center started. During that period, we learned many teaching lessons with Auntie C regarding the qualities that one should have to be a good teacher. I also had another teacher (Meenashi Pokhrel) as my mentor-teacher who guided me. In the beginning of our internship I went to different classes with my mentor. I was so happy to see all the happy faces of the students who were eager to learn every single day.

The time use to pass in the blink of an eye. With the help of Auntie C, Prashanna Sir, and my mentor, I learned how to lead the class, how to grab the attention of students, and how to help the slow learners catch up. When I went to class as a substitute teacher for the first time, I felt very nervous. But later on I was able to lead the class, more confidently. When Meenashi Ma’am was on

leave for 3 days I led her classes. The classes went well on the first day, but the next day the aunties starting telling me about the hardships they have gone through with the changes of the teacher as soon as I entered the class. They explained how Meenashi Mam had joined as Anuja Mam’s replacement, and now I had joined as Meenashi Mam’s replacement, and how difficult it is for them to understand the different teachers’ teaching ways. I had a demotivating experience on this day. At the end of the day, I shared my experience with the senior teachers in the meeting. They gave me hope, and told me that it was a part of the challenges for any new teacher at the Chelsea Center. After that incident all the classes I led went very well. I have learned to communicate and to keep healthy relations with the auntie-students and all the teachers at the Chelsea Center.

Discovering myself while teaching the aunties and the children has been wonderful for me and now all the things are going very well. Now, I am able to lead the classes more and more independently. Whenever I experience some difficulty, I reach out to my senior teachers, and they share their insights with me, which helps me better handle the challenge.



A DAY TRIP TO GODAWARI

Fulfilling the last wish of children of Kanti Hospital is one of the outreach programs of Papa’s House. Last Friday Sunita ma’am, Anupa, and I took Melina, one of the cancer patients, to Godawari to fulfill her last wish. Godawari is famous for its botanical garden where different birds, plants, and trees can be found. She wanted to go there along with her family (her brother, mother and father).

A chill July wind scattered the morning mist on that day and took our enthusiasm, and we were less excited to go there. We had planned to have our trip from noon to 3pm, but instead we lasted till 6pm. When we went to pick up Melina and her family we had to wait for them for almost an hour. Sunita ma’am had called them in the morning and asked if they still wanted to go. Melina’s reply was always yes, but her father seemed not so ready to go. Even so, in this condition to fulfill her wish, Sunita ma’am kept up her best efforts and started calling continuously. Still they neither picked up the call nor showed up. Eventually at the last moment, when we were about to return back home, they picked up the phone and said they were coming. Everybody took their seats in the jeep and we started our trip to Godawari. The clouds promised to be darkened all day and this made our trip a bit uneasy.



When we reached the gardens it was raining more heavily, so we couldn’t start our footsteps; we had to take a vehicle (which had a plastic raincoat on all sides) and roamed around on it. Godawari was looking more beautiful than it ever has while it was raining. The dark clouds had cleared the dust and showed up the beauty of the bushes and flowers. Since we were not able to walk around freely, we thought Melina was not enjoying herself, but every time we asked her, she seemed so happy. She was talking so happily with her brother by pointing to the different new things she saw. Her activeness and curiosity made us relieved.

After roaming around the gardens, we went to a nearby restaurant and had lunch. Melina wanted to have fish and her brother wanted pizza which he had never eaten. He had heard that it is tasty, but he didn’t like it. After having lunch, we all settled in the car and returned back. We reached our hostel at 6pm.

This was our first wonderful trip with one of the children at Kanti Hospital. Spending a day with Melina and her family made us more connected to our work at Kanti. We all had a wonderful time seeing nature’s beauty and the excitement of Melina that had been hidden inside.



By Sudip Gurung

MY EXPERIENCE AT THE TRANSITION HOUSE

When I finished my Secondary Education Examination I was very happy because I was excited to go to Pokhara to visit the new places and enjoy our vacation. After a few days we knew that we were going to shift to the Transition House. This is a house where those who have taken the Secondary Education Exam live.



