

CHANCE for NEPAL

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2017



New School at Dhanbot, in the Dang region in Western Nepal funded by CHANCE

We have had a busy first half of 2017, continuing our support for our long term projects in health, education, skills training, street children and rabies prevention as well as taking on new ones.

We have also launched our fabulous new website, please enjoy - www.chancefornepal.org

PROJECTS

EDUCATION

We continue our support with the NGO GMIN (Grassroot Movement in Nepal).

NEW The photo above is of the first school funded by CHANCE built at Dhanbot in the Dang region of Western Nepal. The school had its opening ceremony at the beginning of April 2017.

All the materials for the school had to be carried up to the new site, which was a day's walk from the nearest road. This meant that every 50kg bag of sand, cement and gravel had to be

carried up hill on the back of a labourer to enable the school to be built. There are 150 children registered at the school. The government has provided three teachers and GMIN have taken on a further four.

NEW The second school funded by CHANCE through GMIN, will be completed in August, and is in the village of Vidyhyapur, Western Nepal. The school has 246 students from classes 1 – 5 and six government funded teachers at the school. In the earthquake of 2015 the school was damaged and the children have since attended their classes outside under canvas. CHANCE has funded an earthquake safe building which houses four new classrooms. We donated a further £400 for desks with bench seats and white boards.

In April we funded a further two Teacher Training Workshops in the region of Ghorahi in the district of Dang where teachers (from class 1 to 5) from 13 different schools attended the five day workshop which focused mostly on English grammar and vocabulary. The second one in May was in Bidhyapur, Surkhet. In total, 26 teachers from 17 schools have attended these trainings sessions. We funded the first teacher training in July 2016. These trainings are organised and run by GMIN one of our partners on the ground in Nepal.

NEW - June With our partner on the ground in Nepal - **Shenpen**, we are funding a daily 'Tiffin' (light nutritious meal) to the poorest children at Mitra Aadharbhut Vidyalaya School in Kathmandu. For many children this will be their first mouthful of food that day, and there may be little to eat when they go home. This meal improves the children's energy levels thus giving improved concentration, better performance, bringing about happy children and happy teachers.



Tiffin Meal at Mitra Aadharbhut Vidyalaya

Our 'Tiffin' programme continues at Shree Secondary School in Chitwan for the lower school and we continue with the daily cup of milk also for the lower school at Triple Gem School in Swayambhu, Kathmandu.

EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

We have currently 37 children receiving an educational sponsorship at several schools and colleges in Kathmandu. This year we have our first four students studying for a Bachelor's degree having come through school and college. We have 4 in their second year of college and two in their first year (equivalent to our A levels). We have three students currently seeking sponsorship. If anyone would like to sponsor a child or would like further information about sponsorship then please email info@chancefornepal.org

HEALTH

HEATH CAMP, Bungkot, Gorkha

CHANCE is delighted to support **Mountain Heart Nepal** (MHH) which is an NGO run by a group of young medical personnel with an aim of improving and developing the situation of health services and facilities in Nepal.

It mainly deals with health promotion, protection and disease prevention and treatment among the deprived people through medical volunteering.

It's been monsoon and people of hard hit earthquake districts have fallen critically ill. The children and the elderly are also suffering from acute respiratory illness like pneumonia, URTI, bronchiolitis, bronchitis, ear infection, tonsillitis, arthritis, seasonal flu, Influenza and heart diseases.

Over 40% of the children are stunted and many people suffer nutritional deficiencies. Additionally, the harsh climate and mountainous terrain make it difficult to reach many villages and communities in the country. As a result, many people lack proper nutrition services and medical care, amongst other basic care.

Dr Aban Gutham, the president of MHH approached CHANCE for help for their latest medical mission. He and a team of fellow doctors, nurses and health professionals, at their own expense and time visit remote areas of Nepal carrying out vital health camps for children and adults. The health camps took place over the last two weekends in July at Rameshwory High School, Bungkot, Gorkha and at Jitpur Higher Secondary School, Jitpur.



Over 800 people were seen during these two camps with the funding for medicines donated by CHANCE of which 50% were children. One elderly lady died before she was able to reach hospital and a 17-year-old girl was given life saving medication for Enteric fever that saved her life. There were acute and chronic cases and all necessary referrals were made. In many remote villages, it is to the 'medical man' or witch doctor the people of the village turn to when ill. Western medicine may never have come to the village. Education is key and this needs to start in schools.

NEW Eye Clinic organised by GMIN

Between February and March 2017, over 700 children underwent an eye test. These eye tests took place over 8 weekends, in either one or two-day clinics over this period, in the region of DANG which lies 550km outside Kathmandu. Some of these eye clinics were conducted in remote villages, two and a half hours by bumpy road from the main city of Tulsipur. Some children needed general medicine, others glasses and any child needing further investigation will be referred to the Tulsipur City Eye Hospital. We funded the operational costs of these clinics and follow up referrals.



NEW TV for the Kanti Children's Hospital

Children and parents get very bored once their child is on their way to recovery. Sometimes children and parents are in the burns unit for months at a time! Providing a TV and DVD player not only gives fun, playing cartoons and CD's but also gives the parents the chance to watch television.

