



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

August, 2014

OUT OF THE DARKNESS



RABINA NEPALI

Rabina is 13 years-old, a very bright student, and has managed to continue with school in spite of backward attitudes about girls and education in Nepal, especially in the underclasses. She has family who do labor work, but they are terribly poor with other children to feed. Rabina has reached the age where its foreseeable that she will be forced into an arranged marriage unless she can continue her education.

The Pashupathinath Temple in Kathmandu reigns as the holiest and most revered Hindu temple in Nepal, but the temple complex also serves as a refuge for hundreds of outcasts and untouchables. The homeless, disabled, deformed, lepers and lawless find refuge there and eke out a day-to-day existence

from begging, prostitution and crime. And living in this punishing ghetto are the children.

Many of these children are orphans, attaching themselves to whomever will provide some form of care and protection. Other children may belong to a parent or relative, but their situa-



DIPENDRA GHIMIRE

Dipendra has family, but they are desperately poor and survive by day-to-day labor work when they can find it. They can afford no financial help to Dipendra at all. Dipendra has proved himself to be an excellent student and excels in extracurricular activities and school leadership. He is 12 years-old and to help family, he seeks meager labor work in the temple neighborhood.

tions are equally distressing. It's a survival environment for all of these children, and they soon become a part of the routine activity of begging and petty theft. Their "outcast" status and the harsh environment they live in does not allow for dreams of education. Into this hopeless world came the Bal Sarathi School for underprivileged children.

Almost from their beginning several years ago, VCN has provided generous, on-going support to Bal Sarathi and their service to the Pashupatinath children. Leadership and compassion from some remarkable Nepali women, led to the formation of this free school and lunch program that is chang-



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. Administration costs in Nepal are minimal and are covered by board member contributions.



KHEM BUDHATHOKI

Khem is 12 years-old. He lives in terribly difficult conditions with very poor family in the heart of the temple slums. He's a fine boy and an excellent and dedicated student. He studies every chance he gets and desperately hopes to continue his studies if given the opportunity. He's a very sweet, special boy trying desperately to escape the traps of his beginnings.

ing the lives of over 175 of these temple children who attend Bal Sarathi class six days a week.

The Bal Sarathi workers spend endless hours scouring the temple complex for lost children to place in school. The free, nutritious meals that are served each school



RAJU MAGAR

Raju in an orphan. He manages a indigent life near the temple with the help of friends and occasional labor work for food or meager pay. He is 12 years-old and considered brilliant by the Bal Sarathi teachers. He has a definite passion for study.

day are a tempting inducement and very quickly new children join classes and begin their studies. What is most evident to visitors is the overwhelming love and devotion the Bal Sarathi staff has for all their children. The teachers work for low pay and school volunteers give time and essential help to all phases of the school operation. Always, the children are taught and

managed with gentle hands and caring support.

From this inspirational program, have emerged some outstanding students. Most of the children study through Class-5, which is the highest class level that Bal Sarathi can financially provide, Occasionally, a boy or girl demonstrate exceptional academic potential, but their poverty and difficult living circumstance dash unspoken hopes of continuing on to higher studies.



MANOJ SINGTANG

Manoj is 11 years-old and considered brilliant. He has a passion for school and continues to labor hard in his studies. He has no mother, but has a father who is deaf and is a temple beggar. Manoj tries to help his father with simple labor work when he can find any, but mostly they depend upon the begging for survival income.

VCN will place these students in a public school and provide all school expenses as well as general living support for only \$300 per year, per student. but we need sponsors to make this happen. Bal Sarathi will supervise and monitor the progress of each of these students and be there to offer additional help and guidance.

These five remarkable children demonstrate a passion for education that inspires and deserves attention and support. Education can change their lives and break the curse of their tragic beginnings.



ABHINASH BISTA

"13 year-old Abhinash is an excellent student and a talented one. When he was very small his mother died and now his father is in jail, leaving Abhinash abandoned. He has no other family to assist him, but with help from friends and work where he can find it, he manages to survive and attend classes every day."



MANOJ TAMANG

Manoj is an orphan and survives at the temple compound as a "rag picker", the lowest level of hired labor... scavenger work. He knows nothing about his parents or his beginnings. He is 13 years-old and has been alone as long as he can remember. Somehow, he manages time for school and homework and is a top student. The free meal at school is a lifesaver for him.

"PATH OF LIGHT" ...a rescue of minds

Sometimes, the blessings of family life in Nepal have brutal edges. Families migrate to Kathmandu to work in the brick factories, where the children are trapped in squalid, dangerous living conditions and the factory workforce at very early ages.

