

C.H.A.N.C.E for NEPAL
Barbara's report year ending 2015



I am delighted to report we have enjoyed a successful year, our best yet!

FUNDS RAISED DURING 2015

Earthquake Appeal April/May	£24,605
C.H.A.N.C.E 100 Club	£ 3,000
Educational Sponsorship	£11,900
Quiz Nights	£ 1,175
Fund Raising Car Wash	£ 700

DONATIONS:

Alan Rivers	£ 7,511
Astor Hostels	£ 7,511
Edmund O'Reilly Hyland	£10,000
Gift Aid Management	£ 9,810
Michael Jones	£ 1,000
The Danger Team	£ 1,400
The Herrod Foundation	£ 8,500
Other donations under £1,000	£ 1,193

TOTAL Raised during 2015 **£88,305**

The year was overshadowed by the tragic earthquake at a magnitude of 7.8 on 25th April, the most powerful earthquake to hit Nepal since 1934 only to be followed by a further earthquake two weeks later of 7.5. 9,000 lost their lives, 22,000 were injured and more than 600,000 homes were destroyed with 3 million people being displaced. Many families are still living under canvas or in temporary shelters nine months on! This was the worst natural disaster to strike Nepal since 1934.

C.H.A.N.C.E set up an immediate Earthquake SOS Appeal to raise funds and was overwhelmed with the generosity of so many supporters. Cheques, bank transfers and donations made through Virgin Money Giving totalled £24,605 in a matter of days. Truly staggering.

We acted quickly and effectively sending out funds to help with the immediate aftermath and the needs for survival in the form of water, food and shelter. We focused first on our own projects and then helped trusted NGO's and organizations on the ground.

The breakdown of these funds and the distribution was given in our Summer Newsletter 15 on the website.

In November, when I was there, I saw much evidence of the earthquake as I made my way around the city.



Earthquake destruction

Now Nepal is suffering again! A blockade along the Southern border by Indian-backed ethnic groups who are protesting against a new constitution has stopped fuel, building supplies, cooking gas and medications getting through. The little fuel that is getting through is sold on the black market at vastly inflated prices. Most households are cooking outside on open fires. It is winter time and cold!

Hospitals are cancelling operations; pharmacies have low supplies of drugs; restaurants have closed or offer a limited menu. All this is having such a crippling effect on a country, which has suffered enough. The patience and stoicism of these extraordinary resilient people never ceases to amaze me.

As I write my report, the blockade is in its 4th month. There is now shortages of firewood in the cities so people have to go further to find wood with which to cook. This has had a knock on effect, leading to more accidents. The two hospitals whose burns units we support, tell me they are overflowing with patients, many suffering burns from burning wood and having open fires in the home.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) warned that over 3 million children under the age of 5 would be adversely affected by the lack of essential medicines and vaccines, food shortages and extreme cold this winter. Such challenging times!

We continue our support in the following areas: Education – Health – Street Children – Vocational – Animal Welfare

EDUCATION

Triple Gem School

A new wing of temporary classrooms funded by us was built across the road from the main school. The old pre school block was badly damaged in the earthquake and was deemed unsafe for the children to use. I so enjoy my visits to see Lama Kondan, the brilliant Headmaster. I know many of the children after many years of supporting this well run school. I take stickers, toothbrushes and knitted dolls for the children in the lower school.

We funded a new jacket/sweatshirt for all the children who are sponsored through C.H.A.N.C.E.



Children at Triple Gem choosing their stickers, doll and toothbrush



Singing Competition at Triple Gem School

Pegasus School

The classrooms on the third floor were lost in the earthquake and it was decided to build a permanent wing of two classrooms and a multi purpose storage room. The Rivers Trust and Astor Hostels funded this through C.H.A.N.C.E. Alan Rivers, the founder of the Rivers Trust and a structural engineer wanted to check on the building as it was being built so he came to Nepal for a few days in November for the opening of the wing. Although not quite finished, because of shortage of materials caused by the fuel crisis we nevertheless went ahead with the opening with much celebration in the form of the children performing with dance and song in the way only they know how, delightful.



The New Wing – Pegasus School

The milk programme at both these schools was halted, firstly after the earthquake as there were no classes whilst, since October, the lack of cooking gas has meant it has not been possible to heat the milk. We will be restarting the milk programme for the children as soon as possible.

Shree Secondary School - Chitwan

Chitwan was not badly affected by the earthquake, so our support with the 'Tiffin' snack and the milk programme has continued throughout the year. Every day 42 children receive the Tiffin snack, which consists of eggs, noodles, or dhal and bread, sometimes fresh fruit. Teachers and parents are delighted with this support, which has improved the attendance and concentration of the children.

