

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

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2016

ENJOY!



Prince Harry visiting the burns unit at The Kanti Children's Hospital, Kathmandu talking to Biplav, holding a doll from C.H.A.N.C.E

In May this year Prince Harry visited the burns unit at the Kanti Children's Hospital. Here he is with Biplav aged 7. Biplav suffered 20% second degree burns to his little body. He is an only child. At the time of the accident, both parents were working in their sweet shop with Biplav playing close by. He accidentally knocked a vat of hot oil over himself! He was in hospital for 6 weeks.

Prince Harry loved the knitted dolls which form part of the 'Goody Bag' which every child receives coming onto the burns unit. He asked where they came from and was told from England where a team of knitters, built up over the years, enjoy knitting these dolls for C.H.A.N.C.E. knowing they have a loving pair of hands to receive them and that they are giving comfort to so many children.

NEW A new initiative this year is a half-hour radio programme which will go out monthly. The first broadcast was in June. Doctors and surgeons from the Kanti Children's Hospital as well as the nursing sister from the burns unit have contributed to this programme. There are also interviews with some of the children themselves. There are so many heartbreaking cases of children getting badly burnt, all too often through carelessness. Leaving babies and toddlers unattended by an open fire, whilst doing household chores or working in the fields outside. Leaving handles of pots of hot water where they are easy to grasp by the inquisitive child to see what is inside, on an open fire or stove. A candle left burning. It only takes a second, yet the consequences can last a lifetime! The radio programme will alert parents and older children to the dangers. There will be street theatre also acting out the dangers.

We continue the weekly food baskets, high in calories to aid a speedier recovery at both the burns units in the Kanti Children's Hospital and the Teaching Hospital in Kathmandu.

The Goody Bags continue to amuse and bring a little diversion from being in hospital.



Jesika

Jesika is just 21 months old and comes from Boranja, which lies 300km north west of Kathmandu. Her parents are farmers. You can see the wonderful recovery from the first photograph to how she was on discharge in the second photograph.

Jesika was in the kitchen with her mother who had put a bucket full of very hot water on the floor to cool down for bathing Jesika and then went outside to fetch a towel. When she returned she found Jesika inside the bucket of hot water. Immediately, she and her grandfather removed her clothes and poured cool water on her.

She was first rushed to the hospital in Pokhara where she received first aid treatment and stayed for one night. She was then transferred to Manipal Hospital where she stayed for 7 days to stabilize her condition and recover. She was then discharged but her wounds got infected and she returned to Gandaki Hospital before being transferred to the specialist burns unit at The Kanti Children's Hospital in Kathmandu. Her burns were second degree to 35% of her tiny body. She stayed at the Kanti for one month where she received two skin grafts operations to her lower body.

Jesika was discharged on the 15th June and is now back in her village. Her grandmother and mother were with her in the hospital. She will return to The Kanti in August for her follow up appointment.

GMIN

(Ground Movement in Nepal)



The New Health Post at Dhubichour

Fifteen months on from the earthquake..... and although some rebuilding work has been done there are still 200,000 people living under canvas today in the Kathmandu Valley!

The government has been slow to act and is still dragging its feet. It has been left to the NGOs to get out in force, especially to the remote areas outside the Kathmandu Valley, the areas which were worst affected and to get a rebuilding programme underway. Initially the immediate aim was to provide temporary shelters, water and food. Now permanent buildings are to be erected, schools and homes, single storey, built with steel and concrete pillars.

One such NGO, is GMIN, who we have been supporting for some time. Initially we helped fund temporary shelters and temporary classrooms so the children were quick to return to their lessons, giving back a sense of routine and normality. Many children were traumatized and it was important to get back to school, be together, share stories, fears and move forward.

NEW In June we are funding the running costs of the first health post built by GMIN in the area of Dhubichour which is in the district of Dang, 450 km from Kathmandu, and 12 hours by bus....on a good day! We are funding two nurses, one being a midwife, and one doctor to come once a week – more often if required – along with all medicines and vaccines. We also funded a computer to collect all the data and a printer, table and chairs. The community is very excited to have this wonderful new facility and it has been a big boost to morale.