The boys' Transition House is near the Chelsea Center. We were very excited to shift to the new house by thinking that we would be free. After we shifted to the new house, we became more independent and on our own. We already knew how to cook and wash clothes, but we realized that it is very hard to be independent as we have to do all the work on our own.

I started a job of teaching and started earning money which also made me more independent. I am teaching tuition to those students who are unable to attend extra classes due to not having enough

money. I got this job with the help of my elder brother.

So far I have experienced both fun and difficulty living in the transition house. By living with small boys we are having fun like in the past when we use to sit in the same hostel, but we are having difficulty in doing all the work by ourselves. By being in a transition house we got to know the value of money. By our own effort we earn the money and we feel sad to spend that money on other things.



By shifting to a college boys' house we became independent on almost all the things like cooking food, washing clothes, and buying vegetables. I've learned that to be independent is a precious thing. After shifting to the new home I was worried, sad, and tense because we knew that we should do every work on our own, but by being independent it has also helped to increase our confidence.



By Sujun Gurung

MY EXPERIENCES IN THE TRANSITION HOUSE



The word transition refers to “the process of changing from one stage to another.” The day had arrived when this definition was literally going to happen as a phenomenon in my own life, when we had to leave our house after passing our Secondary Education Exam. How could I forget all those moments I had spent with my friends, sister, mother, and the entire Papa's House family? Maybe these will be my endless memories which will always be reflected in me and my loved ones.

We moved into transition house; as time passed gradually, I used to miss more and more the joyful time I had spent with my friends. But nowadays when I'm in the transition house, I think more about studying than playing or doing anything else. My older brothers always used to tell me that it's more fun to be in school than in college, but when I think of myself as a college student I feel better and ready for college. Other times I feel that it's a lot more difficult departing from the school and moving to college. There's a saying that people never learn anything by being told; they

have to find it out for themselves. It has been similar for us: we won't know about college life until we experience it.

Whenever I meet my younger brothers and sisters, they always say to me, “Having fun?” This means that they don't realize what I am going through and what I am doing with my time. I teach and tutor my younger brothers who used to stay with me in the same house. I face many obstacles while doing tutoring them, but I believe, we shouldn't be afraid of facing obstacles. My mentors once told me, “Just look at the obstacle as a small thing, and face it.” Since that time I have faced many challenges with new confidence, and it has made my life a lot easier.



Moving to the transition house has taught us to forget the past and live in the present. Most people remember their problems, including the background that they came from, and don't try to take a risk. But I have started believing in looking forward in life, and making changes in our lives or doing something new which will change us for the better every time.



By Ankit Bahadur Lohar



By Diwakar Kafle

MY EXPERIENCE



Being a part of the Chelsea Center is the most delightful and amazing life experience for me. It is the platform where I grow and develop my skill for the future ahead of me. It has been one and half years I have been working at the Chelsea Center. Now I can clearly notice the changes in myself. At the time I began teaching, I was just a young boy compared to now when I am good enough to be a confident and skillful leader to organize and run the class very well.

The aunties are so delightful, kind, and respectful to me. They sometimes act like children and still want to be children, I think maybe this was because many of

them married early and didn't really have a childhood. I feel so lucky that I got the opportunity to be part of the Chelsea Center and to be a teacher. I also feel so proud of myself that I am teaching those aunties whose sons and daughters are successful in different sectors. The respect that I get from the aunties and also even from their sons and daughters is so special.

I really enjoy my workplace and working together with my teammates. My fellow teachers are awesome because they are there for me, not only for the required class time, but also help during the exams and even for workshops.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AT THE CECC



vided the attention of students in a class could be. I knew the standard equations of the all possible closed curves, but I didn't have the slightest hint that a student's interest in geometry could be asymptotic. My textbook never taught me to factorize the hardships that a pupil faces. BUT there is one thing that I firmly believe: 'Every human is capable of doing wonders.' This belief creates a genuine respect for every individual student that I teach.

