

MITRATA-NEPAL FOUNDATION NEWS

Mitrata-Nepal Foundation www.mitrata.org

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FALL 2007

CHILDREN IN NEED OF A SPONSOR!



Bishnu Chandra
Shahi



Sarbada Karki

Bishnu Chandra Shahi is 6 years old and goes to Kindergarten. She came from the remotest part of Nepal where even road transport hasn't reached. Her favorite past-time is watching TV. Math is her favorite subject and she wants to become a doctor when she grows up.

Sarbada Karki is the newest child in the home. Her father is a Rickshaw driver and her mother is suffering from a kidney problem.

These children live in our home in Kathmandu and need a sponsor. Home sponsorship costs only \$800 per year. This covers housing, food, clothing, schooling and medical care. Our children attend a private school where they receive a quality education, learn English and we provide tutors.

DEAR SPONSORS AND DONORS,

Upon reflection, I am reminded of Lord Shiva the Hindu god of Creation and Destruction. Much is newly created in Mitrata- Nepal Foundation: our documentary, our website and we have sponsors for most of our 72 children. Our accounting records are organized (Yeah Beth!). The Covenant Group at Eliot Chapel took our tea project from a mere dream to a reality. The 3 Summits Group in Seattle climbed Washington Mountains and donated their proceeds. Amazingly, all of the goals that the Board of Directors set for 2007 were met. In spite of the falling US dollar and increased expenses in Nepal, we supported our children in Kathmandu and moved them to a larger home too.

Along with this Creation, there was sadly also Destruction in the personal losses of many connected to Mitrata. Nanda Kulu, Nepal Program Director, suffered the incomprehensible death of her husband and second oldest son. Nancy Williger and I both lost our dear mothers. The people of Nepal, although in a temporary peace, continue to suffer economically and the future remains uncertain at best.

So as we close this year, we thank all of you who have donated to Mitrata and especially, in honor of those who have died. I am deeply moved by your generosity. I am very proud of this group of volunteers and grateful for their help and support. In spite of adversity, we have kept our focus on what is most important, saving the lives of children in Nepal. May this holiday season be full of peace, joy and love for you and your family. Dhanyabad!

Christine Schutz, President Mitrata-Nepal Foundation for Children, Inc.



UPDATE FROM NEPAL

By Praswas Shakya

Nepal has suffered a series of severe political setbacks, jeopardizing the peace process and the hopes of stability. On the 18th of September, 2007, the Maoist walked out of the government, citing discontent over the way the government was functioning. The former rebels vowed to disrupt the Constituent Assembly (CA) polls scheduled for November, 2007, since their demand to the declare a republic, ahead of the Constituent Assembly (CA) polls by the interim government, was not met. Nepal's top leaders then began parleys to break this political deadlock, since the success of the peace process depended on the CA elections.

The prime minister announced that the impasse would be resolved soon; but to the utter disappointment of the people of Nepal, the government decided to postpone the November polls entirely. This widely unpopular decision was a major blow to the expectations of the Nepalese to realize the dream of a "new Nepal". The Maoists are now talking about quitting the Seven Party Alliance that initially formed the peace process, if a republic was not declared soon. They would then start a peaceful movement in order to abolish the monarchy from the streets, if not abolished through the interim parliament.

Consultations have been going on and there is no word on what the outcome is likely to be. The suspension of polls led to a peace treaty to be broken between the government and an agitating organization in Southern Nepal (the Terai). They have resumed their armed agitation against the government in the Terai, adding more fuel to the already burning region. The Terai remains tense, with ethnic and political tension. Uncertainty prevails during this festive season in Nepal. The people are disappointed since signs of peace and security is nowhere in sight. We can only hope and pray for a peaceful solution to this crisis.

NEW MITRATA-NEPAL WEBSITE WWW.MITRATA.ORG

With the hard work of Barsha Tuladhar and others, the website has been updated with a new look and more information to help people learn about the organization such as an FAQ and a Donor Profile. Also, you can now make a donation online through our secure Paypal account. Many thanks to Barsha for all her work!

MITRATA-NEPAL PROMOTIONAL DVD!

The final cut of the Mitrata-Nepal promotional video is complete! Mark Hartsuyker spent many hours in the editing room to complete this piece and did an amazing job. Thanks for all your hard work Mark! The promotional will be available on DVD in time for the fundraiser in November. This short video will help spread the word about the great work of the Mitrata-Nepal organization and the continuing need for support through sponsorship, donations and volunteering.

The cost to produce and distribute these DVD's will be about \$3,000 to cover both production costs and distribution. We are looking for assistance with funding of these last steps. If you would like to help with this project please contact **Mark Hartsuyker at Recording Raccoon Studios (314.266.3816) or email him at mark.hartsuyker@gmail.com.**

TEA FROM NEPAL!

We have our first shipment of tea from Nepal and it is ready to be sold to raise money for the children. Thanks to a group of Eliot Chapel volunteers enough money was raised to fund a shipment of tea to begin our "tea project". Eventually we hope to make this something that will not only make money for the home, but will provide an opportunity for some of the older children in the home to get work experience that will enable them to eventually become independent of the home.

The tea is packaged in a zippered cloth packet that can be reused once the tea is gone. The fabrics of the packet are beautiful. There are twenty-five teabags per packet and there are five varieties for sale. They are Green, Mint, Ilam, Tibetan, and Relaxing. Each packet is sold for ten dollars. The tea project committee is looking for volunteers and suggestions as to places where the tea may be sold. Please call **Nancy Williger at 314-962-2426** if you would like to purchase tea, want to help with sales or know of a shop that would be willing to sell the tea.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER NOVEMBER 18!

