

# C.H.A.N.C.E for NEPAL

## BARBARA'S REPORT YEAR ENDING 2014

We have enjoyed another successful year



Lama Kondan, the Headmaster, sharing a joke with children from the kindergarten class at Triple Gem School

### FUNDS RAISED DURING 2014

Auction of Promises - Cranleigh Village Hall	£ 23,177
C.H.A.N.C.E 100 Club (throughout the year)	£ 3,000
Quiz Nights (throughout the year)	£ 1,200
Shamila Shrestha - Berlin Marathon	£ 770
<b>DONATIONS</b>	
Educational Sponsorships	£10,160
Danger Team	£ 1,400
Michael Jones	£ 1,000
Herrod Foundation	£ 8,500
Anonymous donation	£ 1,000
Employers matching donations made by their employees	£ 860
Gordon	£ 360
Collection Boxes	£ 205
Miscellaneous donations under £100	£ 90
<b>TOTAL RAISED</b>	<b>£ 51,722</b>

*A special mention about our main fund raising event of 2014. which raised a brilliant £23,177.*

We held an Auction of Promises in Cranleigh Village Hall on the 5th October 2014. There were 120 guests all of whom enjoyed a fabulous two-course supper before the main event of the evening, an Auction of Promises.

Joanna Lumley our patron, donated the fabulous auction promise of 'Cocktails for Four' at the hot spot 'One Aldwych', which raised £1,900. Steven Edwards winner of Masterchef 2013 with his business partner Josh Stanzl came to support the event. Their newly formed company Etchfoods has taken on C.H.A.N.C.E as their overseas charity to support. Steven and Josh donated the promise of the ultimate dinner party! To cook a four course delicious dinner in your own home for 10 people. This went for £2,000 and was then matched, so Steve and Josh raised £4,000 for C.H.A.N.C.E. There were many other fabulous auction promises.

Special thanks went to David Smail, who was our brilliant auctioneer. Thanks also to Richard Kettle, who had everyone spellbound with his magic, and Ted Jackson, tenor extraordinaire, who appeared dressed as a Pizza Delivery man before serenading us all with his very own comic version of Nessun Dorma, to rapturous applause. This is the third time Richard and Ted have supported C.H.A.N.C.E. in this way. Thanks to Jo Robson and her team of helpers who cooked the best chili ever and Simon Boyal who provided a delicious lime desert as well as donating the auction promise of a Signature Bread Masterclass for 6 in London.

Edmund O'Reilly Hyland and David Smail, both trustees attended the event. Most of all huge thanks go to everyone who supported us by either donating a promise, bidding for one, attending the evening, giving support or helping on the day. You ALL made a difference. THANK YOU

***We continue our support in the following areas:***

***Education – Health – Street Children - Vocational Training - Animal Welfare***

## **EDUCATION**

### **SHREE SECONDARY SCHOOL, CHITWAN**

We are pleased to see the benefits of our funding for a lunchtime snack. In both attendance and concentration the teachers say there has been a marked improvement in the children in this government run school.

This school has over 600 students. Most parents cannot afford to send their children with a packed lunch and the children in the lower school would go all day without anything to eat.

We fund what is called a 'Tiffin' snack which consists of a daily cup of warm milk and a snack which includes fruit, bread which they dip in the milk, hard-boiled eggs, beans or noodles. This snack is brought into the school each day.

In November, I visited the school and handed over one of the six used microscopes donated to C.H.A.N.C.E by King Edward's School in Witley, Surrey. The headmaster, (pictured below) and teaching staff and the students were thrilled to receive this.

Shree School - Chitwan



*Handing over a microscope donated by King Edward School at Whitley, Surrey and toothbrushes from Cranleigh Prep School*

**TRIPLE GEM SCHOOL – SWAYAMBHU, KATHMANDU**

We were delighted to hand over two of the six microscopes here.  
The children in the lower school continue to enjoy a daily cup of warm milk and we donated £500 to be used for educational materials for the lower school.



Children at Triple Gem School enjoying their daily cup of milk.

## **PEGASUS SCHOOL, BOUDHA**



Students at Pegasus School enjoying their new microscope

Another microscope donated, and another warm welcome. My visit to Pegasus was unannounced, and Kinley, the headmaster was out of the country. I like doing unannounced visits as one obtains a more accurate picture of the situation. Some of the older girls who recognized me from the medical checks carried out in previous years were eager to talk to me and were keen to send messages back to their sponsor

I spent time in the nursery classes singing nursery rhymes with the children who all enjoy their time in kindergarten under the watchful eye of Primila the nursery teacher who through C.H.A.N.C.E received Montessori training four years ago. She uses these techniques and materials to give another dimension to learning for the kindergarten and nursery classes.

We continued with the daily cup of warm milk for the lower school and provided educational materials such as paints, paper, jigsaws etc. for these classes.

In all three schools, which I visited in November, I was struck by how polite and interested the children are in everything. They loved trying out their English on me which is a great deal better than my Nepalese!

