



HOPE FOR HIMALAYAN KIDS

From the desk of Derek Whitlock – International Director

* September 2011 News *

Namaste everybody!

In the previous newsletters I have been focussing on the re-integration of children with their families. I thought in this newsletter I'd tell the stories of some of our families in the village program. Our goal with this program is to stop the problem of children being placed in children's homes at the source.

One of the main reasons children are placed in children's homes in Nepal is because their parents can no longer provide food and shelter for them, usually because they are too poor. Often there is only one parent who is struggling to cope on their own. These are the stories of some of the families we are supporting.

No More Funding for the Pariyar Family

Why have we stopped supporting this family?

Our goal with any family is to help them become self sufficient. We have been working with Srijana's family since July 2009 providing support for her education, food and shelter. This support has had a significant impact on the family and provided them with much needed help during a desperate period; Srijana was deserted and taken in by her grandparents.



During recent visits the family have been asked to consider how they would be able to support themselves. After much discussion, it was determined that a pregnant goat would provide them with extra income above what they are currently earning themselves. With this increased income, the family will be able to provide all food and shelter for Srijana. However, we have committed to continue our help with her education costs, which the family is still unable to provide for.

For a small outlay on our part, this family is now proud to be supporting themselves once again.

Sleeping Under the Stars



Sounds romantic! But if you are a single mother with six kids without a house and no social security system, there is nothing romantic about it. That was the situation for the Rana Mayar family when they were referred to us in May 2010. They were sleeping under an awning of a neighbour's house and trying to earn enough to feed themselves. The mother, Ujeli, had almost given up all hope. She still worked but found it hard to motivate herself and had low self esteem. Just one year later and all of that has changed.

Through local donations and the help of the army, our staff arranged for their house to be rebuilt as well as building an outdoor toilet. And then six weeks ago, we have received kind support from Katherine a donor from the USA. As a result we have provided the family with a

goat shed, 4 goats, 1 small buffalo as well as feed for these animals for 6 months.

I visited the family recently and the difference in this 12 month period is amazing. They are motivated to look after the animals, are growing their own vegetables and are also working in the field to earn extra money. Most important is that the family now has a sense of achievement. They feel that they are making headway once again.

A Huge Thank you to this family's sponsor who have helped this family financially for that past few years, combine this with a sponsor for self sufficiency and we have a family that have regained their self esteem and they are on track to be a family that is able to provide for themselves.

A Sad Story – but things are improving



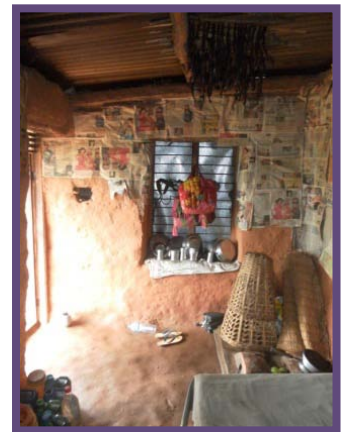
For the Nepali family things were fairly desperate when they were referred to us in October 2009. Their house was basically falling down. There were no windows, no door and the thatched roof was leaking. In addition, the mother, Mankumari, had resorted to drinking from early morning to drown her feelings of hopelessness.

She'd been brought to this point of desperation after her husband had died. He had leprosy but was still able to look after the house and children while Mankumari went to work. As well as growing their own vegetables and working in the fields, she used to go into the forest and cut wood to sell.

One day when she'd gone to the village to sell the wood her husband tripped and fell into the fire. When she returned he was badly burnt but still alive. But they didn't have the money to pay for medical attention for his burns; as a result he died from the burns not being treated. Add to this that not long before her husband died, she lost two children to illness in one day and you can understand her anger with the world.