NEW GMIN is conducting its 5th Teacher Training Workshop, this one, funded by C.H.A.N.C.E. Up to 30 teachers from 13 schools attended the Teacher Training. Teachers from government schools nearby were also invited. Some of the schools are up to 7hrs on foot away as there are no roads or public transportation, so accommodation and food was offered to those attending the training who lived the furthest away. Each training which runs over five consecutive days costs around £800. The workshops target teachers from nursery to grade 3 in English and Nepali . We are funding two more workshops before the end of the year.

All too often the teachers in the remote villages have only basic teacher skills, maybe only up to school leaving certificate which is around the age of 16/17. This is reflected in the low percentage (5%) of children who pass their SLC (school leaving certificate) For comparison between 90%-100% achieve this in Kathmandu. The teacher trainings are run by motivated and well trained teachers, thus bringing up the level of teaching skills. Initially we are starting with the youngest children, nursery, kindergarten and class one, and then we will move up the school in year groups. We are really excited to be part of this project.



One of the training sessions

WEGAIN

Wegain has achieved success through patience and perseverance getting children who were sniffing glue, many below 10 years of age, off the streets. They arrange counselling for them and take them to specialist centres that are specifically trained in helping the children kick the habit.

NEW One of the major hurdles has been to get backing from the Minister of Health. In June this year, a paper was passed to ban the sale of Dentrite (evil addictive glue) to children under 18. If shopkeepers are found to be doing this, they will be arrested. C.H.A.N.C.E funded the campaign.

Of all the images I carry in my heart over 15 years of going to Nepal and you can imagine how many heart stopping moments there have been, the overriding one that makes my heart weep is seeing a street child aged about 6 or 7 sniffing glue and just collapsing onto the street. The work Wegain is doing is so vital and important and they are achieving success.



Street children sniffing glue near Boudha, heartbreaking!

PAPA's HOME



Papa's Home off to school

PAPA's HOME.

We fund all the food for Papa's home as well as a Tiffin snack to take to school. Lalit and his wife Dhanuska provide a loving and caring home. There are now 24 happy children there including the recent addition of twin boys in June. The house is now at full capacity.

NEW We have provided new beds and bedding for all the children.

NEW We funded a good quality powerful generator. With constant load shedding of electricity, lack of power is a constant problem. The new generator now has this

covered. It has been a huge boost to the home, along with a hot water system, powered by solar panels. Now all the children can have a hot shower.

All the children are doing well at school and work so hard. They are so appreciative of having the chance of an education they really put in the hours of homework. Every child has a sponsor who pays for their school fees, uniform, school bag, books etc.

C.H.A.N.C.E funds the food bill for all the children and a monthly activity programme where everyone goes on an outing, be it to the cinema or swimming, a picnic or something else which is fun to do.

Lalit has volunteers from all over the world who apply for a placement for a period of up to a month. They stay in a separate building which Lalit rents close to Papa's. The volunteers help the children with their homework or take them to the park for a kick around with a ball and generally integrate themselves with life at Papa's Home. This is a good influence on the children as they learn about different cultures and languages which widens their overall knowledge of the world around them.



Breakfast



Watching a video at Papa's with Popcorn!

TRIPLE GEM AND PEGASUS SCHOOLS

NEW In May we funded 18 computers and screens for Pegasus School, powered by solar panels and a generator. We also provided nursery furniture. At Triple Gem School we funded 7 computers and a new generator.

NEW We funded a five-day teacher training workshop for teachers in both schools to help motivate and stimulate the teachers to try new things. Some of the skills learnt were on Montessori lines.



Triple Gem School



Pegasus School computer lab

We have 35 children receiving educational sponsorship through English sponsors and our first 6 students now attend college: Five students from Pegasus School and 1 student from Triple Gem.

