

FACE Nepal Newsletter

March 2018/Falgun 2074

Namaste all friends and supporters!



One of the major changes in Nepal is the electricity supply. Many who have visited will be familiar with the black-outs which have adversely affected daily life, businesses and pleasure. The government has decided to make the supply a priority and most of Nepal now enjoys constant power. What a difference it makes! There is street lighting in the village (supported by FACE Nepal) and we can see our dhal bhaat and each other in the evening!

As Daniel detailed in last year's newsletter – the road through Patahara is surfaced. This makes movement up and down easier – we saw a man on a wheelchair pedal-powered by his arms going to the bazaar which was surely impossible on the old unmade road – and the greenery at the side of the road was as green and beautiful as it should be! The road from Kathmandu – from Mugling to Naraynaghad – is also being repaired and surfaced. Due to the roadworks the journey took 14 hours. Until it's complete the flight of 20 minutes is well worth considering.



Volunteers

Volunteer contributions and help have a long lasting legacy in the communities they have been involved with.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers who gave their time, energy and expertise this year: **Maher from Egypt, Julian from Granada, Spain, Victoria and Helene from Belgium, Andrea from Colombia and Jade from England.**

We continue to have more demand for volunteers from the communities than we can manage so please encourage anybody with ideas to increase our volunteer numbers to contact us. Particularly, we are keen to have volunteers who can volunteer for 2 months or more (to maximise impact) but we do welcome volunteers for any period from 2 weeks upwards.

Our newest member of the International Board, Vinita, has taken on the role of Volunteer Support. More information about Vinita and how she came to be involved with FACE Nepal follows later in the Newsletter.

Child Sponsorship Programme

Our Child Sponsorship Programme has continued to grow. There are currently 60 children being supported with a further 23 awaiting sponsorship. **We are desperately trying to arrange sponsors for these children – please do share this Newsletter with your friends and family if you think they will be interested!!**

Several of our sponsored children will complete their education this year to Grade 12 – the last year of college. This level of education greatly enhances career and earning prospects. We have several young people who will reach this stage of their education and have done so through the support of their sponsors. We are proud to have facilitated this through FACE Nepal and look forward to following the progress of all the children who are in school and those who now have choices beyond college.



Thank you to the generous sponsors who make a huge difference to children who otherwise would not be able to go to school. Your support is truly changing the lives of these children and young adults.



Our outdoor office

Sarah came this year to help with the visits to the sponsored children, with writing the annual reports and generally keeping the process in order

Projects

Generous donations from individual supporters and the University of the West of England allowed us to support a variety of projects to benefit poorer people in rural Nepal focused on alleviation of poverty, enhanced educational standards, and improvement of environment and sanitation. As always, all project funds were used only for materials and, where needed, skilled labour. Donations for projects are never used to fund FACE Nepal overheads. Local communities provide the manual labour to ensure ownership.

Ganganagar – Nawa Srijana womens’ group learning centre:
FACE Nepal worked with other charitable organisations to



support the womens' group with materials for their new learning centre. This will allow children, women, and men to learn English outside school, using volunteers from FACE Nepal or other organisations; and will provide a communal meeting place for the womens' group. This was built using funds provided by the University of the West of England faculty of Business and Law.

Ganga mothers group - New Toilet. Early in the year, we completed the construction of toilets for three families who don't have access to them in Ganganagar. All families in the village now have toilets in their homes, a great milestone for the community. This was possible through funds raised by the University of the West of England.



Sundarbasti womens' group health clinic: We provided funding for a learning centre in Sundarbasti, which will be used in a similar way to that in Ganganagar. In addition, the women's group will use the learning centre to house their clinic which provides basic health services free of charge, notably pre-natal and ante-natal care to mothers and their babies. We also funded basic medical equipment to help them in their work.



Shivalaya Primary School warm clothes- We provided sweaters, shoes and socks for the poorest students in this school (situated by Tadi Bazaar, which anyone who visited Chitwan national park will have passed through). This helped the children in the cold winter months. Many parents are unable to fund these warm clothes for their children, and this has an impact on both the children's health and ability to learn in school. We provided materials for 89 children.



National Primary School Baghauda and Shree Secondary School

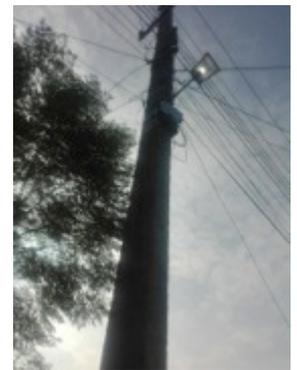


Gangangar – learning materials for young children: We funded learning materials for two schools to support a new class for the very youngest children (3-4 years old) in this school. By providing books, cards, furniture and play equipment, this enables these children to start their education early. This class is the equivalent of nursery or pre-kindergarten in western countries and is relatively new for government (i.e. non-fee paying) schools in Nepal. We have worked with Shree Secondary over many years. National Primary School Baghauda is in Madi, an area badly affected by the 2017 floods. In line with FACE Nepal's strategy, we have initially worked together on this small project, with the aim of moving to larger projects if both organisations work well together.



Hatemalo Village group: We provided funding to the local community to improve the quality of their local environment. We funded garbage bins, to ensure there is a facility for disposal of waste, and provided poles and wiring to allow for limited street lighting. This will

materially improve the quality of the local environment, and provide a major boost in community pride. The village community will ensure that the garbage bins are regularly emptied and the electric lighting maintained.



Primary School Jutpani: We continued our support to this school, where many past volunteers have participated. We supported them in painting of classrooms, fitting a fan for the hot summer months, and repairing the electricity supply. Teachers,

parents and the local community actively participated in the labour to support this work.