At the request of the science teacher I took out some donated science equipment.



Science materials I took for the school



The Tiffin Programme

EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIP

We have 37 children receiving educational sponsorship,
19 boarding students
18-day students

HEALTH

THE KANTI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL (Burns Unit)

All children coming onto the specialized burns unit are given a 'Goody Bag' with fun things to keep them amused, and for the very young children a soft cuddly toy.

The Herrod Foundation through C.H.A.N.C.E, funded more than 25 skin graft operations and surgeries. We also have an emergency fund, allocated at the discretion of BVS, for meeting the cost of parents' travel to and from their villages, for medications when parents cannot afford what is needed for their child, and for extra food for the relatives who are staying with the child. Essentially we help wherever we can.

Visiting these hospitals in November was a harrowing experience, listening to the stories of why the child is in the unit is so sad as so much pain and suffering, in many cases, could have been avoided with more care being taken. I hear the same story many times over: leaving a toddler alone with an open fire burning next to them, maybe to go and fetch more wood, it only takes a few seconds for a tragedy to happen, turning away from cooking on an open fire, maybe tending to another child, the pot topples over!

The work of BVS helps all these patients. Using funds from C.H.A.N.C.E, they receive weekly food baskets. Although the patients are given meals in the hospital, with burns, ideally you need to consume two and a half times more calories than usual to aid a speedy recovery. So our food baskets are of great importance. The counselling and physiotherapy we fund is of equal importance, helping to get their arms and legs, fingers and toes, moving, the danger is that their injuries can become a permanent disfigurement with hands that remain clutched, fingers curled, legs that will not straighten. The counseling helps the whole family come to terms with their disfigurement and ways to move forward. It is a humbling experience visiting the burns units in these hospitals.

Thanks go to Wendy Marston who oversees our funding and Laetitia Vanderticheln who buys the food for the baskets and distributes them. Laetitia submits regular detailed reports for us on each patient who has a skin graft or surgery and monitors this BVS project for us. Special thanks too go to The Herrod Foundation which funds all the skin graft operations, specialized creams and bandages.

During the year we funded:

TEACHING HOSPITAL & TRAUMA HOSPITAL (8 beds)

- Skin graft operation.
- Physiotherapy for patients six days a week
- A high protein weekly nutritional food basket to each patient
- Specialized creams and bandages
- Three counselors four times a week give ongoing psychological help to patients and their families
- Emergency help for the family, medicines, transport and food

KANTI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL – BURNS UNIT – (22 beds)

- A 'Goody Bag' for every child on the burns unit filled with fun things to do
- Weekly nutritional food baskets
- Skin graft operations

Smarika Chaudhary is 3 years old and from the district of Koilali which lies in the far West of Nepal. She was on the burns unit at the Kanti for many weeks. The first photograph was taken just after admittance and the second when she was sufficiently well enough to go home.

Her parents were preparing alcohol for the Tihar Festival. There was a large container of this on the floor and while playing she knocked it over and suffered severe burns to her chest and legs. She was treated in two hospitals in her region before being transferred to the specialist burns unit at the Kanti. She underwent 3 surgeries. Thanks go to the Herrod Foundation which has, through C.H.A.N.C.E, funded all her treatment.



Every child on the burns unit receives a weekly food hamper, like the ones here, which are funded by C.H.A.N.C.E and a goody bag filled with fun things to do.

BIR HOSPITAL

Since the earthquake, the burns unit at the Bir Hospital has been closed. The unit was on the top floor of the hospital and suffered severe cracks and was deemed unsafe for patients. BVS now has patients in the Teaching Hospital, which gives a 5-bed ward for burns, and the Trauma Hospital providing 3 beds. Our support has moved to these two hospitals as well as the burns unit at the Kanti.

STREET CHILDREN

I always enjoy my visits to Papa's Home! The children are always excited to see me and we had a Christmas Party where all the children were given a new jacket or sweatshirt from C.H.A.N.C.E, plus stickers, balloons and crayons. We had a super large cake too! The children performed a singing and dance show, which we enjoyed immensely. Here they are in their smart new sweatshirts.



Papa's Home

PAPA'S HOME

Opening their Christmas presents from C.H.A.N.C.E



The new beds funded through one of our quiz nights



C.H.A.N.C.E has increased funding for the food programme to make sure the children are given eggs, milk and meat several times a week.