Please join us for a fun filled evening of traditional Nepali music and food at our annual fund raising dinner on Sunday, November 18. This year it will be held at **Cardinal Rigali Center, 20 Archbishop May Dr., Webster Groves, 63119**. It is the large main building on the premises and once inside there will be directions to the room. The room has kindly been donated thanks to Hewie Powell.

Everest Cafe will be providing a traditional Nepali meal. The dinner will begin at 5PM and the meal will be served at 5:30. After the meal, the new "Mitrata movie" will be shown. We will also have a silent auction. The invitations will be sent in October. If you do not receive one and would like to come, please contact **Nancy Williger at 314-962-2426 or nawillgr@aol.com**.

GROUP TRIP TO NEPAL APRIL 2008

Meet the Mitrata-Nepal Foundation children and enjoy a cultural tour of beautiful Nepal. This trip is easily done by anyone in good health and is not rigorous hiking.

Approximate Dates: April 24 –May 8 2008
Approximate Total Cost: \$3500.00 per person Includes airfare, ground transfers moderate hotel accommodations, guided sightseeing and day hiking.

- April 24: Leave St. Louis.
- April 25: Traveling.
- April 26: Arrive Kathmandu – Getting settled in.
- April 27-28: Kathmandu – Days for meeting friends and Mitrata children and exploring Kathmandu.
- April 29: Near Kathmandu - Sightseeing of Bodhanath Buddhist Stupa and Pashupatinath Hindu temple.
- April 30: Travel to Pokhara: 5 hours drive by private car/coach.
- May 1-2: Pokhara City on Lake Phewa: Day hiking to Sarangkot to see the Annapurna Himalayan range. 3-4 hours walk.
- May 3: Pokhara: Day Hiking and sightseeing in Pokhara area and low mountain ranges.
- May 4: Pokhara: Flight to Kathmandu. Afternoon free time.
- May 5: Kathmandu-Patan.
- May 6: Kathmandu: Shopping, seeing children.
- May 7: Depart Kathmandu.
- May 8: Arrive St. Louis.

If you are interested contact **Christine Schutz at 314-762-9412 or drcms@earthlink.net**.

FROM OUR SPONSORS

I Can't Wait Anymore

I pay my taxes. I obey the law. I provide for my children. My yard is not an embarrassment. I know that if I ever drove my car over a turtle I'd lose sleep. I have deep thoughts and I'm concerned about the environment. I think most of us care about what's happening in the world, but the fix is so overwhelming that we've shut down. So we delegate the care of the world's hungry and diseased ravaged millions, the education and socialization of our children just as easily as we delegate our law enforcement and our highway maintenance. I pay taxes don't I?

I guess I was ready to open my mind again, because recently every article in the newspaper, every movie started me thinking about the fact that I have failed to take personal responsibility for the welfare of my friends on this planet, the gentle creatures human and otherwise, who are not to blame for what is happening. It's only natural that we allow the fact that we can't fix the whole problem, to dampen our understanding of what needs to be done. Here it is: We need to start now. We need to accept personal responsibility. We must understand that we can't wait anymore. We fix it simply by holding out our hand and grabbing onto one drowning person, one innocent victim and bring them safely to shore. We are the resistance fighters in Nazi occupied France or Holland. We start as one and become many. We help one and collectively we help many. That's how it's always worked. Hmm. I forgot. I was too busy deciding whether I prefer Sushi or a walk on the beach.

I became a sponsor for one child with Mitrata-Nepal Foundation this year because I couldn't wait anymore.

— Jonathan Isbell,
Saint Louis



**Jonathan sponsors
Sumitra Wagle**

MITRATA-NEPAL BOARD MEMBERS

Mitrata-Nepal would like to welcome new board member Inta Berzins.

President Dr. Christine Schutz
Vice President Dr. Nancy Williger
Secretary Dr. Sandra Hoffmann
Treasurer Beth Boyd, CPA

Inta Berzins	Scott Biesinger
Ambrose Bittner	Jim Brasunas
Mark Hartsuyker	Sue Kaiser
Hewie Powell	Stephanie Recht
Barsha Tuladhar	Gil Williams

STAYING IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CHILD!

Twice a year we send pictures/ letters and sometimes drawings from your child. You can send small items to your child or pictures and letters of your family. The children love to hear from their sponsors. Large items are not recommended and please do not send money. Please send items to the Nepal address listed on the front page.

Please let us know if your address or contact information changes so you can receive mail from your child. Send us your email address for easy communications. **The use of an electronic newsletter and updates could save Mitrata Nepal enough money to sponsor 4 children each year.** If you prefer to receive the newsletter by email, please send Christine your request at drcms@earthlink.net. Thank you.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR OUR HOME IN KATHMANDU

1. Washing Machine: approximately \$700.
2. Vacuum Cleaner: approximately \$200
3. Hepatitis Vaccines: \$50 per child x 54 = \$2700
4. Computers: \$500 x 2 = \$1000
5. Water filter: \$500

Brownie Troop 3179 at Tillman Elementary School in Kirkwood, MO will be selling cookies this year for an important cause: New blankets for the children of Mitrata. Children helping children. The way it should be!!! If you would like to make a donation towards the purchase of any items listed please contact us.

Mitrata Nepal Foundation for Children NEWS is published at various times each year to keep donors informed. Questions, comments and suggestions should be directed to Scott Biesinger at jsbeez@hotmail.com or by mail at 625 Highland Park Dr. Apt. G, Chesterfield, Missouri 63017.