The desperate work is a necessity for parents who need the meager pay to survive financially, but its an ugly reality for children caught up in the desolate, unhealthy world of bricks, dust and hard labor. Serious accidents and plaguing health problems become common place, especially for the vulnerable children.

Almost four years ago, with generous help and encouragement from sponsors, VCN established Path of Light, a free school and lunch program for children living in a cluster of brick factories on the edge of Kathmandu Valley. In the beginning we encountered endless difficulties with the children's families, most of whom were illiterate and uneducated. They were slow to appreciate the value of education and were reluctant to send their children to our school. But with time, patience and the invaluable dedication of Nepali volunteers, we were able to establish an interchange with the families.

The free, healthy meals every school day encouraged families to participate, but it was harder to convince them that education in itself could give their children a better future. With continued discussions between the school staff and the children's families, and a series of "Parent's Day" programs, progress was slowly made and several children began to attend classes. Word spread and many families came to appreciate the safe, day care-like supervision of the children, and in time, to share



Standing proudly with many of the school children are Tessi and Joyce Sakai, very generous donors and true believers in the cause.

the children's excitement about learning. The numbers of children in school attendance fluctuates due to the worker families' stability at the brick factory, but nowadays the Path of Light will regularly teach and feed over 30 children each school day, and often as many as 50 children attend.

These days, many of the children read to their parents and teach them the basics of signing their name and doing simple

math. A new generation of enlightenment is emerging.

SCHOLARSHIPS for blind, physically impaired and impoverished children continue to be a top VCN challenge in our efforts to secure decent life opportunities for outstanding students. Our students immediately recognize the rare lifeline they are given and struggle to achieve the highest honors in their schools.

To make our support possible, we continually seek sponsors for all of the children we support. Scholarship costs vary according to situations, but average about \$300 - \$1000 per year, covering all living and school expenses. Please consider joining us in this most important provision to some of the most disadvantaged children on earth. Contact us for specific information on children needing your support and any arrangement that would suit your preference.



Best part of the day!

BRIGHTER SMILES FOR ORPHANS

Nothing daunts Dr. Loree Bolin, a world traveling dentist, Ironman triathlete and multi-continent marathoner. Loree thinks nothing of ushering in crates of dental equipment (sure to set off metal detectors at Nepal's international airport), folding chaise lounge chairs and enough meds to anesthetize scores of never-before-drilled young teeth. Last fall, Dr. Loree Bolin of Edmonds, Washington and three other members of a KarmaQuest Ecotourism and Adventure Travel trekking group, arrived in Kathmandu four days before departing on their trek for Upper Mustang. With guidance from KarmaQuest, they generously offered dental services to the children and staff of the Paropakar girls orphanage established by VCN, and to children of the Paropakar Orphanage for boys.

Hitting the ground running, they went from the airport to the orphanage and organized an impromptu dental clinic in the recreation room of the girls' orphanage. Before the multi-colored



Some serious examination going on. No screams



And now, a lecture in mouth hygiene.

plastic sterilization trays could be arranged and a back-up generator installed in case of all-too-common electricity outages, more than 100 children and orphanage staff had signed the appointment calendar for dental check-ups and treatments, having little idea what was in store. Most of them, especially the children, had never been to a dentist before.

Dr. Bolin moved easily from Chaise lounge to bench, serving childrens' ages 5-17 years-old in the crowded room; examining gaping mouths, cleaning, filling, pulling, fluoridating teeth, performing root canals and applying sealants eight hours a day for three and a half days - not exactly the normal fitness training for a two week trek. Using the beams of camping headlamps, Dr. Bolin's assistants Leslye Teuber, David Albert, and Anne Maleady probed, cleaned and tutored dental hygiene to the patients, while volunteer students of Kathmandu Dental College watched, assisted and took copious notes with which to provide follow-up care.

Each of the 25 girls and 35 boys, the orphanage and school staff and their families were treated. In total, the dental team performed exams and provided consultations for 132 patients and treated 124. To promote preventative health care each patient was provided a toothbrush, case, toothpaste, floss and home care instruction.

"We were pleased to be joined by the talented orphanage staff and local friends who helped in the clinic, working with us to organize and document patient care, sterilize instruments, assist in dental care and in patient pharmacy needs. Tea and biscuit breaks when they were most needed were always a wonderful surprise. We fully appreciated spending time with the talented orphanage staff and local friends, the Nepali dental college students, and film maker Rajendra Pandey as he photo-documented the clinic."

Dr. Loree Bolin

AND THE CHALLENGES CONTINUE

GIRLS' ORPHANAGE

VCN established a new girls' orphanage four years ago in cooperation with the Paropakar Organization. The home is a wonder of very special children. The facility is impressive, but it's the inspiring "sisterhood" that most charms visitors. The girls are top scholars, and even more importantly, they care for and tend to each other as devoted family. We serve and support these children with close attention to all their needs and to assure their continued welfare and progress.