Leading classes at the Chelsea Center, I have realized that every student has his or her own journey of evolution. As

a teacher I have tried to facilitate them in their voyage with the subjects that I teach. I always try to make sure that everyone is motivated to attend my classes and get the maximum out of it. I have always kept in mind that I am working with students who have immense potential. Every day they might not be as receptive as I want them to be. They are kids after all; sometimes they're happy, sometimes they're sad, and sometimes they throw tantrums. But I have assured all of them that whenever they need any help, a brother, a friend and least of all a teacher is always there to offer assistance.

Every teacher should know that their job can be as heartbreaking as it can be deeply fulfilling. My experience at the Chelsea Center is no different. Sad, happy, frustrated, inspired, and sometimes confused, I have gone through every emotion during my class, sometimes prepared for that reaction and sometimes unprepared. It has been more than a year and the young kids here still continue to surprise me.

Since the Chelsea Center was my first teaching venue, I had little experience on how to lead a math class. Yes, I was familiar with the additions and subtractions of the subject content, but I had no idea how di-



By Kabita Mahato

WHERE I GREW

When I started my +2 classes I did not have a job. I talked with Papa and he suggested to me that I talk to Hillary (the director of the Chelsea Center, 2016). After talking to her, she called me for an interview, and I was selected as an English instructor for the women’s education program in the Chelsea Center. I was happy, but nervous too, because I did not have any experience teaching. A few days later, Hillary came to observe me while I was teaching the aunties. When I saw her there, I got nervous, but I tried my best. Later, she complimented me saying I had done really well and welcomed me to Chelsea as a teacher for the women students.

I was so delighted and felt thankful to her and Papa for providing me this opportunity when I needed it the most. I started to take part in the diverse workshops led by volunteers and professionals from different backgrounds or countries, and other senior teachers at the Chelsea Center. My joyfully-empowering journey with the Chelsea Center had begun.

Working with my colleagues at the Chelsea Center, I learned that we need to encourage the attitudes of seeking to understand and cooperation if we want to work as a team to achieve a common goal. I now have a great relationship with the teachers and the students (the aunties). It’s a beautiful experience to be working in the Chelsea Center. Every day is a new day and



each experience is full of love and warmth.

Reflecting on the past three years of experience here, I find myself as a more confident teacher, a person with good communication skills, and a happy individual. Encouragement and constructive feedback from the aunties and teachers have shaped me into a completely new person, and I feel good about it. I feel proud to say that I am a child from Papa’s House, and now educating the Nepalese women at the Chelsea Center.

Chelsea Center has brought transformation into my life. This is the place where I teach, I learn, and I grow. It is the place where I get respect from others, and I respect others too; a place where I get love from others, and I love others too.



By Kamal B.K.

SELF-REFLECTION

Self = (you) and Reflection = (shadow). Thus, self-reflection is nothing else than what you see of your life, in the mirror of your life. The thoughtful mindset always determines the real virtue of self-reflection. It is concerned with all the three stages of life (past, present, and future). While in past, it says who you were; in present, it says who you are; and in future, it says, “Who will you be?”



When I have to recall my childhood, I was a helpless boy far from the Midwestern part of Nepal (Kalikot, Karnali). But then, fortunately, I had an opportunity in an organization to grow up physically and mentally

healthy. It was nowhere else than Papa’s House (NOH) — the place with no sort of crisis for the overall development the children. The role of NOH for me has been so precious that no words could describe it. Papa is an energetic man with a real sense of humanism. Being bonded with the warm love, help, and support of the NOH family and all the volunteers is the source of inspiration, motivation, and encouragement. I will always hold this as an incredible souvenir, in my life.

The journey of coming here to teach at the Chelsea Center is going fabulous and nothing less than fantastic. It is an amazing opportunity and platform for personal growth. Here we believe and work with the elements of initiative, innovation, creativity which lead to the encouragement and inspiration for one another. The collaboration of my team and feedback from them has given me more confidence in my growth. The Chelsea Center has changed my life in important ways and fed me the skills of leadership.

Along with the sense that there is much more to learn and miles to go.... This is who I am. I am forever grateful to NOH and the Chelsea Center from the bottom of my heart.