## **EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIPS**

We currently have 30 children receiving an education at Pegasus and Triple Gem Schools through English sponsors. The cost to sponsor a boarding child at either school is £430 per annum, this provides their accommodation in the school hostel, uniform, education and three meals per day). For a day student, the cost is £220 per annum.

## **PUSHPA'S ORPHANAGE**

We will continue our funding for the education costs of 7 children whom we have been supporting for many years until the end of the school year in March 2015. Pushpa married a couple of months ago and her husband lives and works in Belgium. With her new husband I felt the time was right for C.H.A.N.C.E to stop funding the children's education. Pushpa and her husband will look to his family, friends and work colleagues to contribute to the continued education of the seven children.

## HEALTH

### BIR HOSPITAL – BURNS UNIT

The visit to both the Bir and Kanti hospitals were with David, a trustee of C.H.A.N.C.E and his wife Debbie. They were in Nepal to visit a personal project of Debbie's in Pokhara. It was brilliant to show them some of the projects C.H.A.N.C.E supports and funds.

The Bir Hospital burns unit is a harrowing place to visit at any time but especially for the first time. The ward sister talked us through some of the harrowing cases of how the patients on the ward at present came to be there, these impressions stay in the mind long afterwards.

The burns unit in the Bir is run by Sister Divi, who is always upbeat and has a smile for everyone, working her magic with compassion and professionalism and little in the way of resources.

On the day we visited there were two young women, who had both attempted suicide, by pouring kerosene over themselves and setting themselves alight! One was aged 19 and was 7 months pregnant and consequently lost her baby. The other victim was 20. Violence in the home, an alcoholic husband plays significant role, and financial stress are main reasons these young women attempted suicide, as they see this as their only way out.

#### **During the year we funded:**

- Skin graft operations for more than 30 patients.
- Physiotherapy for patients six days a week.
- A high protein weekly nutritional food basket to each patient
- Emergency aid for the family, medications and transport for patients to return home.
- Two counselors, four times a week give ongoing psychological help to patients and their families.

### KANTI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL – BURNS UNIT

Our support for BVS is vital and our thanks go to the Herrod Foundation who funded more than 30 skin graft operations through C.H.A.N.C.E during 2014. We do more now than ever before.

#### **During the year we funded:**

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



*Anish*

Anish Chohan is 5 years old and suffered 30% burns to his body. There was a large celebration in his village of Khotang. He went to play in the kitchen where meat was being prepared and fell into a large hot pan! He has already had three surgeries, and requires one more. The Herrod Foundation through C.H.A.N.C.E will fund this operation. This organisation has been supporting C.H.A.N.C.E for over 3 years and funds skin grafts and emergency medical care.



*Amrit*

Amrit is 17 months old. His mother was cooking and he was playing next to her. He reached up and pulled the handle of the pan, which toppled on top of him. He sustained 8% burns to his body, yet here he is smiling, clutching some bananas from the weekly food basket donated by C.H.A.N.C.E and given to all children coming on to the unit.

I would also like to share the story of Sagar...

It was 11 years ago that I came across a beautiful child called Sagar who was a patient in the Bir Hospital Burns Unit in Kathmandu.

Sagar was returning home from school one day and saw one of his uncle's goats lying motionless in a field upside down. He rushed to see if he could help but the goat was dead and lying on a live bare wire.

The grass was wet and Sagar was electrocuted. He had the current running through him for 40 minutes until he was rescued. He suffered appalling injuries to both legs and his head. Both legs had to be amputated just below the groin.

He was rushed to a hospital near his village before being transferred to the burns unit at the Bir Hospital in Kathmandu where he stayed for several months. It was here that I had the good fortune to meet him –He was just 7 years old.

He received physiotherapy and counselling with his family funded by C.H.A.N.C.E.

Eventually he left the hospital with a wheelchair donated by BVS (burn victim support)

His father would bring him back to Kathmandu for yearly check-ups at the hospital. Sagar's dream was to become a doctor. On one of these check-ups with his father he was interviewed by a 6th form college and was given a full scholarship with accommodation. He is exceptionally bright, and came top in all his exams.

On paper, when applying to medical college for sponsorship the signs were good that he would win a place, until they saw he had no legs and was in a wheelchair. However, he has started a pre-med course and we wait to see where that might lead.

He is now 18 and will not grow any more so a few months ago he was measured for a pair of prosthetic legs with knee and ankle joints. Although the prosthetics legs will be a little shorter than his natural legs would have been for his frame he has been longing for the day when he can stand tall and the day came at the end of 2014.

C.H.A.N.C.E has followed his progress through BVS and Wendy Marston, who is a volunteer with BVS in Nepal and has been my friend for the past 11 years. Wendy gives her time tirelessly and makes a real difference to the lives of so many adults and children with burn injuries. She is truly an amazing person.

I am thrilled to say that Sagar is now the proud owner of new prosthetic legs. Half of the cost of these legs has been funded by C.H.A.N.C.E.

So here we are 12 years on and still involved with Sagar. The funding needed for medical school is way beyond our reach, but with his new prosthetic legs and his brilliant mind and gritty determination I feel sure he has a great future ahead of him.