BOYS' ORPHANAGE

Across the street from the girls' orphanage is the Paropakar boys' orphanage, where VCN first began its volunteer work many years ago. It is an old, decaying, mud and brick building, but not to the 32 boys who live there. To them it's "home" in all respects. They also live as family, sharing good times and holding together as supportive brothers. VCN does its part with generous donations of clothes, sports equipment and other benefits to improve their lives.

MANANG NEPALI CHILDREN'S ORPHANAGE

Now in our third year with this incredibly special home, we support six wonderful, accomplished young girls who were rescued from horrendous beginnings. These days they all excel in school and three ranked at top of their classes in their English medium school. Our girl, Lynn, was the highest ranking student in the entire school of 2,000 students. We have witnessed amazing and

heartwarming success with these children, and with more child rescues to come as we can manage to support.

BLIND CHILDREN

In Pokhara and Kathmandu, we provide scholarships and guidance for brave and accomplished blind students. All come from impoverished backgrounds where education was not financially possible until VCN became involved. We now fully support 15 blind students. We also donate generously to programs for the blind and contribute specialized equipment and materials that aid and improve their lives and circumstances. Music instruments and a weekly music teacher are a major and very popular VCN contribution to the children's interest, activity, joy and talent. They've won major awards.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

From our beginning, VCN has had special interest in helping orphans and the physically impaired achieve their dreams of a college education. We support 25 accomplished students who, without higher education, would have had little chance for decent employment in the highly competitive job market in Nepal. A college degree will not only equalize their opportunities for jobs, but will also provide much needed self-esteem in a society that continues to discriminate against the underprivileged.

LEPROSY COLONY

This is a program of deep love for VCN. We admire and are greatly inspired by these elderly victims

of leprosy. They struggle to maintain their lives as untouchables from family and society. Their cheer and gracious welcomes to our visits fully express their warm hearts and acceptance of their fates. Their government rations are meager, limited and their needs are many. We continually provide them with supplies that improve their circumstances, such as blankets, sweaters, shawls, and mattresses. Even food items like tea, sugar and powdered masala are cherished and appreciated. Mostly, however, it's our visits and praise for them that bring out the smiles. This outcast group is so needy for affectionate attention, that when we join them on our visits, we feel like we are with family. And an incredible family it is.

CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN

VCN has been rewarded with dramatic and continuing support from many remarkable American children who are familiar with our efforts in Nepal and choose to participate in our cause. Through the years, local school children have shown initiative and resolve to find creative ways to contribute to improving lives of hundreds of Nepali orphaned children. Their contributions have been extremely generous and have allowed VCN to make desperately needed improvements in the lives of impoverished children in Nepal. 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. Everybody wins.

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

- * VCN – Paropakar Orphanage home for 25 girls.
- * Support and provisions to children of Paropakar Orphanage for boys.
- * MNCO Orphanage home for 6 girls...with more children to come.
- * Scholarships for over 75 orphaned, blind and physically impaired students.
 - * "Path of Light" School for children from brick factory compounds.
- * Services and donations to elderly victims of leprosy.

VIRTUE'S CHILDREN NEPAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ALLAN AISTROPE
Board Chairman
Program Director

SHAWN CONNOLLY
Treasurer
Non-profit Consultant

PENELOPE ROSE
Board Secretary
Fashion Designer

RAJEESH SHRESTHA
Jewelry Importer

WENDY BREWER LAMA
Ecotourism Consultant

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.

Post Office Box #411563
San Francisco, CA 94141-1563
(415) 626-8178
virtueschildren@hotmail.com
virtueschildrennepal.org

Virtue's Children Nepal
invites you to join
KarmaQuest
Ecotourism and
Adventure



Travel on a customized, cultural tour of the Kathmandu Valley and Pokhara, and a jungle safari adventure to Chitwan National Park. Your participation in this trip will 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 de-



lightful 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. Following a restful stay in serene, Lakeside, Pokhara, you'll spend three days in the lowland jungles on the prowl for Royal Bengal tiger and One-Horned Rhinoceros among other exotic animals at Chitwan National Park. Your travels with KarmaQuest are put together with 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. KarmaQuest organizes full-service tours and treks throughout Nepal and Asia. Other customized treks in Nepal can be arranged to include visits to Paropakar Orphanage, and a donation to benefit Virtue's Children Nepal and its work in Nepal. To learn more about KarmaQuest and its trips, partners and beneficiaries, please see www.KarmaQuests.com or contact Karma and Wendy Lama at Wendy@KarmaQuest.com, or telephone at (650) 560-0101.