

ANNUAL REVIEW 2017

CHANCE for NEPAL



***Our wings are small...
...but the ripples of our heart are infinite.***

Amit Ray, Author & Spiritualist

HEADLINES AND HIGHLIGHTS

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017:

- Funded two new school buildings
- 895 Food baskets to children on the burns unit at the Kanti Children's Hospital
- 245 'Goody Bags' to children on the burns unit - Kanti Children's Hospital
- 7 X 4 day skills training on elementary and advanced vegetable farming
- 213 women received the skills training in vegetable farming
- 1000 dogs given rabies vaccinations
- 35 children receiving an education in schools/colleges/Universities
- 800 medical checks with medicines funded by CHANCE
- Two five day teacher training workshops

FUNDS RAISED DURING 2017

	£
FUNDRAISERS	
Louise and Rodin trek to Everest Base Camp	835
Myracekit	890
Andrea Matthews crafts – Tea and cakes	708
Quiz Nights	1560
Peaslake Village Fair	220
CHANCE 100	3500
EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIPS	16730
DONATIONS	
Aerobytes	10000
The Herrod Foundation	8500
Martin Gordan	1200
Valerie Lee	800
Gift Aid Management	4229
The Danger Team	260
Donations under £100	350
HSBC	500
Philomena Jordan-Patrikios	450
	£50,732

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LAST 12 MONTHS

JANUARY

We continue funding BVS (Burns Victim Survivors). This is our 10th year of funding for this brilliant and trusted organisation. Our support is far-reaching and extensive.

CHANCE funds:

Almost 900 food hampers for children in hospital. CHANCE continued through 2017 to provide a weekly food hamper for every child on the 23 bed burns unit at the Kanti Children's Hospital, 15 beds at the Trauma Hospital and 8 in the Teaching Hospital, all in Kathmandu. We provided counselling 6 times a week for the patients and their families and physiotherapy 4 times a week. The Herrod Foundation, through CHANCE funds up to 30 skin graft operations per year.

There is an emergency fund in place, again funded by CHANCE, for those patients whose parents are struggling with costs associated with staying with their child in the unit and/or returning back to their village, and paying for vital medicines.

The monthly radio broadcast by BVS, which goes out to 73 of 75 districts throughout Nepal. The programme features plastic surgeons, nurses, patients and their families talking about prevention of burns, and what to do if you are burnt – this continued throughout the year.

Update on my visit in November

"The burns unit touches my heart on every visit. The dedication and care of the nursing staff is exemplary. Year on year I see the same nurses. I have been visiting the Kanti Children's Hospital since 2003. It is so distressing to see the same accidents occurring; mother leaves her baby unattended, albeit for a minute, and the baby reaches out and pulls hot oil or water upon itself; Mother leaves her baby asleep by the open fire to keep warm, and goes out to do chores. The toddler wakes up and rolls into the embers of a fire; Children touching live wires and being electrocuted. It is all so heart breaking. On the encouraging side, the radio programme is getting the thumbs up. Listeners regularly tune in to the broadcasts. They know what to do; they pass the word on to neighbours and family members.

The 'Goody Bag's continue to delight the children, these often include a hand held brick game, yes it has a battery, but for children aged 5 upwards they love this and it can help take away the boredom. Younger children receive a large teddy bear. CHANCE funded a TV and DVD players with cartoons and access to satellite TV so parents staying with their children can watch the television whilst their child is asleep.

The weekly food hampers funded by us really make a difference too. Burns heal much faster by increasing the calorie intake, which needs to be over twice the normal intake to aid a speedy recovery."



Matti

Matti is 6 years old and has 3 brothers and an elder sister aged 14 who is staying with her in hospital. Her mother is mentally challenged and at home. They live 75 kms outside Kathmandu Valley. Her family suffered in the 2015 earthquake and have been living in temporary accommodation ever since. Her father is 70 years old and cannot work. He helps out when he can on a neighbour's land.

Matti was alone in the house and tried to light a fire. She gathered wood and poured on kerosene. She lit a match and the flame caught her clothes and badly burned her legs and lower body. She suffered extensive 3rd degree burns to her lower body.