SKILLS TRAINING



Sunita

NEW In March 2016 5 Skills Trainings took place. This programme is monitored by SHENPEN, our partner on the ground in Nepal. Anamika visits each training and reports to C.H.A.N.C.E. The funding for this comes from C.H.A.N.C.E who has been funding skills training for the past 10 years.

Here is the success story of one such participant:

Sunita is from Bahaktapur. She farms on eight ropanis of rented land. She pays 80,000NRs (£567) land rent annually and invests 90,000 Nrs yearly in her farm. She makes a profit of 50,000Nrs annually. Sunita started farming three years ago; it has been a family inspiration for her to farm. She took a loan of Nrs 500,000 from Women's Cooperative Society to get started on her business.

Sunita started by growing tomatoes, peas, radishes and eggplant, as well as green leafy vegetables. Now, she employs five other farmers on her land to help her. She sells what she grows at her local market as well as feeding her family.

Her income has to stretch to feed four adults and two children. Four cows are also part of the household and provide milk as well as valuable manure. Now she is able to make a regular income of NRs 34,000 (£243) per month from agriculture and NRs 14,000 (£100) by selling the milk.

WCS (Women's Cooperative Society) provides training on the techniques of off-seasonal vegetable farming. The training covers soil management, the making of organic fertilizers and managing book keeping. Sunita was one of 25 women who were accepted on the training course, which was funded by C.H.A.N.C.E.

RABIES VACCINATIONS

We funded 1,000 rabies vaccines through 'Street Dog Care' who we have been supporting for the past 7 years. The vaccinations took place in April of this year.

FUND RAISING

In June we held our main fund raising event for the year at The Club at The Ivy in London. Our patron Joanna Lumley entertained and delighted 100 members and guests with stories of her life on stage and screen. She was interviewed by Fernando Peire, the Director of The Club. After which followed an Auction of Promises of 10 very special auction lots.

David Smail, a trustee of C.H.A.N.C.E was our brilliant auctioneer and made the auction such fun as he created a great banter between Joanna and himself. The auction promises included 'Cocktails for Two at One Aldwych' with Joanna Lumley, dinner in the Indigo Restaurant followed by an overnight stay with breakfast the following morning. This went for £5,700 which was such a splendid amount that Joanna then offered two separate occasions, and therefore we were able to raise £11,400 in a couple of minutes! Two other promises also raised impressive amounts: a beautiful Faberge necklace, adorned with diamonds and two enamelled eggs which was modelled by Joanna and a once-in-a-lifetime experience to fly in formation with The Blades Aerobatic Team, all ex Red Arrow pilots, and experience a loop the loop and barrel roll as well as going up in a helicopter and the experience of a Formula 1 simulator.

The evening raised an incredible £50,000 with gift aid.....a m a z i n g!
Thank *YOU* Joanna



Myself, Joanna and David Smail

The proceeds were used to :

- Create a college/university fund for our sponsored children after they leave school.
- Fund Teacher Training programmes for remote schools where the National school exam pass rate is desperately low.
- Fund the running costs and staff of a new health post which will provide health care for 2000 families and vaccines for children in a remote area of Nepal.
- To add additional funds to our ongoing projects.

Our C.H.A.N.C.E 100 Club needs new members as we are running at 96. Please contact me on barbaradat@aol.com if you would like to come on board. The cost is just £5 per month. This raises us £6,000 per year of which 50% goes out in monthly cash prizes and 50% to the charity.

Our Quiz Nights continue at The Keep in Guildford. Our next one is Thursday 29th September, please contact me if you would like to enter a team of 4 – 6 (£7.50 per person). Jane and Brian, landlords at The Keep have been supporting C.H.A.N.C.E for over 6 years by hosting these quiz evenings and give a complimentary supper for those taking part. Through these quiz nights Jane and Brian sponsor two children at Pegasus School as well as supporting our projects from the amount raised.

Special thanks to:
The Herrod Foundation
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Edmund O'Reilly Hyland
David Smail
Craig Canham
Viv Craggs

I will be out in Nepal this November, my 15th year!

Enjoy the rest of the Summer and thank you so much for your continued support.

Barbara