*Sagar aged 7 years*



*Sagar aged 18 years*



## STREET CHILDREN

### *Papa's Home*



*The children at Papa's Home*

Volunteer Foundation Nepal (VFN)'s prime project is Papa's Home founded by Mr Lalit Shahi. Papa's Home gives a caring family environment to 25 children aged between 5 and 15 who live with Lalit, his wife and their three children. These are children who are either orphaned, abandoned, or are there because of the breakdown of their family.

I was delighted to take David and Debbie on one of my visits to Papa's. The children were so excited to see us and had arranged a wonderful welcome, introducing themselves, followed by many of them doing a traditional Nepalese dance for us.

Lalit had organized two enormous cakes and we all enjoyed a happy afternoon being entertained by these well cared for and delightful children. Before we left we gave each child a Goody Bag filled with fun things to do. Their faces lit up as they opened them, no snatching or selfishness, just good humour. The older ones looking out for the younger ones was a joy to see.

I made several unannounced and announced visits to Papa's during my stay in Nepal and always found it to be happy, well run and caring home.

- C.H.A.N.C.E is sponsoring one of the children.
- We fund Papa's food bill, which is approximately £3,000 per annum.



*Homework time at Papa's*

## **VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING**

We are delighted to continue our support with skills training.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit with Greg Whiteside and Anamika Aryal from Shenpen to a village setting for one of the training days organised by WCS. (Women's Cooperative Society). The session we attended was on advanced models of vegetable farming. There were 30 women learning how to make their own effective pesticides and how to achieve the highest yields possible from their chosen vegetables to farm. WCS empowers women, teaching them all aspects of running a small business effectively, thus helping their families and their village. Other training courses offered in 2014 were in tomato growing under cover, vegetable planting, mushroom cultivation and pesticide use. Our support to skills training is in its 7th year. During 2014 there were 8 courses benefiting 240 women. The training courses run by WCS cost around £4.80 per head. Of these nearly 200 have gone on to start their own small business. This is a Shenpen/CHANCE project.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the Herrod Foundation, who has funded this project over the last four years



*Advanced skills training day*

## ANIMAL WELFARE

### Rabies Vaccinations

Each year in Nepal, approximately 16,000 people are treated for dog bites and as many as 200 die an excruciatingly painful death from rabies, most of them children.

During 2014 we have funded over 1000 rabies vaccinations for stray dogs in the Bungamati, Boudhanath and Kopan areas of Kathmandu Valley. These vaccinations are carried out by the organisation – Street Dog Care. By providing a combination of rabies vaccinations to dogs along with in-school dog awareness talks we have created a greater awareness of the dangers of rabies to adults and children.

Jasmine Brockling pictured left , heads the day to day running of the centre.



Andrea Bringmann, the founder of Street Dog Care with me on the right.  
In the blue topped plastic containers are the used rabies vaccinations over four years



Jasmine Brockling who runs Street Dog Care with some of her devoted companions

## **Fund Raising**

### **Quiz Nights**

We continue with our quiz nights throughout the year. Jane and Brian, the landlords of The Keep in Guildford host these entertaining evenings every other month for C.H.A.N.C.E. New teams of four or six are always welcome. These fun evenings are held on a Thursday evening at 8.00pm. Jane and Brian give a generous complimentary cheese and pate sharing board for each table. The cost to play is £5 per person.

### **C.H.A.N.C.E 100 Club**

Our C.H.A.N.C.E 100 Club raises £6,000 per year. Of this, 50% goes out in monthly cash prizes and 50% goes to supporting our projects in Nepal. We currently have 94 members! If you would like to come on board, this is an excellent way in which you can support C.H.A.N.C.E. We have a monthly draw, which takes place on the first Monday of every month. The cash prizes paid out monthly are £120, £80 and £50. Please email me for further details if you would like to join. My thanks go to Adrienne Golightly who kindly does the administration for the CHANCE 100.

### **SHENPEN**

C.H.A.N.C.E for NEPAL works closely with our partner Shenpen, which is a volunteer based, non-profit organisation, aimed at alleviating poverty, and run by westerners who live in Nepal. Shenpen are our eyes and ears on the ground and Anamika Aryal the co-ordinator of Shenpen monitors the projects in Skills, Street Children, Animal Welfare and the Goody Bags at the Kanti Children's Hospital and visits these projects on a regular basis.

Raissa Distefano monitors our educational programme at Triple Gem and Pegasus Schools. She lives and works in Nepal and I have known her for over 10 years. One of the highlights arising from Raissa's involvement is the making a short video, twice a year, of the child for their sponsor, which are warmly received. Raissa is also involved in overseeing speech therapy sessions for one of the children, as an outpatient at a local hospital. She also monitored the food basket distribution at the Kanti Children's Hospital.

### ***Final Comments***

With your help, support and interest, we have undoubtedly improved the lives of hundreds of children in areas of health and education. Their future looks brighter.

Thank *YOU* for your on-going support.



**Barbara**

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