By Meenashi Sharma

CHELSEA: THROUGH THE EYES OF A NEWBIE

A Newbie. That's what I would like to call myself. Four months on a roller coaster ride, with ups and only ups. I still remember the day when I first came to Chelsea. Not as a staff, but as a visitor, just to see the office and how it functions. And I would be lying if I tell you I wasn't feeling at home.

To me, the feeling of being home is everything. I believe that, as human beings the place where we find the most comfort is in the warmth of our home. And as long as we do not find this feeling of being home, wherever we go, we are not entirely, unapologetically ourselves. And luckily in Chelsea, I found the warmth of my home. In Chelsea, I found a sweet little world different from the outside world. The Inside world of Chelsea is much kinder and much softer (exactly the way our outside world is supposed to be). In the inside world of Chelsea, smiling at a random stranger is not abnormal. In Chelsea, work goes beyond completing duties. In Chelsea, teachers see themselves in students and students see themselves in teachers. In Chelsea, it's always us, and never me. And these might be just a few of the reasons that bring us here.

On my first visit here, I wasn't aware of the aunties or the kids, I remember going to Boo's Library, and there they were: Books. Lots and lots of books, which brought with them warmth, comfort and also nostalgia. I also remember seeing a poster of Albert Einstein in the library, but Prashanna Sir told me that our Aunties think that it's a poster of Papa. I guess I will have to get used to his sense of humor.



I walked up a few stairs and there it was: The Wall of Self-Reflection. If you feel good about yourself, you see a person glowing and smiling at you, otherwise, it's just another mirror. On days when I had severe headaches, the mirror reminded me that I need not be my best every time and my Papa's House students reminded me that it is okay to have a bad day, but Not Okay to go home without making it a good one. Every student I look at is different. Eyes full of secrets and smiles on their faces (occasionally a few stares are well digested by teachers).

When I first walked into my first class on my first day, despite all the lesson planning and all the preparation, I was blank. I was blank because I had no idea how to educate women who had lived twice or even thrice as many years as I have. What knowledge do I give to these mothers and grandmothers? To date, my only effort is sharing as much knowledge I can, with them. In their eyes I see the willingness to study despite all the hardships life has put them through. And if they allow me to share my knowledge with them, I am more than grateful for this opportunity.



By Monica Guragain

MY WORKPLACE



On January 4th, 2019 I sent an email to Chelsea Education and Community Center for the post of education instructor and on February 1st, 2019 I joined the team. It's been six months since I came here. A pleasant environment and the satisfaction I get when I teach students is overwhelming. Previously, I had only had experience teaching toddlers, and this would be teaching women, which was completely out of the box for me.

The way I spoke and the way I did things were being judged by teachers as well as students, because every time I was being compared with the previous teacher who

was obviously a great teacher. But I took it as a challenge to overcome the loss the organization faced losing a great teacher. Co-operative colleagues, a pleasant environment, and managing things as if it's your own home: this type of feeling is only felt when you love the work you do.

The day I joined the Chelsea Center I got to polish myself individually and organizationally and now I am tagged as one of the energetic team members. This is one of the best places I have worked so far. Thank you for providing me with so much love and support; I will be cherishing it throughout my life. Thank you, Team Chelsea.