A neighbour heard her and came running to the rescue. She will be in the Kanti for some time and will need many surgeries. The Herrod Foundation (who for the past 8 years has supported many patients for skin graft operations through CHANCE) has been funding her treatment. She has had skin grafts and two debridements so far and the ward sister in charge says she will need further surgeries and be on the ward until the end of the year.



Muna

Muna aged 8 and from the district of Kalaiya, 145 km, about 6 hours from Kathmandu. He lives with his parents, elder brother and younger sister. He is in Grade 4 at school.

Muna was cutting grass in the jungle for food for cows his family keep in the village. He saw something dangling in a tree and went to pull it but it was an electric wire and he was electrocuted. He was rushed to the nearest local hospital before being transferred to the specialist burns unit at the Kanti. He suffered 3rd degree burns on his right hand and needed 3 fingers amputated. His feet were also severely burnt and his left thigh. He has already undergone two skin grafts. He arrived on the burns unit in November and will be in hospital for at least two months.

FEBRUARY



Bipana

In February Bipana, aged 6, arrived at Papa's Children's Home. She is a delightful and stoical little girl and defies her age. She has immersed herself in the family life at Papa's Home with her other 'brothers and sisters' - all 24 of them! The other children have taken Bipana to their hearts, as do all who meet this very bright little girl who is doing well at school.

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. Read her full story in our [Summer Newsletter](#)

Update on my visit in November.

"Bipana has blossomed. She is full of fun and mischief. She is a happy, clever, well-adjusted little girl who loves school and endears herself to all who come to know her. Her school reports are excellent with straight A's. I feel Bipana's future is bright".

MARCH



NEW SCHOOL at Vidhyapur, Surkhet

CHANCE funded a new school at Dhanbot, Surkhet. All the materials for the school had to be carried uphill 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 158 children with 3 government teachers and GMIN have taken on another 4 other teachers. We love partnering the fantastic organisation of GMIN – This is the 36th school they have built.

APRIL



Rabies Vaccinations

We funded for the seventh consecutive year the annual anti rabies vaccination programme organised by Street Dog Care (SDC) in Kathmandu. The vaccinations took place over two weekends at the end of April/May. Three teams of veterinary personnel, volunteers and members of the community took to the streets in three areas of Kathmandu. Around 1000 dogs were vaccinated. Each dog is sprayed with a red circle so the teams know which dog has been vaccinated. Stray dogs tend to hang out in small groups and the teams consisting of up to 30 helpers in each team catch the dogs. We funded leaflets and posters, which were distributed around the area of Boudha and handed out to school children giving information on what to do if bitten by a street dog. Around 200 people die an agonising death from rabies annually.

ALSO IN APRIL...

We funded our third residential teacher training in Bidyapur, Surkhet, organised by GMIN (Grassroot Movement In Nepal). The 26 teachers (from class 1 to 5) came from 17 different schools to attend the five-day workshop, which focussed mostly on English Grammar Vocabulary. The teaching standards in remote areas can be a hit and miss affair with many children not going beyond grade 8.

MAY

NEW - Mountain Heart Nepal



Mountain Heart Nepal Team



Health Camp Pharmacy

We formed a new partnership with the fantastic organisation MOUNTAIN HEART NEPAL. The founder, Dr Aban Gautam is someone who wins your heart with his sheer hard work, his determination to make a difference to the lives of so many and his compassionate nature, and well before he reaches 30!

A team of doctors, nurses and health professionals at their own expense visit remote areas of Nepal where they can make the most impact and carry out health camps in schools and villages.

We funded medicines for two medical missions, which resulted in 800 medical checks over two medical camps lasting a total of 9 days.

JUNE

NEW - Tiffin Programme at Mitre Aadharbhut Vidhayala



Tiffin Meal at MAV

With our partner on the ground SHENPEN we are funding a daily Tiffin programme (nutritious meal) for 150 of the poorest children at **Mitra Aadharbhut Vidhayala**.

