

CHANCE FOR NEPAL

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2018



The first 6 months of 2018 have been fruitful and busy. Our support to our long-term projects continues as well as some new and exciting projects.

Enjoy!

OUR PROJECTS

HEALTH

NEW: A Health Centre in Purandhara, which lies 600 kms west of Kathmandu. The health centre gives medical aid to 500 families, which is around 3,000 people in total.

The new Health Centre was built by GMIN (Grass Root Movement), one of our main partners in Nepal. The Health Centre is in memory of Martin Lawson who loved Nepal. I met Martin's wife Gilly at one of our fund-raising events during 2016. Gilly asked if it would be possible to fund the building costs of a Health Centre after hearing me speak about our first one in Dhubichour, in the region of Dang. So it came to be, a wonderful fitting tribute to Martin.



It is already proving a real asset to the community who, prior to this new facility, had to walk over rough terrain for two hours to the nearest road to catch the one bus a day to the city, the city being a four-hour journey away. This meant an overnight stay, to get the bus back the next day. Needless to say, many were either too ill or not able to make the journey, because of the added cost of accommodation and bus fare!

The Health Centre cost £5,000 to build and CHANCE has committed to funding the running costs by paying the salary of

a midwife, nurse and all medicines for three years. We bought chairs, a desk and solar panels to run a small fridge for medicines and for the lighting.

NEW: A Dental and Eye camp organised by GMIN, in the government school of Bidhyapur, Surkhet where Chance for Nepal (UK) funded a school building of four classrooms in 2017. All 166 students were present and were given a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap and a comb each. The CMA and ANM from the Health Centre in Dhubichour (where CHANCE funds the running costs) visited the school to give instruction on the importance of hygiene, showing the students how to wash their hands and brush their teeth thoroughly. Out of the 166 students, two needed glasses and 45 students needed dental work! The main cause for the children's poor dental health were sweets and candies which are available in the village shop and the fact they do not brush their teeth regularly or didn't have a toothbrush.



On my visit to the school last November, where I was invited to open the school CHANCE funded, I noticed the state of the students' teeth and felt compelled to address this in my short speech. The outcome was the eye and dental camp this year.

NEW: Mountain Heart Nepal (MHN) CHANCE has funded the medicines of two medical camps this year. In April, the medical team went to Lakuri, Bhangyang and in May Khaiahani, Chitwan. In July, we funded an emergency camp due to the heavy rains during the monsoon in Bhaktapur.



We will fund one further medical camp in November which I am delighted to say I have been invited to be part of. These medical missions are in remote areas made up of



doctors, nurses and health professionals who all give their time, when not working in the hospital in Kathmandu.



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

BURNS VIOLENCE SURVIVORS (BVS)

Our longest established partner on the ground in Nepal, over 14 years!

Continued and vital support with nutritious weekly food hampers. The BVS team buy the produce and put together the hampers for every child.

Our funding continues for the physiotherapy and counselling which is given 5 times per week.



Karma is 7 months and from the region of Kanegada which lies 425kms from Kathmandu. She has two older brothers. No one in the family has received an education. Her parents are extremely poor, barely surviving. Karma suffered 2nd degree burns to 30% of her little body, her right hand, right leg and right side of her body was severely burned.

Her father was talking to a neighbour whilst her mother had gone to cut grass for a

neighbour's cow. Her brothers were playing outside. She was left alone sleeping by the fire, woke up and somehow rolled into the hot embers of the open fire. Her aunt came running in and she was taken to a nearby health post and after receiving first aid treatment she was sent back home with herbal medicine. Her wounds then became infected so she was rushed to Magar Sangh Hospital where she stayed for a further 5 days. Her parents then had to take her home because they could not afford the treatment. That is just too heart breaking for words. After 20 days, her parents felt compelled to bring her to the Kanti burns unit. The Herrod Foundation, through CHANCE, funded her treatment and she had needed her right hand amputated.



Anil is aged 14. He comes from Kailali, which lies 450kms from Kathmandu and has two sisters. His father works the land and his mother looks after the family. Anil was playing with his friends in this local community forest when he accidentally fell onto an electric trap used by the poachers and was electrocuted by the high voltage current. He was rushed to the Seti Zonal Hospital but due to the lack of facilities there he was referred to the Bheri Zonal Hospital. After a further night, he made the long journey to the specialised burns unit at the Kanti.

He suffered 1st and 2nd degree burns to 25% of his head, chest, both hands and his lumbar region. He needed skin grafts and debridement at the Kanti and was then transferred once again for plastic surgery to another hospital in Kathmandu.

What a brilliant smile before discharge!



All children get a 'Goody Bag' which contains a hand-held brick game and a Rubik cube for the children aged 5 and over, as well as fun stickers and a toothbrush. The younger children get a large cuddly soft bear, crayons, stickers and a comfort knitted doll from the UK. Shenpen organise the 'Goody bags' and deliver them twice a month. Each November, I take out around 400 toothbrushes, mostly donated by Cranleigh Prep School and friends, 400 packets of children's stickers from Linda Dixon, of Paper Projects and 500 knitted comfort dolls!