By Puja Bista



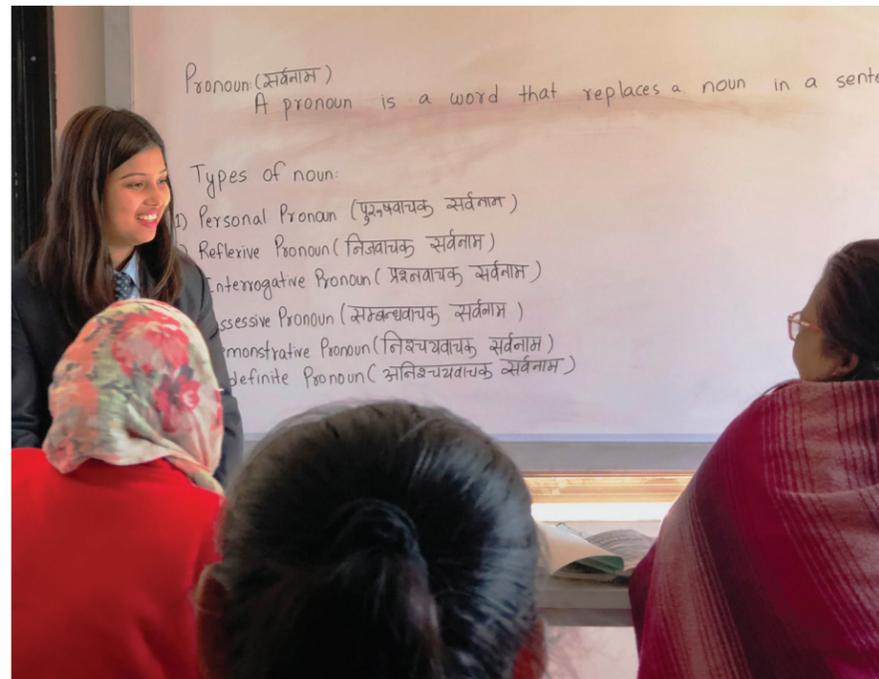
By Saroj Tripathi

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH CHELSEA

Among the best things that have happened in my life, working at the Chelsea Center is one of them. I am deeply connected to Chelsea (what the Center is called here) not only because I teach here, but also because I am a past student from here. However, the experience of being a teacher and being a student is different even though it is at the same place. Working at Chelsea has brought much excitement and maturity on me. I have grown personally and professionally. I have learned to interact with people, handled workshops where the audience is around two hundred, and learned life skills, and the best thing is: I get satisfaction and happiness from the work I do.

I aspire to become not only a great teacher, but a teacher who never refuses to grow. Working at Chelsea is never monotonous for me. I get to explore new things and meet new people every single day. I feel very lucky because I get to see hundreds of smiling faces in a day and this is where my real happiness comes. I have found numerous improvements in myself after working at Chelsea. My experiences have taught me to be a responsible leader.

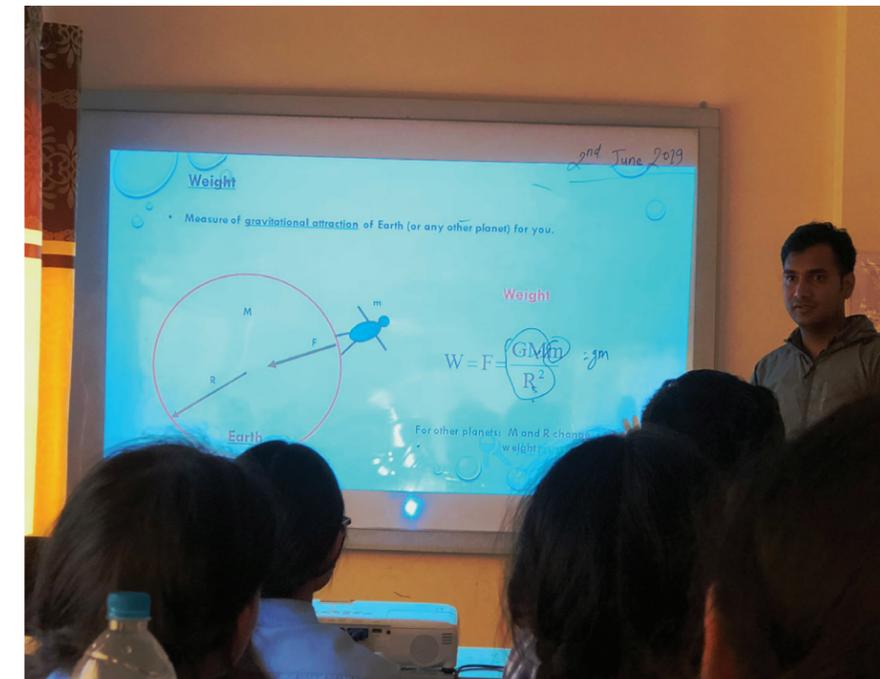
Along with the extraordinary workplace, I



am also lucky to have extraordinary team members. Although there are a lot of challenges in my work, without which I assume I cannot grow, I always tackle the problems successfully with the help of my team. Working with people who are broad-minded and encourage me to participate actively in every decision, has also increased the level of creativity in me.