Radio broadcast – In June we funded for the second year the monthly radio broadcasts covering many topics relating to burn injuries, which go out to 73 districts of Nepal. These broadcasts focus on the dangers of burns in the workplace and home and what to do if you get a burn.

The doctors and the nursing staff on the burns unit at the Kanti are incredibly skilled. So many tiny babies and children with horrific burns come onto the unit. The relatives and patients are interviewed and speak of their own tragic accidents in these broadcasts. I just pray that all those listening hear the message loud and clear and make sure pots of hot water are not left unattended. Babies crawl and a crawling baby left unattended even for a minute next to an open fire laid on dirt, can have horrific consequences for the child for the rest of their lives.

Each time I visit the ward, I hear the same story, over and over, a baby left with older sister or brother who themselves may be only 5 or 6, while the mother goes to fetch water, which

maybe an hour away to the nearest well. A pan of water put on the floor to cool, a distracted mother, and tragedy strikes!

Of course it is hard to measure how many lives/accidents hearing the broadcasts and heeding its message, may have saved, but to save one life, save one horrendous accident in the work place or home, then it has been and is successful.

Krish's Story Krish was 6 months old when she arrived on the burns unit. Three months later she finally went home with her mother who had been at her bedside throughout. Parbita, his mother aged 25 has four other children ranging in age from 6 months to 8 years who were looked after by their grandmother in their village which is 870kms outside Kathmandu in the furthest western region of Nepal. Parbita's children walk over two hours to and from school each day.

Parbita had left the house to get water to use in cooking, which meant walking an hour each way to the nearest well. She left her daughter aged 7 in charge of her other children. Somehow, the bed that Krish was on caught fire and his little sister was too afraid to pull it away from the flames. The mother returned to find unbelievable tragedy.

Both Krish's legs had to be amputated, one below the knee, the other below his groin. Parbita is so worried about the future and what will happen to her son and how she is going to cope. Krish will never learn to walk and bringing up 5 children in harsh conditions will be extremely difficult.

Krish will be returning to the Kanti for check ups. If anyone would like to support this family or similar cases, as baby Krish is not an isolated case, then you can either do so directly through BVS – www.bvsnepal.org.np or through www.chancefornepal.org



Krish



Akshya

Akshya is 9 years old and from Nuwakot 75kms from Kathmandu

Early one morning in May when Akshya's mother was cooking on an open fire, he was playing nearby and as he ran towards his mother he fell into the fire. His brother aged 11 was at home and rushed to the neighbours to get help. They rushed to help extinguish the fire. His mother applied Aloe Vera on him and he was rushed to the Kanti Children's Hospital. His father is a farmer and works out of town. He is doing well and will be discharged soon.

We continue to fund weekly nutritious food hampers to all children on the unit as well as a 'Goody Bag' filled with fun things to do.

PAPA'S CHILDREN'S HOME

NEW Bipana's Story

Bipana has had to endure much tragedy in her short life

She was a patient in the Kanti for three months. I first met her when I was on the ward in November 2016. She had a wonderful spirit about her, and her friends were all the nurses who loved her.

Her mother died when she was 4 years old and her father later remarried. Her new stepmother brought her own two children to the marriage and Bipana felt ostracised at home and was afraid to go to school.

One day, Bipana was alone in the house when she fell into an open fire that had been lit on the dirt floor. No one knows exactly what happened. Tragically she was very badly burned. At first, local help was sought, but she needed specialist emergency help and was transferred to the specialist burns unit at the Kanti Children's Hospital in Kathmandu 750kms away from her village.

She needed several operations and skin grafts and had her lower right arm amputated. Over the many weeks on the ward Bipana endeared herself to all the doctors and nursing staff, so much so, that when it was time to leave she pleaded with them to stay in Kathmandu.

I got to know her when I visited the Kanti burns unit in November to take part in a radio broadcast CHANCE was funding, to warn of the dangers of open fires and the many careless accidents which happen in the home. She is a delightful little girl, smiling, active and was racing around the playroom on one of the sit-on cars we had provided for the unit.

BVS asked me if I could find her a special place within one of our projects so she could stay in Kathmandu. I knew Papa's Children's Home, where we have funded a food programme for the past 4 years was the perfect place for her. Lalit and his wife Dhanuska who live there with their own three children and 23 other children aged from 7 to 16 years run this caring, small children's home.

I asked Lalit if he would consider taking Bipana into the happy family environment of Papa's and to discuss with Dhanuska and all the children there whom I have come to know well over the years how everyone felt about it. Everyone wanted to welcome her. Lalit said he would need permission from the father and all the relevant papers signed so that she could stay in Kathmandu and go to school once she had settled in Papa's home.

Bipana's father loves his daughter very much but needs to work in India to make enough money to send back to his wife and her family. After many weeks of waiting for him to return and make all the necessary arrangements to get Bipana to Kathmandu, the big day finally came in February 2017. Her father stayed with her in Kathmandu for the first week to make sure his daughter settled in well and was happy.