CHANCE has an emergency fund for parents to help with transport back to their village and medicines.



Around 1000 food hampers are given out each year providing vital calories, which aid a speedier recovery. Burn patients require two and a half times more calories than normal to aid this process.

CHANCE for NEPAL has many projects as followers of my page on Facebook know - all of them hold a special place in my heart. That said, visiting the burns unit at the Kanti, does break one's heart. Parents sit helplessly with their child, who may well be scarred for life, perhaps even shunned by society, yet so many of these appalling accidents could have been avoided.

The majority of burns are caused by flame, hot water, naked electric cables, chemicals, open cooking fires and lightning. Many could be avoided with more care and attention and not leaving young children unattended in the home with open fires and cooking pots on stoves where little hands can reach up and spill over the contents. The first and most effective treatment for all burns is the application of cold water.

I come away from the burns unit with an aching heart, lifted though by the tremendous efforts of the BVS team who do so much and the incredible nursing staff at the hospital who witness the accidents first hand day in and day out and in the knowledge that CHANCE played a small part in helping.

To try to cut down on such cases as shared here, all of which are harrowing, we are helping BVS to spread the word by continuing to fund a monthly half hour radio broadcast which goes out to 73 of 75 districts in Nepal, giving information on what to do if you get burned, how to treat in the immediate moments after being burnt.

Along with the radio broadcasts the monthly school presentations continue, where a team from BVS go to a different school each month to give talks on the dangers of burns in the home or work place and what to do immediately after a burn. The June visit was to Dharding, only 50 kms outside Kathmandu Valley but because of the roads, or should I say lack of them, it takes 5 hours to get there. As there had been a high incidence of burn victims from this area, it was crucial that the team went to understand why and present their awareness programme with video and photographs to the students and teachers. By educating the children they can in turn educate the parents!

EDUCATION

NEW Our second 'Tiffin' Food Programme at Shree Sharadha Mavi School (SSM) is organised by our partner on the ground SHENPEN. The 'Tiffin' is given to all the most needy children. Over 120 children receive this meal. This is a great success story, not only do the children have a full tummy at lunch time, thus they are happy children, but the attendance of the children in the school has risen as parents know their child will be fed a nutritious meal, which may be the only meal they will have had since the previous evening!



NEW We are funding water and soap at the Mitre Aadharbhut School (MAV). A government school where the water tank stood empty as there were no funds available to fill it. I noted this during my visit in November 2017 and for just £250 per annum, the children now have soap and water to wash their hands after going to the toilet and before eating.



Together with the Tiffin programme we introduced with SHENPEN a year ago at this school numbers have increased with better concentration, which all makes for happy children and motivated teachers. We also funded wall charts, picture books and toys for the kindergarten and Grade 1.



Our first 'Tiffin Programme' at Shree Secondary School in Chitwan, a government school, is now in its 5th year. This is a CHANCE initiative. In April, it was decided to improve the quality and maintain consistency, so now some of the teachers take it in turns to cook for the children, instead of paying a cook to bring food in. This has meant more children can receive the 'Tiffin' and the quality is better. Attendance is also better because of this programme.

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 in their second year of a Bachelor degree. We have four starting their first year of Bachelor, and 4 in college. The remaining students are in school.

PAPA'S CHILDREN'S HOME

NEW – Tae Kwan Do

CHANCE funds the Tae Kwan Do classes for 17 of the children at Papa's. They really love this activity and as well as learning a good discipline, it is great exercise for them and something new and exciting, not just school and homework. £100 funds this activity for 17 children for 3 months.... any sponsors out there?

We continue funding the food programme and monthly fun activities at Papa's.



RABIES VACCINATION

NEW In May this year we supported over 1050 rabies vaccinations for the first time, with SNEHA's CARE. The vaccination programme ran over two consecutive weekends in May in the area of Godavari. There was also an awareness campaign held in 12 schools about how to treat a dog bite and the importance of treating dogs with respect.

The vaccination programme reached 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.

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



FUNDRAISING

NEW Major thanks go to Luca Maurantonio and Steven Taylor who did a motorbike Challenge for CHANCE, riding from Kathmandu to Muktinath in the Himalayas raising a handsome £1,255, and to Heather Yeadon who ran the Barcelona Marathon for us, raising a brilliant £454.

THANK YOU all so much.



I am delighted when we are approached by someone to say they have seen our great website and wish to support us by raising funds for our projects. This makes my heart sing.

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 7th year. Jane and Brian, the landlords provide a complimentary cheese and French bread sharing platter or in cooler months a chili and rice supper. The funds raised from these quiz nights gives an education to two children, one now in college with the remaining funds going to our projects.

Heartfelt thanks to all our supporters, without you none of this would have been possible.

THANK YOU

Wishing you a wonderful summer,

Barbara