

CHANCE for NEPAL SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2023



If you don't have a satchel for school, there's always another way!

I have pleasure in sharing our Summer Newsletter showing our activities for the first half of 2023. Nepal is now in the monsoon season, rain, rain and more rain, with humid temperatures.

EDUCATION

New School – Shree Jankalyan Primary School, Banglachuli, Dang

In memory of David Pinnington, the Shree Jankalyan Primary School was completed by GMIN (Grassroot Movement in Nepal) and opened in March. The school is situated in the Dang region, 400kms west of Kathmandu. In the devastating 2015 earthquake it was badly damaged and sustained further damage in November of last year by another earthquake of 5.7 magnitude and was deemed unfit for purpose.

Dave, as he liked to be known, sadly passed away in December 2021 aged only 53. Back in July 2022, I received a cheque for £10,000, sent by his three sisters, following Dave's wishes to bequeath a donation to Chance. I suggested to Sue, Anne and Celia that we could build a school in his memory, an idea they loved. They too wished to support the school and in April funded 200 books, book shelves, shoe racks and a large area of concrete in front of the school which acts as a play area in the monsoon season and keeps the dust from getting in the classrooms. Such joy, as Dave's legacy lives on and this school will benefit so many children in the years to come.

Showing the locality and construction of the school built by GMIN



Red flag denotes the area of the school



Foundations being dug



Use of local stone for the construction



Nearing completion



Shree Jankalyan Primary School, Dang Completed! Children and staff say thank you Dave!

We also have a maintenance programme with GMIN for the 7 schools funded by Chance to date in the regions of Dang and Surkhet. Two of the first schools we ever funded have just been repainted inside and out.

Shree Secondary School, Chitwan

Our 'Tiffin' programme continues and we are now in our 9th year of support to this government school where 1200 Tiffin meals a month are funded by CHANCE. The school is thriving under the headship of Surya Lamichhane and his staff. The teachers inform me that the children's performance and energy levels in class since the Tiffin programme was introduced has dramatically improved, often this being their first meal of the day when given at midday. This is a morale boost for the teachers too.



Tiffin Programme at Shree Secondary School

Triple Gem School Swayambhunath

A new and exciting initiative - iLearnabout

Already introduced in African schools by iLearnabout, this programme explores global issues through multi-media examples and local investigations. It is an engaging interactive conservation education resource with topics such as biodiversity, climate change, pollution, wildlife and water.

Triple Gem School is the first school in Nepal to embrace this new initiative after I introduced Lama Kondan, the terrific headmaster of TG to iLearnabout earlier this year. TG will be implementing the scheme from July, choosing first the topic of biodiversity. Lama Kondan with two senior teachers have been in discussion via zoom with the team at iLearnabout and are really excited and enthusiastic to trial this new concept which hopefully can go forward to being shared with other schools in Kathmandu and beyond. This exciting opportunity gives the teachers and students access to subjects which are of vital importance as we work towards a better understanding and knowledge sharing of climate and environmental issues. For more see <https://www.ilearnabout.org>

Yangchenma Academy at Ramechhapp



Location – school assembly – education on healthy eating – the all-important task of tying shoe laces



I am so looking forward to visiting Yangchenma Academy which CHANCE has supported for the past 4 years. Standing at 10,000feet above sea level and a four/five-hour drive from Kathmandu. Funds from Chance this year funded the repairs for the library and teaching materials. The Brampton Charitable Trust also support this school through CHANCE.

Educational Sponsorships

At present, we have 16 students receiving educational sponsorship. Some of our sponsors have been supporting a student since 2007!

Rumkarmal and Sabin - Grade 10 – students at **Triple Gem School**.

Sajina -Grade 10 – student at **Lord of Light School**

Aakriti and Ritu - Grade 8 and 9 students at **Shangri-La school**.

Hemraj Grade 7, Padham Grade 8 and Nishant Grade 9 at **Nazareth School**

Sujan and Bhupesh - Grade 12 at **College**

Addesh, JP, Maan, Teschu, Phunstok and Chattra all doing Bachelor degrees at **University**

Volunteer Foundation Nepal - VFN - (formally Papa's Home)

VFN, now under the excellent leadership of JP and Maan, who both having arrived at Papa's Home aged 10 are now in their 4th year of a Bachelor's degree at university. JP a BSc in Engineering and Maan in Business Studies. Lalit Shahi, founder of VFN, his wife Dhanusha and their three children decided to move to the States after applying through a lottery and left in April. The atmosphere in the house is fresh and positive, all supporting each other, one big happy family of 15 going from strength to strength with good communications between the sponsors and VFN. Chance has five boys sponsored through Chance at VFN.



