



A non-profit charitable, U.S. foundation assisting...
...*"the forgotten children of Nepal"*

July, 2012

THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN TRAFFICKED!!!



in bondage to the brothel underworlds of Mumbai or Delhi, with little chance for escape. A life of slavery and degradation would follow until disease, abuse or suicide would end their brief lives.

Two years before, when our home opened for these children they rapidly blended into a family of inspiring friendships. Thoughts of what was or what could have been evaporated, replaced with spirited confidence in their new sisterhood and trust in the care and encouragement from their VCN support team. All the provisions for a secure childhood

The generous time we spend in the presence of our 25 orphanage girls is incredibly rewarding and inspirational, but there are haunting, dark moments when we reflect on what the outcome for these noble children would have been

if they had not been rescued. It's almost a certainty that these orphans would have been easy targets for kidnappings into the sex-trafficking nightmares that threaten the impoverished and homeless girl-child in Nepal. With no one to care for them, protect them or provide shelter, these young girls would have had little choice but to go with the stranger who threatened them or promised them a means to survive. In a matter of days they would have joined the thousands of other young girls trapped



are in place and every day the children themselves celebrate the providence of rescue that came into their lives.



Virtue's Children Nepal is an ALL-VOLUNTEER FOUNDATION

No funds are spent for U.S. salaries, office rent, bonuses or special benefits. Board members cover their own travel expenses by board member donations. Administration costs in Nepal are minimal and also covered by board member contributions.

AMAZING, INCREDIBLY AMAZING PROGRESS!



Our student, Sujan Dhakal, has been a sensational success story since we came to his aid several years ago. Legally blind, very poor and without a father, a young Sujan sat in on classes in a small village school and quickly demonstrated a passion and brilliance that brought him to our attention. We placed Sujan in a better school and began a wonderful relationship that has enriched all of us. Sujan not only exceeded all the academic expectations everyone had for him, but he also matured into a young man of excellent character and strong determination. He set new academic standards for the blind and has been awarded many honors for his achievements, including "Outstanding Disabled Student" for all of Nepal.

This year Sujan was awarded a Fulbright Foundation scholarship under their "Undergraduate Exchange Program" and was brought to the University of Wyoming for one year of special study. As much as this honor by itself was a tremendous accomplishment, Sujan so impressed faculty and staff that he went on to be awarded a generous scholarship by the University. Sujan is remaining positive and is earnestly striving to pull together the additional funds and preparation he needs to realize his dream of higher education...and we are keeping our trust that this is an opportunity that was meant to be.

DESPERATION HARD TO IMAGINE!

Tragically, this story is not unheard of in Nepal. All too often we find that the pressures of starvation-level poverty and hopelessness are more than people can bare; families break apart and the fallout for the children involved may very well mean abandonment and homelessness.

Mrs. Sona Nepali is the uneducated, illiterate mother of three children and recently we had the privilege of meeting all of them and coming to their rescue. Sona is a good, loving and gentle mother and life without her children was her greatest fear, but she was faced with the very real possibility of their starvation. Even begging didn't bring in sufficient money for the four of them and she tried vainly to sell her ten year-old daughter, Abena, as a household worker. If she had succeeded she would have gained a bit of money to hopefully feed her remaining two younger children for a few days, until she could give them away to anyone who would take them in as house or field work-

ers. We heard about her situation from other Nepalis who were alarmed about the families' situation and we went to investigate.

Below is a roughly translated letter from one that Sona had someone write for her. We found her desperately distributing this note to anyone in her path, in hopes of finding someone to provide for her daughters and son. The letter says it all.

"I NEED HELP!" My husband brought my children and me from the Dhading District a few years before to do work of breaking stones along the highways. We lived and slept along the roads and were completely dependent upon what my husband earned. Now my husband has abandoned my children and me to run away with another woman. He has been gone from our lives for a long time and we are without money, food or anyone to help us survive. I try to care for my children and find work to feed them, but I am in despair and

my children are hungry. For this reason I ask anyone to please take any of my children from me."



Abena, Sona and Manaesh, Manesha

We now have Sona and her children living in a simple room near Kathmandu and we are providing basic, but healthy foods for the family. We found steady work for Sona and we placed all three children in school. This is just a beginning of their recovery, but all expectations are positive and we are admiring of the whole family. Sona and all three children are very determined and definite survivors.

THE CHILDREN NO ONE WOULD HELP UNTIL BAL SARATHI APPEARED!