I happily admit that Chelsea is my second home and I spend most of my time here. I can confidently say that I have developed qualities that a good employee needs to have and all the credit goes to Chelsea.

BEING PART OF THE CECC



Being a part of an organization with the sole motive of carving a path of promising careers for children itself brings a sense of gratification to me. The interaction with these fresh minds at the CECC and sharing knowledge with them provides an experience unparalleled anywhere else. From the never ending curiosity of the students here, I can explore a myriad of ideas and new teaching techniques everyday which causes my pedagogy to thrive.

I came to know that some of the students at the CECC had started their schooling very late at the age of 9 or 10 directly from class 3, with only a few months of basic learning at home, and now they were com-

peting with those who had started from the beginning. I can understand the difficulties they might have gone through during their incipient stage, but they never abandoned their goals for achievement which is very much commendable. The students here are very special for me, not because they are underprivileged, but because of their insatiable hunger for learning and polite behaviour towards their teachers, seniors and juniors. They have never failed to maintain their decorum.

The journeys of these diligent and courteous students are an inspiration for many of us. I feel proud to mentor these students and to be the part of the CECC.



By Sushil Dumre



By Sushma Chaudhary

EXPERIENCE

Teaching in a classroom to a large group of students was new experience for me at the Chelsea Center. I remember the extra math and Khan Academy classes which were challenging for me to teach, but it was fun for kids to study. The kids coming to CECC only 15 minutes after school had ended to do even more math with the same enthusiasm and eagerness motivated me and has brought me through these amazing five years of work experience.

The kids of Papa's House are so lovable, obedient, and inquisitive that I wait the whole day just to teach them in the evening. The sense of innocence they carry is the elixir that encourages every teacher to give a hundred percent in every class. I have observed that the workshops, celebrations, and the extra activities provided at the CECC have added much confidence to their personalities.

Time spent playing football, basketball, and chatting with kids on Saturdays triggers warm feelings for me. The short conversations with Papa on Saturdays are also special to me. The dedication towards study on Saturdays of tenth grade students encourages me to give extra effort, too.

I believe the strength of CECC is due to its teachers. I have always felt comfortable and honored to work with this team, maybe because some of them are my classmates, some are my previous students,



and some are humorous (Jasmina, Anuja, Meenashi, Monica) like me. On the top of it all, the appreciation and encouragement from Auntie C. amalgamates team. Energy radiated by Hillary (previous director) followed by Prashanna (current director) always excites the team to try something new at Chelsea.

As Gordon Tredgold said, "The more we teach, the better we understand and more we learn." Teaching at Chelsea Center has given me a profound satisfaction from my work, a greater ability to cooperate with kids and the team of teachers, an ability to think creatively, and also helped me to improve my teaching skills. I have experienced personal, social, and professional growth at CECC in the last five years.

THE PLACE WHERE I LEARNED TO GROW

I have heard that beauty is not just about having a pretty face; it should be judged by the beauty of one's mind and soul. I believe the same is true for a teacher.

While I was a student, I did not know how valuable time is. Now that I have started teaching, I know it better. Each minute I spend with my auntie-students is a privilege for me to share with them what I know so they can learn what they did not know before.

Over the past two years, I have learned diverse teaching skills and I believe I have become a better teacher. The best parts of teaching at the Chelsea Center are the relationships I have with my students. Most of my students are above forty years of age, but some are about my age. Can you guess what my age is? I am twenty-two years old.

In the beginning days of my work, I met many challenges while leading the classes. All those challenges helped me learn new skills and now I feel I have become a better teacher. The Chelsea Center is not just a platform for teaching; it also offers an opportunity to learn and grow.

I feel I am lucky because I believe my students are the most curious learners in the world and they value learning like I have seen in no one else ever in my life. It's not just that they value learning, they are deeply grateful to the teachers at the Chelsea Center. What creates beauty in the Chelsea Center and the experience of teaching is that the students are overwhelmingly joyful.





This year's SEE graduates on their first day of college classes.
Photos courtesy of Michael Hess and Sunita Pandey.