Bipana's future looks promising. She will still need further operations on her face, but being in Kathmandu this will make it easier for her to continue treatment. The children at Papa's have welcomed her with open arms. She has brought a new dimension to 'the family' She

loves school, has learnt to play chess and is very clever. I have just received her first report card and she achieved straight As, how brilliant is that?



Bipiana in the Kanti



.....and now going to school



JP

Papa's Children's Home is looking for a sponsor for JP, who has lost his sponsor after many years.

JP is very bright and has just completed his SLC (School Leaving Certificate). He did very well and wants to eventually study engineering. His story touches the heart.....

JP as he is known was born on 25 June 1999 in Mugu District, Nepal. He has four members in his family including himself. His father is a small holder/farmer.

JP is a child who came from a remote area of Nepal where there is no access to transport, medical facilities or schools. Ten days after he was born, his mother got paralysis. Owing to unavailability of a hospital, she was carried down through the mountains for several days until they could finally get a bus to Kathmandu. Once there, her father did what he could for her but he could not save her life.

After the death of his mother, JP's father re-married. But JP's new stepmother would always beat and abuse him. In addition, his father would drink alcohol and always gave priority to the stepmother. His father never gave JP any form of education and was not capable of taking care of him.

For one year he lived with his father, but due to the burden of responsibility for three children, his father left them and went to another village. Also JP's elder brother started to follow his own interests in life. It was an unfortunate situation for JP. There was no one in his family who could care for him.

At a very young age, JP received a basic education with the help of his uncle. After three years, his uncle took him to Kathmandu with the intention of finding a foster home. Once in the city, his uncle made contact with VFN's Papa's Home that he heard was caring for several children in need. So, JP was welcomed into Papa's Home, where he started his studies again.

Now JP is 16 years old and just passed school level education with high mark. He is a well-

behaved and intelligent boy. He applies himself well to his schoolwork and always comes top of the class in tests. He actively engages in sports and general cultural activities. He likes to play soccer and wants to be either a professional soccer player or an engineer!

JP wants to read science at college where he will go for the next two years, like our 6th form college, before he starts a Bachelor degree.

If there is anyone who would like to sponsor JP, please contact us through our website. College fees are expected to be around £400 pa including books and uniform. He will continue to live at Papa's Children's Home. His best friend Maan also at Papa's Children's Home is starting at the same college.

VOCATIONAL

Vocational Skills Training - Empowering women to support their families

The Women's Cooperative Society (WCS) gives valuable training skills in vegetable farming, compost making, natural pesticides, rotating, cultivating land and business management. Skills are taught from elementary to advanced levels. We will be funding 6 four-day training sessions in 2017. In April 2017, WCS organized a 4-day course in elementary and advanced vegetable farming focussing on fungi farming skills in which 26 women from Syuchatar-Barpipal, a village just west of Kathmandu took part.

This is our ninth year of supporting WCS for vocational skills training. Around 250 women benefit from these trainings each year.



One of the 6 – 4-day skills training sessions

RABIES VACCINATION

The organisation Street Dog Care, who CHANCE for NEPAL has been supporting for over 7 years, carried out their vaccination programme over two weekends in May of this year. With

the help of veterinary personnel and up to 30 volunteers from the community, 1000 dogs were vaccinated. The areas covered are from Boudhanath, spreading to Jorpati, Mahankal, Tusal, and Pashupatinath.

Each dog is sprayed with red paint and photographic documentation is recorded. The photographic documentation is also displayed on Street Dog Care's website, offering community members and tourists an easy method of searching out vaccinated dogs in the case of a bite.

The vaccination programme also reaches out to the community and into schools. Around 2,500 educational leaflets were distributed to schools, as well as adults and posters put up in communities to highlight the dangers of being bitten and what to do if you are.



Leaflets given out in schools

One of the vets with members of the community helping with vaccinations

A high vaccination coverage has been stated by the World Health Organization to be the most effective measure for controlling dog rabies.

FUNDRAISING

We continue to enjoy our regular quiz nights at The Keep in Guildford. We would love to see some new faces! This is always a fun evening, now in our 5th year. Jane and Brian, the landlords provide a complimentary cheese and pate sharing platter or in cooler months a chili and rice supper. The funds raised from these quiz nights gives an education to two children.

Thanks to Andrea Matthews who ran a tea and cake stall in June at a Creative Craft Fair in Langstone, West Sussex. She and her team of cake makers raised a brilliant £488 for CHANCE.

Please take a look at our website for other ways you can help us fund raise.

No apologies for this being a lengthy Newsletter, we have been busy doing what we do best - helping - and I love sharing with you how **your** continued love and support is used.

Special thanks to Paul Lamberty for creating us a fabulous new website for free!

Special thanks also go to Raissa Deftefano who monitors our educational programme and Anamika Aryal who monitors our joint projects with Shenpen our partner on the ground in Nepal.

Most of all *HUGE* thanks to all our supporters who make ALL THIS HAPPEN!

Wishing you a wonderful summer,

Barbara