



SUMMER 2010

## Dear Friends Around the World,

**For the past twelve years, Children of Kathmandu has been providing education, healthcare and adequate living conditions for needy children in Nepal. After these many years, we are more convinced than ever that education is the key to improving the future of Nepal.**

Over the past sixty years, millions of dollars in foreign aid have been given to Nepal in an effort to bring the country into the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Very little sustainable good has come to the people of Nepal from this infusion of funds. Rather, corruption has increased dramatically as the politicians have siphoned off much of the poorly monitored funds that have poured into the country. A rule-based system of governance does not exist nor does respect for human rights. Nothing stands in the way of the politicians' greed.

Similarities are easy to find in other countries around the world – not only regarding corruption but also pertaining to an inability to govern. In 1979, Jimmy Carter told the world, "What you see too often in Washington . . . is a system of government that seems incapable of action. You see a Congress twisted and pulled in every direction by hundreds of well-financed and powerful special interests. You see every extreme position defended to the last vote, almost to the last breath by one unyielding group or another." This describes Nepal's twenty-five party coalition government – a government that has been unable in the two years since it was formed to move the country forward. In 2008, the Constituent Assembly was given two years to produce a constitution. The deadline for the writing of the constitution was May 28, 2010. In the final minutes of that night, an agreement was forged extending the term of the Assembly for one more year with the understanding, once again, that a constitution must be produced during that period of time.

The poor of Nepal, estimated to be roughly eighty per cent of the population, are left outside these political maneuverings. They are simply struggling to earn enough

to provide two meals a day for their families. When a large percentage of those now classed as "poor" become literate and skilled, a strong middle class will emerge. This group will demand of those in positions of political leadership that they adhere to values and principles that are universally agreed upon as necessary for a forward-moving nation. A system of governance based on rules could then come into existence and the politicians would

be forced to work for the betterment of the citizens of the country. This result will not be seen for many, many years but the groundwork must be laid now. The people must be educated.

Nepal's future is up to the people of Nepal. Foreign aid alone will not bring about a better tomorrow. The citizens must assume the responsibility for finding solutions to the many problems facing their country. That

day will come only when the literacy rate increases dramatically. The education system presently in place must be expanded so it reaches into all regions of the country. The returns on an investment in education are many. Included in the long list are income growth, increased farm productivity, a lower fertility rate, lower rates of infant and maternal mortality, healthier and more educated children, political involvement and the formation of democratic institutions.

We thank you once again for joining us and making it possible for our young people to receive quality educations that will equip them to participate in the formation of a better Nepal.

Sincerely,

Judy and Jerry Golphenee

(known to our Nepali children as Bamma and Papa)



# Notes from our Students

Notes such as these and many verbal expressions of appreciation from our students help us to realize that the educations these young people have received are indeed **making a difference in their lives**. These words of thanks are not only to the two of us but also to **all of you who have given so generously** so that attending school could become a reality for these young people.

*Bamma and Papa --*

*After reading **The Last Lecture**, I thought of the moments when I used to listen (poorly) to lectures from the two of you. I want you to know that I finally realize that your lectures were worth listening to. You two have become inspiring role models for me and I would like to thank you for all the things you have done for me over these many years.*

*Ram*



From a letter written to her sponsors after she completed Class 10:

*Thank you once again for the financial support you have given me over the years. I now have two part-time jobs and am studying commerce in class 11. I don't need money from you any more since my family and I are able to provide the money I need. All I need from you now is your continued encouragement and your love.*

*Sharmila*



*Dear Bamma -*

*I believe you know the movie actress Sandra Bullock. She received an award for the best actress in the movie "The Blind Side." I was very glad that I watched the movie mentioned above. While watching the movie, I could see that you truly are the best in real life while Bullock is in the reel life. The movie made me feel thankful about school, basketball, the house we lived in, the scholarship I got for grades 11 and 12, the life I am having at the moment and most of all that I got to know you and Papa. I believe it's because of the two of you and some generous people along the way along with my hard work that I am able to stand where I stand today.*

*Prem*

## Monika Tamang



Monika completed class ten earlier this year. In the past, school has been difficult for Monika. She has struggled year after year to finally complete her basic education. Continuing on to college was not a path that appealed to her. After considerable study, she decided to attend a Montessori training program and also to learn sign language. After three weeks in the Montessori program she was offered a job at the school as an assistant to the teacher. In her sign language class, the instructor consistently praises her for being the best student in the class. These successes have allowed Monika to gain a new level of self-confidence. She now knows that she can face the future and take care of herself and help her mother and younger sister. Because of Monika's new ability to communicate with the deaf, the Montessori school where she is taking training is interested in starting a program for young deaf children in the future.

## Rakesh and Raj Pariyar



During this past year, the father of these two young boys died from complications associated with Hepatitis C. Even during their father's illness, these boys continued to excel in their school work and finished the academic year with high marks. Their father always impressed upon them just how important it was for them to receive an education. We know that they will honor his memory by continuing to do well in school.



## Reshma Rana

Reshma completed class ten earlier this year. She has consistently been ranked near the top of her class. Three times she received a waiver-of-tuition scholarship for being ranked number one in her class. She has recently been granted admission to the prestigious Rato Bangala A Level program for the continuation of her studies. Congratulations, Reshma, and best of luck to you.



## Nirmal Thapa

Upon completion of class ten a year ago, Nirmal enrolled in a three-year program to become a Certified Accountant. Nirmal was an above-average student throughout his school years but now he is excelling and is far, far above average. He has found a course of study that he truly enjoys.

## Glimpses of Nepal



Job opportunity for uneducated girls.



Local market for fruit, vegetables and drinking water.



Delivery man.

## *Children of Kathmandu, Inc.*

A 501(c)(3) Corporation

*Providing Education, Healthcare and Adequate Living Conditions for Children in Nepal*

**3801 Spruce Meadow Drive  
Bozeman MT 59718 USA**

Jerry and Judy Golphenee

BOZEMAN

406-585-8028 (May – Sept.)  
406-582-8215 (Amy Appel)

KATHMANDU

977-1-444-1520

[www.childrenofkathmandu.org](http://www.childrenofkathmandu.org) e-mail: [jrgx2@aol.com](mailto:jrgx2@aol.com)

Stock donations can be made to our brokerage account with PrimeVest Financial, phone 800-245-0467.

## *They Deserve a Chance*



## Hassle or Holy?

Household garbage in Kathmandu is disposed of daily by either (1) setting it in plastic bags along the sides of the streets or (2) simply throwing it in the streets. Some time during the week the garbage is picked up by a young man with a bicycle cart. Pictured above is a cow (considered holy by the Hindus of Nepal) rummaging through the garbage outside our gate. We were taking pictures of the cow when the neighbor lady from across the way rushed from her house and came out her gate to pay homage to this holy animal. We were highly annoyed that the animal was spreading the garbage around our lane – and our neighbor was thrilled that he had come to visit. The cultural differences are vast!!