This programme is proving really successful and the feedback from staff, parents and children is very positive. The children have a warm meal, which is given every school day at around 1.00pm from a small street food vendor close by the school.

Through this programme, the energy levels of the children are increased giving sustained concentration during the afternoon. This in turn boosts the morale of the teachers, with interested and engaged children and parents happy to know their children have had something nutritious and warming. In some cases it will have been the only food the child would have eaten that day!

Update from my visit in November

"The order of the day was hot rice pudding with chopped apple and a piece of fresh fruit. The menu changes daily. The children eagerly awaited their meal, clattering of spoons in metal bowls, and in a jiffy it was all gone! I almost expected an Oliver Twist moment, "Please Sir, can I have some more!"

The teachers are fully engaged with the students and they needed no encouragement to stage an impromptu dance and a singsong during my visit. I gave out children's stickers, toothbrushes and knitted dolls to the lower school.

I noticed the bookshelves in the classrooms were empty, no posters on the walls, and no artwork by the children! I agreed to buy books for the classroom shelves, for them not to be under lock and key as they are in so many schools, posters for the walls and toys and puzzles for the kindergarten.

The school is in a very confined area so has a small playground. The first shift at the school is from grade 5 students upwards and they start their school day at 6.00am. They leave for home at midday, and then the younger ones arrive and stay until 4.00pm."

JULY

Skills Training



Empowering women with the necessary skills to educate their children.



Women receiving their certificate having completed their training.

During 2017, WCS (Women's Cooperative Society) gave a total of 184 women both elementary and advanced training for 5 days in 7 areas. The advanced training covers financial management and making pesticides. Each training costs around £450, which is funded by CHANCE.

Between 25 and 30 women attend each training session and all have taken a micro finance small loan with minimum interest charged. Many women continue year after year, increasing their yield, bringing more income to their family, and their village.

During 2017 the trainings took place in Balajum, Jhor, Bhaktapur, Alapot and Bhardea during June, July and August.

Many of these trainees as well as expanding their knowledge by taking the advanced training, have the basics covered from attending the elementary trainings and go on to buy more land by reinvesting as their confidence grows, branching out into different crops, raising goats for their meat and buying a buffalo for their milk with enough left over to sell to the local shop. One neighbour may rear goats and a buffalo, the other vegetables and by sharing there is a real sense of community spirit.

Update on my visit in November

"I so enjoyed my visit to the village of Bhardaw, over two hours drive high up into the hills from Kathmandu where we were given a very warm welcome by 8 women, all of whom receive a small loan through WCS. I say small, somewhere between 30,000Nrs and 1 Lac. (£250 - £1,000 plus). The amount depends on the size of their land, how experienced they are, and how hard they want to work!

Of the 8 women I spoke to, 3 were bringing up their children on their own as their husbands had gone to work in India or Saudi and never returned!

The women in this village had all received training in elementary vegetable farming and how to manage their budget. The crops grown were mainly tomatoes, grown under cloches, green leafy vegetables, radish, (very large turnip looking radishes) garlic and cucumbers.

Three of the women had a buffalo, another had two cows, two women had several goats and one even had some pigs! One told how she milks her buffalo each morning and fills two large covered buckets with 9 litres of milk and carries them several kilometres to a shop where the owner buys the milk from her to sell. She was 48 years old, looked so frail and small, and was bringing up 6 children on her own!

Another women, who had four sons, invited me into her temporary tin house, as her home was deemed too unsafe to live in after the earthquake of 2015, which left deep cracks in the brickwork. This building is now used to store picked crops and house the goats and buffalos of her neighbours when the weather dictates. In her small room with a corrugated roof, she and her husband who was working nearby as a carpenter, and two of their four children lived in one room where they ate, slept and cooked, measuring around 12' x 10'.

She wiped out a china mug with her skirt and delighted in making tea for us. She proudly showed me the mustard spinach, a type of large leafed spinach and radishes she grows as well as chilli peppers and garlic. Her eldest son is working in Kathmandu and sends money home to help his parent, the two younger brothers are in school, grade 4 and 10. By earning money from selling her vegetables she is able to educate her children.