EDUCATION NUTRITIONAL LUNCHES MEDICAL SUPERVISION
HYGIENE CARE AND TRAINING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

It's a bitter future for children born into low-caste family status; a bleeding, cultural wound that continues to haunt Nepal. Even more disturbing are the lives of the many children who also bear the painful stigma of "outcast", the lowest element of Nepali society. These children live as social rejects; attached to prostitute mothers, beggar families and criminal elements. Invisible boundaries confine these impoverished children to deplorable living conditions and social rejection on every level. Even low-cost government schooling is not an expectation for these boys and girls. Their backgrounds declare their position and their future, with little expectation for opportunity to improve their lives.

Into this world of damaged children came the volunteer women of Bal Sarathi. They began their mission in 2006 by providing nutritious, daily meals to several of the outcast children found aimlessly wondering near garbage

dumps and a highly polluted river near a temple complex in Kathmandu. With encouragement from the women, several of the children took an interest in study and the first classes in basic education were begun. The clever provision to attending classes was that the studies began before the free meals. Hunger motivated class attendance and very quickly earnest, bright students were revealing themselves. Education took root and the progress in the lives of these children has been remarkable.

These days, with generous support from VCN, BalSarathi provides the same services to these neglected children, but now over



150 students attend classes six days a week and continue to benefit from nutritional lunches as well as free school uniforms, books, book bags and periodic medical check-ups. Beyond Class-5, Bal Sarathi provides scholarship support for succeeding students to transfer to government schools. The care and inspiration given these children has provided liberation and a life-saving path for hundreds of boys and girls struggling to escape the curse of their early beginnings.



A DATE WITH MAYA!



Shawn and Maya

I needed to get to the village. I was going to meet Maya for the first time, the 15 year-old blind girl that my family and I sponsor to school. Through VCN, we had learned of Maya, who one of the board members found living in poverty with little hope for education or a decent future. Sitting in the domestic terminal of the Kathmandu Airport, my heart sank as the PA system announced another flight cancellation. What would have been a 30-minute flight became a 7-hour, harried night drive in a hired van. It turned out that meeting Maya was worth every lurching mile of twisting road to Pokhara.

After a good nights sleep in a local hotel, we headed to Amar Sing School to finally meet Maya and the other VCN blind students she lives with. Introductions were made and after some initial shyness, which lasted all of three minutes, Maya and I became inseparable. Somehow we did not seem to require a translator... it was magical bonding! She took my hand, and running with excitement, gave me a tour of the hostel for blind children – study rooms, dining hall, bathrooms, garden and then upstairs to the large, airy room she shares with about 15 of her blind "school sisters", all of them sweet, bright and funny. They barraged me with a million questions; Where do you live? Are you married? What color is your hair? Do you like Nepali music? Do you like to dance? Someone turned on a radio and an impromptu dance performance ensued just for me. I was honored.

After our long afternoon together, it was finally time for me to leave. Maya and I walked and hand in hand as slowly as possible to the waiting taxi. With big hugs for all the girls, a special, long hug with Maya and heart-felt farewells from all the blind children, I said "goodbye" with a final gaze at beautiful Maya and I felt so proud to be part of her life and future. Again weather did not cooperate and hopes of a flight back to Kathmandu were dashed. It would mean another 7-hour torturous drive back to Kathmandu, but worth every minute... and I shall return ASAP.

There are so many more impoverished and physically impaired children in Nepal needing support for school. The rewards of involvement are tremendous and life-lasting. VCN will guide your helping hand to a desperately needy child, with **100% of your contribution going directly to serve that child.** We think this makes VCN special. The children definitely are.

Shawn Connolly

SERVING THE BLIND AND THE DISABLED!

The rewards don't come much better than recognizing the academic achievements of our blind or physically impaired children, or witnessing the personal progress in their training programs. No one deserves or needs support more than those disabled Nepali children helpless to extreme poverty and lack of government support. Their success is a constant reminder of the talent and potential of the human spirit. This year we were incredibly gratified to have the second of our VCN sponsored blind children be honored with the Fulbright Undergraduate Exchange Program. At the same time our blind students at Amar Singh school in the village of Pokhara continue to rank at the top of the classes they share with sighted students, and we can gratefully report that all the of the handicapped children in our care are surviving and thriving with good cheer and optimism. We encourage them, they inspire us.

"And it wasn't just the funding for which these beautiful children were so deeply grateful – scholarships were handed out along with a generous helping of love, and it was obvious that the love flowed both ways. VCN is life and hope to many of Nepal's most desperate and deserving."

Medford Leake
Aspen, Colorado

" PATH OF LIGHT!"

PROVIDING SCHOOL DAYS WHERE THERE WERE NONE!



From "child rescue" to managing our own school seemed like a giant leap to our purpose in Nepal,

beyond the reach or usual goals of VCN. What quickly became clear to us, however, was that by establishing the Path of Light School we were essentially expanding our child rescue efforts by new and powerful means – educate to liberate. The children



of the brick factory compounds are as deprived, isolated and as impoverished as any of the children in our program. Our time with them exposed untold horrors and threats in their daily lives, which could be dramatically reduced with the sanctuary of a school, good nutrition and the opportunity for education.