Boys of VFN

For Bipana, being the only girl once Lalit's family, two girls and a boy left the country, I needed to find her another good and happy place in a small children's home. I came to hear about Ama Ghar, through Wendy Marston (BVS). Ama Ghar is mainly for girls and is run by its exceptional founder Bonnie Ellison who has lived in Nepal since childhood. Bipana has been there since April and is happy, settled, flourishing and confident. Importantly too, she has been encouraged by Bonnie to keep close ties with her 'brothers/family' at VFN whom she had lived with for the past 6 years. At the end of June, Alma Ghar had their yearly rice planting day and Bonnie invited the boys from VFN to come and take part which they did with great excitement and enthusiasm; a fun day was had by all.



Bipana's farewell party from VFN

HEALTH

Siddhasthali Rural Community Hospital, Hetauda



At the end of April, we held our first on-line auction to raise £30,000 for a digital x-ray machine for the newly built Siddhasthali Rural Community Hospital. Joanna Lumley, our patron gave a super audio introduction to the auction. We raised £15,300 from the auction promises and donations with Chance donating the remainder. This equipment will significantly improve the hospital's diagnostic capabilities, allowing for timely and accurate treatment of patients in need.

There are still finishing touches to be done at the hospital, but the end is in sight. Chance will have contributed the pharmacy building, x-ray machine, 15 hospital beds, an incubator, ECG machine and two wheelchairs. A beautiful sensory garden dedicated in memory of Jenny Bradshaw with the financial support of her parents Dave and Jackie and Jenny's friends, along with Chance which will be a living memory to Jenny who loved Nepal. The garden will be a place for contemplation and reflection for patients and their families.

Dr Aban Gautam:

“On October 7, 2023, we eagerly anticipate the grand opening of the Siddhasthali Rural Community Hospital, a testament to our continuous efforts, relentless hard work, and community generosity. Our deepest gratitude is extended to all our donors, with a special mention to Chance for Nepal UK, whose substantial contributions have made a significant impact. Despite the joy of this milestone, our journey continues as we strive to fully equip our hospital. Meeting the minimum requirements of a 15-bedded facility is crucial to obtaining our operating license. Therefore, we ask for your continued support”. Dr Aban Gautam

www.siddhasthalihospital.org

Magic Read Programme - On the auspicious occasion of Saraswati Puja (goddess of learning), Siddhasthali Rural Community Hospital distributed text books from our 'Magic Read' programme to Bal Jagriti Yuwa Barsha Secondary School located in Hetauda. Goddess Saraswati is worshiped to attain enlightenment through knowledge and to rid ourselves from ignorance. The books are funded each year by the generosity of our supporters Jane Lewis and Ivy Tan.



Students of Bal Jagriti Yuwa Barsha Secondary School located in Hetauda

BVS (Burns Violence Survivors)

We continue to provide around 1000 food baskets which are given out each year providing vital extra calories, as burn patients require two and a half times more calories than normal to aid the healing process.

The majority of burns are caused by hot water, naked electric cables, chemicals and open cooking fires. Many could be avoided with more care and attention and not leaving young children unattended in the home with open fires or cooking pots on stoves, dangling electric kettle cords where inquisitive little hands reach up to explore and the outcome is tragic!

We fund physiotherapy and counselling sessions for all the children on the burns unit.

I share three case studies showing our support for the children who have come onto the burns unit.

Jyan is aged two and lives with his parents in Bagmati. His father is a driver and mother a housewife. Jyan was being looked after by his grandmother who had prepared local alcohol and placed the hot liquid on the ground while she was busy doing other chores. Jyan was playing nearby, when accidentally he tumbled and fell into the vessel. He got severely burned. Hearing him cry, his grandmother rushed to him and poured cold water on his wounds and then applied tomatoes and cow dung on the burn! She informed Jyan's parents who both rushed home and took him to the nearby district hospital in Chautra. After one night, he was referred to the specialist burns unit at the Kanti Children's Hospital, 100kms away. He suffered 8%, 2nd degree burns to his hips and bottom. He was discharged home and is doing well.