We then drove to where the training by WCS takes place. The fertile reddish soil looked wonderful for growing vegetables. Around 200 households, 1000 people live in this village. WCS held 7 skills trainings this year, 4 elementary and 3 at advanced level. Each training is attended by between 25 - 35 women. CHANCE has been funding the skills trainings with WCS for the past 9 years.

The women are strong, empowered by their earning capacity and making a difference to their families lives, was a joy to see. Through an interpreter I listened to all the women's stories. The hardship they have endured, especially after the earthquake, the stoicism they show is remarkable. They soldier on. Anamika, Shenpen's Project Coordinator, one of our partners on the ground who monitors this project accompanied me."

AUGUST

NEW SCHOOL in VIDHYAPUR, SURKHET



New School at Vidhyapur



Opening Ceremony of the new school

Our second school in Vidhyapur, Surkhet in the region of Dang was built by GMIN (Grassroot Movement in Nepal).

There are 221 students registered at this school, which runs from nursery to Class 5. The new building houses four classrooms, which were built 25 years ago. In the May 2015 earthquake the old buildings were badly damaged and unsafe to use. Since then classes have been conducted outside under canvas.

The local community contributed with free labour and local materials for the building, and the Community Forest Committee contributed with wood for the desks and chairs which enabled us to fund 15 sets of wooden desks and benches which were made on site.

Update from my visit in November

“ The official opening of the school with the local mayor and other local dignitaries was organised for my visit to the school. It was an arduous journey to get there, 750 kms from Kathmandu, a one hour flight and 6 hours drive on bumpy roads, accompanied by Sangbo Lobsang and Bidya (GMIN) and a night’s stay close to the school ready for the opening the next morning. There is a senior school Grade 5 and above, higher up the hill and the children and teachers from there came to preside over the opening. Many of the students sang for us and two girls in Nepalese costume danced. I felt very honoured to be presented with many flower garlands and a framed certificate of appreciation. This all made for a very grand occasion.

I noticed dental hygiene is something that needs to be addressed at this school and I did so to the assembly of teachers and students! Probably not the occasion to do this but on the other hand, my one chance! CHANCE will look to provide a toothbrush for all children as well as other aspects of hygiene.”

SEPTEMBER



SCHOOL LIBRARY at Dubichour, Dang - funded by CHANCE

The school library has proved to be really successful and now as well as the books we funded last year, we are now funding the salary of a librarian, so the library is open daily. By introducing the children to the world of reading for sheer enjoyment, encouraging their imagination hopefully gives them a lifetime enjoyment of reading.

NOVEMBER

Water Tank

I noticed a large water tank and asked why the children were not washing their hands after going to the toilet, or before eating. The head teacher told me there is no water in the tank! The government says there is no money to get the water tank refilled. The cost is just £250 per annum for the water and soap.

Update from my November visit

"After my visit to Mitre Aadharbhut Vidhayala School to see the Tiffin programme which has gone from strength to strength, I saw the need for books, toys and wall posters for the classrooms which were bare so £250 was made available for those as well as £250 for water and soap for 2018. The World Health Organisation stresses the need for good hand washing to prevent diarrhoea, which can quickly take hold and be fatal to children as well as other basic hygiene illnesses."

DECEMBER



BVS giving a presentation in school on the dangers of open fires in the home

December saw the second school presentation by BVS (Burns Victims Survivors) speaking about the dangers of open fires and live bare wires. I have come across many children in the Kanti Children's Hospital who have been electrocuted by touching live bare wires. Their injuries are horrific. The hour-long presentations will be held in different schools each month continuing throughout 2018.

All children receive a sticker and are eager to go home and spread the word to their parents about the dangers of leaving a small child unattended even for a minute with an open fire burning used for heat and cooking. *Prevention is the key!*

OUR OTHER PROJECTS

EXCITING NEWS – Our second health centre has been a while coming but that is no bad thing, waiting until the right place is found to serve the people in most need. All the red tape out of the way and now the foundations are in! This new Health Centre is in the memory of Martin Lawson. His wife Gilly whom I met in 2016 wanted a lasting tribute for Martin in Nepal, a country he had visited and loved.