This wonderful home, founded by Lalit Shahi for 22 children is a special place where the children all attend school, are very happy and well cared for by Lalit and his wife Dhanusha with their own two children, Pratima and Pramish aged 8 and 7. We also sponsor one of the children.

Tragedy struck Papa's Home whilst I was in Nepal in November. Pramita aged 7, Lalit's daughter, whilst playing with her friend, fell through a first floor window onto concrete and fractured her skull! Fortunately, a taxi happened to be passing by as Lalit held his daughter in his arms. Lalit took her, semi conscious to the nearest hospital where she was immediately transferred by ambulance to the private Neurological Hospital, specializing in head injuries.

Pratima had a fractured skull and a massive hematoma, which needed to be operated on to reduce swelling and the risk of brain damage. She was in hospital for 10 days and amazingly is now fully recovered and back at school. I was so pleased to be there to help support Lalit and Dhanusha at this most traumatic of times. I became very close to all the family.

C.H.A.N.C.E and Shenpen, our partner on the ground, funded the operation costs and hospital care jointly.



Lalit and Pratima



hDhanuska preparing a meal



Christmas celebration

GMIN and WEGAIN

Our support to GMIN (Grassroots Movement in Nepal) an NGO that is known and trusted by us, were straight out in the areas hardest hit by the earthquake, giving emergency aid and shelter. We funded several temporary shelters and classrooms through GMIN and more permanent ones are following.

We donated funds to Wegain to provide help in getting glue off the streets supporting a campaign aimed at reporting shopkeepers if they are known to sell glue to children. When the children come to Wegain they are counselled, and allocated to an organization specializing in this form of abuse. After a few days at Wegain they are taken to this permanent place of safety. Many still return to the streets, they yearn for the freedom this life offers them even though, - they go hungry, have to beg, and, due to peer pressure and boredom, continue to take glue to keep out the cold. Winter time is desperate for them as it is so cold at night.

Wegain does such an excellent job, a small, hands on and efficient organization. Our support will continue through 2016. They plan to get local youth clubs involved in talking to children, giving presentations at Wegain and talks in schools. They are seeking to develop an app so that when tourists see street children sniffing glue they can send the photo immediately to Wegain who will have the manpower to act immediately.

SKILLS TRAINING

After the earthquake, Shenpen felt it was important to empower many of the women who had attended the skills training programme, which are funded by C.H.A.N.C.E. It was decided to help them financially as, after the earthquake, it was more about survival and an amount of cash given to each family to spend on their particular needs was so appreciated by them. Food and materials were in such short supply. In all, 75 women were helped. During 2016, we will return to providing skills training to new groups as well as more advanced training to those who have completed the basic level.

RABIES VACCINATIONS

As I reported in my Summer Newsletter, only 800 dogs were vaccinated in 2015 as the earthquake hit whilst the vaccinations were being carried out. The vaccination programme takes place in March/April and this year we aim to be back on target of 1000 vaccinations. The Street Dog Centre is managed under the careful and passionate eye of Jasmine Broking, who is devoted to helping injured and wild dogs in the Boudha and surrounding areas. On my visit to the centre in November, three dogs were about to be adopted, two by a French lady and one by a Belgian lady. What makes this so remarkable is that all three dogs were severely disabled having been hit by vehicles. Many tourists visiting Nepal get to hear about this incredible centre and take a visit and then want to help. Amazing!

Jasmine who manages the centre far left with a helper and myself.



SHENPEN

C.H.A.N.C.E continues to work closely with our partner Shenpen, which is a volunteer based, non profit organisation, aimed at alleviating poverty and run by westerners who live and work in Nepal. Shenpen are our eyes and ears on the ground and monitor and report on our projects on a regular basis.

Raissa Distefano continues to monitor our educational programme and makes a short video for their sponsors of each child receiving educational sponsorship.

Final words

My thanks to so many people. I feel so privileged to do what I do and can only do this with your on-going support and trust. I fund all my own expenses, flights and accommodation going to Nepal.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Chris Blizzard who offered to tackle the pile up of gift aid claims, which had been in my 'too hard basket'! Chris took on this mission and C.H.A.N.C.E received a whopping £9,810 just before Christmas. Hopefully a further amount will be received in 2016.

Special thanks to Viv Craggs who helps with the banking and is of a great support to me and Michelle Wilkes of Wilkins Kennedy who do our accounts free of charge.

Warmest wishes to you all for a healthy, peaceful and fulfilled 2016

Please keep abreast of our involvement in Nepal via [Facebook/chancefornepal](#)

Barbara