Baby of Devi is 18 days old and lives with his parents and four siblings in the district of Mircheya. After baby of Devi was born his father contacted a masseuse to give his son an oil massage. The masseuse lifted the baby above the wood fire to keep him warm. Suddenly his parents realized that their baby was unconscious and immediately rushed him to Provincial Hospital in Janakpur, 87kms away, where he received first-aid treatment. The next day, his parents brought him to Metro Hospital, in Kathmandu, a 225km journey and where he was admitted for 9 days. Because the parents couldn't afford treatment as on very low incomes, he was referred to Kanti Children's Hospital. The parents were told their baby's delicate skin couldn't withstand the heat from the fire and he had sustained 12%, 2nd degree burns to his bottom. He recovered well and was discharged back home.

Pemdiki is aged 5 and lives with her parents. Her father is a trekking porter and her mother a farmer. The family are from Solukhumbhu, 140kms from Kathmandu. Pemdiki was at home with her mother who was busy doing chores and her father had gone in search of work in Kathmandu. She was playing outside with her friends where there was a broken electric pole with live wires dangling from it lying on the ground. Pemdiki accidentally touched a wire and was electrocuted. Hearing her scream, her mother rushed to her and called all her relatives and they took her to Kharikhola Hospital, a 3 hour walk away where she received first aid treatment. She was then sent home but after two days her wounds became infected and she was transferred by plane to the burns unit at the Kanti Children's Hospital. She suffered 2nd degree burns to her left hand. She was on the burns unit for 24 days.

Chance has an emergency fund of £1500 per year which helps those patients and their families on very low incomes to return home to their village after treatment. This may mean helping with transportation costs, food for the journey, medicines and clothes.



Jyan



Baby of Divi



Pemdiki

Sneha's Care – Rabies vaccinations

In April we funded 1000 rabies vaccinations, our 5th year of support with this outstanding organisation founded by Sneha Strestha.



Rabies vaccinations carried out by Sneha's Care

Other News!

Fundraising:

Jane and Brian, the landlords at The Keep in Guildford host our bi monthly quiz nights. With each one raising around £420. Jane and Brian are excellent quiz masters and generous to a fault providing a complimentary light supper. They have been sponsoring the education of Aadesh for the past 13 years. Aadesh, an exceptionally bright student with an outgoing personality is about to embark on a Bachelor's degree course in Hotel Management. Once Aadesh's fees have been paid for from the quiz nights, the balance goes to our other projects in Nepal.

For example, the last quiz night funded 15 safe cooking stoves which were destined for the marginalised Chepang people, living in Chitwan. The Chepangs are one of the indigenous nationalities of Nepal, categorized as a highly marginalized group. The majority live in remote hilly settlements of Chitwan, Makwanpur, Dhading, and Gorkha districts.

Sapana Village Social Impact, (SVSI) one of our partners on the ground, purchased and delivered the cooking stoves, as part of their ongoing social projects to the community of Chitwan. Along with funds from Jane Lewis a supporter of Chance, a further 15 stoves were purchased enabling 30 stoves to be delivered where most needed up in the hills for the Chepang people. On the first attempt, torrential rain made the dirt track impassable, but SAVI never gives up and two days later they managed to get through, as far as the vehicle could travel, then it's a scramble up the hillside. Well done SAVI.

Enjoy this short video:

https://youtu.be/acFT0615_NE

If there is anyone who would like to make up a table of 4-6 for our fun quiz nights, please let me know and I can reserve you a table: info@chancefornepal.org

A special thank you to **Linda Dixon** the founder of **Paper Projects in Bishops Stortford**, and her team, all of whom I met for the first time in June. Linda has been incredibly generous and a constant supporter of Chance for the past 13 years. She has given thousands of packets of children's stickers over the years and the children love them. They make up part of our 'Goody Bag' project for the burns unit at The Kanti and given out when BVS delivers the weekly food hampers. The stickers are also given to younger children in schools and on medical camps. I left her carrying a large box containing 600 packets of stickers which will be going with me at the end of September.

The CHANCE 100 Club has 98 members as of July. If anyone would like to come on board we would love to have you. It costs just £5 a month and the draw takes place at Cranleigh Golf & Country Club on the first Monday of each month. Each month there are three cash prizes £120 - £80 and £50 with £250 going to our projects. If you would like to know more, please email: info@chancefornepal.org

My heartfelt thanks to all our wonderful supporters, without you none of this would be possible, and there would be no CHANCE!

Wishing you all a lovely summer.

Barbara
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