PAPA'S HOME

We continue to fund the food and monthly activity programme for all 25 children. My visit to Papa's is always a major highlight as the children are just a bundle of fun. Well behaved and polite - I could pack them all up and bring them home with me.

JP whom I featured in our Summer Newsletter

[Summer Newsletter](#)

Delighted to report JP has a new sponsor, Michael, who studied engineering at university. JP wants to be an engineer so this is a good start. Michael bought JP a new laptop for college, which I took out to JP in November. He was over the moon; never had he received anything quite so magnificent!

We had singing and a super gigantic cake, which fed all 35 of us there at the time. The children are not at all shy; this probably helped by the fact that volunteers go there from all over the world and share some of their own culture with the children who learn a little French here, German there, so they do not take too much coaxing to burst into song. I made 4 visits to Papa's - hard to keep away!

SHREE SECONDARY SCHOOL IN CHITWAN

Our 3rd year of supporting a daily Tiffin programme for 45 children at this government school continues.

Sadly, whilst in Nepal in November, I became severely dehydrated when visiting the region of Dang. I was also harbouring type A influenza virus. The dehydration I brought upon myself as I did not drink enough water and on returning to Kathmandu from Dang after the opening of the new school, another arduous journey, was admitted to hospital the next day and put on a drip. It was several days to get better and I missed my annual visit to Shree Secondary School in Chitwan. However, I am in monthly contact with Surya Lamichane, the headmaster, who updates me and sends me photographs of the Tiffin programme we have there.

Every cloud has a silver lining as they say...

I had kept back 150 knitted dolls, children's stickers and 150 toothbrushes to take to Shree Secondary School in Chitwan. What to do?! Arban Gautam, founder of Medical Heart Nepal, suggested I visit a government run school in Kathmandu he knew about, by the name of Khagendra New Life Special Education Secondary School, which takes students up to class 12 (college – our 'A' levels).

There are 85 physically challenged students and 220 main stream students and the school is a shining example of how both can work very well side by side with teachers and children respecting each other and all helping those less fortunate than themselves. During break time, I saw small children pushing children in wheelchairs, (circa 1960 style) around in the sunshine. The headmaster, Mr Raghab Prasad Bhattarai is inspirational, himself with only one leg and leads by example how you can make it to the top of your profession with determination and hard work.

I visited all the classrooms, all cramped and it was good to see the children were motivated and hardworking. I gave out toothbrushes and knitted dolls, pencils and paints to the students in the lower classes who were thrilled with them.

Each class had several children with physical disabilities but rather than segregate them all in one class, the children are in the right grade for their age. These children give strength, humanity and another dimension to the class.

Entering the classroom for Grade 10 where an accounting class was in progress, I light heartedly asked if the children found accounts boring, rolling my eyes! No they all shouted, one student said it was her favourite lesson. She lost both her hands above the wrist in a tragic accident several years ago when she touched a wet steel pole with a live cable running through it. She had her exercise book open in front of her and I wondered how she would write. I asked her to show me and she held the pen between both wrists, and wrote with excellent handwriting. A boy sitting behind her asked if he could share his



story. He lost both his legs in the earthquake of 2015 when he was trapped under rubble for some days - both students said they wanted to become teachers. My tears quickly blinked back, not tears of pity, but tears of admiration, of their courageous spirit, against all odds they were determined to succeed in life and they will, I have no doubt.

I attributed much to the head Raghab; one cannot help but be inspired by him.

Before he arrives at the school at 9.00am each day, he teaches finance at Bachelor level at a college nearby from 6.00am until 8.00am.

I was blown away by this school, both awesome and inspiring and will definitely make another visit in 2018.



TRIPLE GEM SCHOOL

The daily milk programme continues for the lower school children.

STREET CHILDREN

We continue to support the brilliant work of WEGAIN who last year with their consistent lobbying were successful in having a bill passed in parliament to make it illegal to adhesive glue to minors under the age of 18. This work continues, and I was very aware during my visit in November, of not seeing any children sniffing glue. Wegain is constantly monitoring this remains the case.

EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIPS

We have 35 students either in school, college or university.

HEALTH PROJECTS

The Health Centre in Dhubichour continues to run successfully and we are now well into our second year of funding for the nurses, doctor, medicines and running costs of the Health Centre. All the children are weighed and their height recorded on the computer. Any child who is underweight and shows signs of stunting is given extra food in the form of powdered supplements.

VOLUNTEERS and FUNDRAISERS

We are grateful for support in other ways too. I am often asked if it is possible to volunteer for CHANCE. Of course in Nepal we are always looking for volunteers at all levels. For example, perhaps a teacher could spare 3 or 4 weeks to teach at one of the schools we support - it's unbelievably rewarding because the children – and their parents – are so enthusiastic about learning.

And there are plenty of opportunities to support us at home too:

These are some more examples of how others have helped us throughout the year: thanks to the following for their fundraising ideas for CHANCE FOR NEPAL.

- Louise and Rodin Makay who raised funds for CHANCE by gaining sponsorship through Virgin Money Giving for their trek to Everest Base Camp.
- Andrea Matthews held two events for CHANCE this year. Tea and cake stall at a craft market and making designer greeting cards with lunch.
- Jane and Brian, landlords at The Keep in Guildford UK hold regular quiz nights throughout the year for CHANCE.
- Elbert Barnes of MYRACEKIT donated 15% on Black Friday weekend on all sales from her sports shop.

We welcome your support, perhaps a tennis tournament, a jumble sale, a golf day, running a marathon; without your support we would not be able to achieve all we do, I am immensely grateful and appreciative and although I keep saying so, I cannot say it enough. So many help and support CHANCE.

THANK YOU

I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who has supported CHANCE for NEPAL during 2017. We have had a good year, culminating in my annual November visit. It is so humbling and rewarding to see the difference CHANCE makes on a day-to-day basis in health and education and none of this would be possible without your support. From Joanna Lumley, our wonderful Patron, to trustees Edmund O'Reilly Hyland and David Smail.

A massive thank you to Viv Craggs, who does all the reconciliation of the accounts, Adrienne Golightly who runs the CHANCE 100 Club, no small feat, both hers and Viv's spread sheets are legendary! Chris Blizard who manages gift aid for CHANCE. They all volunteer their time, how special is that!

Thanks to all our educational sponsors and members of the CHANCE 100 Club.

Thanks to Jane and Brian, the landlords of The Keep, in Guildford where we hold our Quiz Nights, which are such fun and raise much needed funds for our projects.

A special mention to Paul Lamberty, founder of Boonwag Digital Marketing - <https://boonwag.co.uk/>, who this year launched our fab new website for free! Paul's patience and understanding of CHANCE has been incredible. www.chancefornepal.org

My deep gratitude to Eddie Forrester of Aerobytes and Michael Jones of the Herrod Foundation for their amazing generous financial support again this year.

Thanks to Raissa Distefano who monitors our education programme. With 28 students attending school, college and university this is a huge task. Raissa's in depth knowledge of the students who she has come to know well over many years is key to helping the student find the right course and the right college when the times comes. She meets the college and university students monthly to give them their food allowance and discuss any problems they may have. She takes videos twice yearly of all the students for their sponsors. Her reporting is in-depth and comprehensive. There could be no education programme without her.

Thanks to Anamika Aryal, project coordinator of Shenpen our partner on the ground who we have worked with for 12 years. Anamika monitors our projects in Skills Training, Rabies Vaccinations, Tiffin Programmes and fun 'Goody Bags' for the Kanti Children's Hospital.

Thanks to Mahatma Parajuli who monitors our food programme and care at Papa's Children's Home.

Through my journey over 17 years and determination to make a difference to children in Nepal, I am moved beyond words by the generosity of so many.

I send you my love and thanks and look forward to hearing from you in 2008. From the children we support in Nepal and myself our heartfelt thanks.

Barbara

Founder CHANCE for NEPAL

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If you would be interested in supporting any of our projects or would like further information, please email: info@chancefornepal.org