Opening "Path of Light" was an enormous challenge and required unending patience and constant contact with the burdened labor forces that struggle for survival in a world of bricks, dust and despair. Like a barren moonscape, these brick yard families live under piles of bricks, without sources of clean water, sewage outlets or services of any kind. With the invaluable efforts of our Nepali volunteers who befriended these families, we were able to slowly convince parents and guardians to release their children from the confines of the brick yards and



threats of forced child labor, and allow them to attend our school.

From the day the school doors opened, Path of Light has been a revelation of the outside world to these children. These boys and girls have proven to be enthused regulars at school, and demonstrate an urgency to know more far beyond the brick yard boundaries that formerly trapped them. Our goal is to provide these children with good nutrition, self-awareness and education. Most importantly, every school day we encourage them to consider their futures a matter of choice and ambition, not a predetermined life of brutal labor.

CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN

VCN has been rewarded with dramatic and continuing support by many remarkable American children who are familiar with our efforts in Nepal and choose to participate in our cause. Through the years, many U.S. school children have shown remarkable initiative and resolve to find creative ways to contribute to improving lives of hundreds of Nepali orphaned children.

- We were incredibly touched when a young boy approached his parents and requested that his Christmas money be given to VCN to help orphaned children in Nepal.
- One enterprising 11 year-old girl took it upon herself to start a vegetable garden. With the help of her friends they sold the produce on weekends and raised considerable funds to donate to VCN on behalf of Nepali orphans.
- A 13 year-old boy was deeply moved by the plight of the poor and orphaned in Nepal and he gathered friends to open their own NGO to support disadvantaged children, including orphans under VCN care.
- For several years, many school children have participated in special projects and fundraisers to raise money to aid the lives of orphaned children in Nepal. These contributions have been extremely generous and have allowed VCN to make desperately needed improvements in the lives of impoverished Nepali children. We heighten this participation with back and forth pen-pal relationships for all the children and up-dates on how the donations are put to the best use to serve the children most in need. Everybody wins.

WE WORK TO DIRECTLY RESCUE AND SUPPORT THE MOST DESTITUTE AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN IN NEPAL.

- * VCN – Paropakar Orphanage for 25 girls.
 - * Family home for 6 orphaned girls.
- * Support and provisions to 75 orphan boys.
- * Education and nutrition for 150 street children.
 - * "Path of Light" School for children from brick factory compounds.
 - * Scholarships for 70 orphaned and physically impaired students.
 - * Scholarships for 23 blind children
- * Services and supplies to elderly victims of leprosy.

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Our progress in Nepal is completely dependent upon the generosity of supporters who believe in our goals and wish to join a team effort for the rescue of impoverished and neglected children in Nepal. When you plan your charitable participations, please consider the purpose of our work and the maximum extent to which our contributions are utilized for the direct support for the children we serve.



A NON-PROFIT, ALL-VOLUNTEER, CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Virtue's Children Nepal is a U.S. 501 (c)(3), charitable foundation. Donations to our organization are tax-deductible and acknowledgement letters are provided for donations received.

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Virtue's
Children
Nepal invites
you to join
KarmaQuest



Ecotourism and Adventure Travel on a customized, cultural tour of the Kathmandu Valley and Pokhara, to benefit orphans and physically impaired children in Nepal. A highlight of this journey will be a visit to Paropakar Orphanage in Kathmandu, where you will become acquainted with incredibly courageous and delightful orphan boys



and girls. A portion of the cost of this trip will be donated through Virtue's Children Nepal to directly benefit these children or other orphans with emergency aid or educational support. Virtue's Children Nepal board member Wendy Brewer Lama and her husband Karma Lama are directors of KarmaQuest, an award-winning adventure travel company based in Half Moon Bay, California. They have designed this special tour to highlight the medieval wonders and UNESCO Cultural Heritage treasures of Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur cities, while giving you a taste of village life in Nagarkot, a bird's eye view of Mt. Everest on "an unforgettable mountain flight, a restful stay in serene Lakeside Pokhara and a three-day, guided jungle safari excursion in Royal Chitwan National Park. Customized treks to the Everest region will also benefit Virtue's Children Nepal and its work in Nepal. Please inquire for details.

Your travels with KarmaQuest will benefit from Wendy and Karma's extensive knowledge of Kathmandu and Nepal, and their ability to introduce you to cultural insights and new, cross-cultural friendships through their expert Nepali guides. To learn more about KarmaQuest and their trips, partners and beneficiaries, please see www.KarmaQuests.com or contact Karma and Wendy at karmaquest@earthlink.net, or telephone at (650) 560-0101.