Again, our staff coordinated local donations and labour from the local army to rebuild their house. It is a traditional village stone house with mud render. She now has a door and windows, although one window has a sheet of tin in it to stop the rain coming in! But this is a big improvement on what it was. Also, the toilet pit has been dug and a pan installed. We just need to build the outhouse to go around it.

Mankumari has five children still alive, three being married - Juna, who is only 15, was married only recently. There are two living at home, Jumuna and Kishan. As a result of our support, the children are going to school and the mother has almost stopped drinking – just one drink each evening. She can now see light at the end of the tunnel. She is still very angry with the world, as can be expected. But she is now working in the fields to earn some income as well as growing her own vegetables. We are also looking at the possibility of providing some additional means of income so that she may become totally self-sufficient.



Did you know that \$400 and 6-12 months is all that is needed to get a family self sufficient? In this time we continue to provide what we currently do but work with them on a self sufficiency program. Even when providing for themselves we will provide the children's education if the family is still unable to.

Dashain



The major Nepali religious festival is coming up again at the end of this month.

Dashain is a time for family in Nepal. Many people in the city still have strong ties to their village. At Dashain each year they travel back to their village to meet up with family and friends. This means that during this period very few services are available, as everyone is focussed on the festival and their family and friends. In fact the city seems empty during this period.

This is a time when children receive new clothes and small gifts from family members. Even families who haven't been able to afford new clothes all year scrape up money for new clothes for their children. To help families cope with the expense of the festival, the employer is required to pay staff an extra month's salary in September. The majority of the children in our care still have strong ties to their family village. Most of them will be going back to their village for the celebrations, which helps maintain the cultural links to their family home. They will also be getting new clothes. As you can imagine, the children are very excited at this time of year.

You can find out more about the Dashain festival at: <http://www.nepalvista.com/travel/dashain.html>

Healing Prayers



Last Thursday we had the sad news that three of our boys were involved in a serious car accident, they were walking to school on the footpath and an out of control 4WD hit them. Two have cuts and bruises and are recovering well. Nardip 14yrs was airlifted to Kathmandu where he remains in a coma with a broken pelvis. Two staff members have gone to Kathmandu to give Nardip 24 hour care. In Nepal the hospital are not able to provide nurses to care for the personal needs of the patient. Our staff provide for Nardip while he is in hospital with toileting, bathing etc. They have left the sides of their own children & family to be with Nardip in his time of need.

We are praying for Nardip and sending him **Love** in this time for healing. Our thoughts and prayers are also with our staff that selflessly help Nardip.

We have many people asking for his update and are unable to update each person individually so please visit our Facebook page for his update-

Hopeforhimalayankids Nepal

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/profile.php?id=100001092451843>

How can you help kids?

We like to share in our newsletters stories of how your donations are helping but we **need** to share that with Dashain coming up our resources are being stretched to the limit. We have the new clothes to buy, the cost of sending the children back to their villages and the additional staff wages. If you are able to assist in any way it would be greatly appreciated.



[DONATE NOW](#)



[DONATE NOW](#)



[DONATE NOW](#)

In addition, some of our village family sponsors have had to withdraw their sponsorship for personal reasons we are very grateful for the support that they have given us in the past. Of the ten village families we currently support (31 children), only three (11 children) are still sponsored. If you are interested in sponsoring a family send us an email and we will provide you with details. In most cases it costs about the same to support a village family as it costs to support 1 child in a children's home. It's a wonderful way to provide support to several children at once. Our sponsorship fundraising co-Coordinator Anne is more than happy to communicate with you on sponsoring a village family. **Email Anne - anne@4hope.com.au**

Thankyou

Thanks for your ongoing support for the children of Nepal. Without it we couldn't do any of the work we are doing. Be proud that you are helping create a new way of supporting children in this country and putting families first.

Namaste Derek

Contact Links-

- Derek Whitlock , International Director derek@hopeforhimalaynkids.org
- Hope for Himalayan Kids www.hopeforhimalaynkids.org
- Fundraising program www.4hope.com.au