David Palmer in New Zealand continues to support teacher salaries at the school which is thriving. The pupils total 218 from a start of 18 five years ago! There are plans to extend buildings to incorporate a library.

Past projects are visited by a member of the International Board annually and the Local Team remains aware of how they are operating. If there are any problems with sustainability of any of our projects then this will inform our selection and planning for future projects.

Second-Base

Second Base is an organisation that offers leadership development programmes for executives from around the world. One of their programmes is a residential experience in Nepal. This involves a period of time spent living and working with the local communities in Chitwan to implement a FACE Nepal project. Second Base has been brilliant a supporter and partner to FACE Nepal over the last decade and we are delighted to continue to have their generous support.

Here are the details of the Second Base Leadership Training in Chitwan in 2017:

In May 2017, after a five year hiatus, Second Base undertook its first Humility Centred Leadership Program back to Nepal. The trip was a fantastic success, with Nepal casting its usual spell on all the participants. These included Andrew Carpenter and Brendan King from TR Group, Daryl Wehner from Port Nelson, and Juliet Harris returning for her third visit! With Zoe undertaking her own training called 'being a mum to two young daughters', it was left to Jack and Arjun to run the program, and to Shreeram to oversee all of the village experience and project through Face Nepal.

Having acclimatised in Kathmandu for 2 days of alignment workshops, the group travelled out to Patihani and received an incredible cultural welcome from the local women's groups. There wasn't a dry eye among any of the participants. The welcome was continued at Shree Secondary School with speeches and performances from the children, and finally the participants meeting and leaving with their host families to settle into their new homes for the week.

The group spent the days in the village working alongside the locals building a fence to complete the compounding of the Shree Secondary School. The purpose of the fence is to provide security to the students, and to the school possessions. It was challenging, hot work and we were experts at making it look tough going as the locals cruised along with apparent ease. Shreeram did a great job of rounding up local support, made difficult by the fact the country was undergoing its first Local Ward political elections in 17 years, so there was a lot of pressure on everyone to be attending their party rallies instead of building a compound.

At the conclusion of the full 2 week program, it was unanimous that the highlight of the program for each participant was the time spent with their host families, and the incredibly close bonds that they formed during this time. It was a profound experience that will remain with everyone for the rest their lives.



Once again a huge thanks to FACE Nepal for facilitating the village experience, and enormous gratitude to all the locals who touched the hearts of our Second Base Team.

*Jack Kelly,
Second Base*

New Board Members

We welcome Vinita (Schürch) and Miguel (Gonzalez) to our International Board. Both have a wealth of experience in teaching and both have been captivated and impressed by the eagerness of the Nepali children to learn. They will continue to support these children and their communities through FACE Nepal to help them realise their dreams for a bright future. The rest of the Board welcomes them, their expertise and their enthusiasm.

Vinita's and Miguel's inspiring accounts of how they became involved with FACE Nepal can be found below.

Meet our new Board Member - Vinita Schürch



Having worked as a volunteer on teacher training programmes in the south of Nepal over short stays for 4 years, I felt the need to explore the opportunities to work for other non-

governmental organisations in Nepal. I came across FaceNepal website and decided to apply to them. I was accepted. I packed my bags and took the flight to Kathmandu to work as a volunteer teacher in Patihani , Chitwan. Over the last three years. I have come to appreciate and look forward to my stay and work in Patihani, first as a volunteer and now as a member of the International board of FaceNepal. On each of my visits I am received at the airport by Ashok, a local member of the organisation and also a highly competent guide and a very pleasant travelling companion. We travel together from Kathmandu to Patihani on a long and bumpy bus ride, but that is to be expected on mountain and village roads. The landscape is beautiful and travelling with other passengers on a local bus for six hours is never boring.

In Patihani, I have always stayed at the house of Shreeram Devkota, the Managing Director of the organisation in Nepal. He and his family have been a second family to every single volunteer who has stayed with them. I have had the privilege of sharing their daily lives with them, celebrate Hindu festivals, and forge friendships with their neighbours and friends in the villages. What could be a better way to integrate into a culture!

Visits to the schools and homes of the children and youngsters to be sponsored by FaceNepal has always been the high point of my work in the region. We speak with the teaching staff, visit class-rooms and distribute uniforms and note-books /stationary to the students. We also meet with the parents, hopeful for the future of their children, and the teachers, who are doing a remarkable work without having the luxury of modern day teaching aids at their disposal. Most school buildings are simple and the class-rooms are often crowded. But the smiling faces of the students and their enthusiasm reaffirm my decision to continue my work in Patihani and other schools in Chitwan district.

Over the last three visits, I have interviewed students from different schools in Chitwan. The National Primary School in Jutpani, the Chandesory Primary School, The Secondary School Ganganagar and The primary school in Bharatpur. On each of these visits I have been impressed by the self-confidence of the students. Some of them communicate quite well in English. They all speak with a certain self-assurance. They have a clear idea, even the very young ones, of what they would like to do after leaving school. Doctors, nurses and teachers seem to be the favourite career choices. One young boy answered with a big grin on his face that he would like to become a pilot!

Well, I hope we can help them realise their dreams for a career of their choice.

Vinita

Meet our new Board Member - Miguel Gonzalez



Ten years had passed since Carrie visited Nepal. Nepal captured her heart and she couldn't wait to share it with me. Carrie had previously volunteered with FACE Nepal, which actually

set her on her current career of teaching. Ahead of our trip Carrie reached out to Shreeram, whom she had stayed with ten years ago, and arranged for us to visit once again. I could not wait; I was eager to visit a place that had been so formative to her, and to many others.

Carrie and I had just finished trekking to Gokyo Lakes and made our way south. When we landed at the airport we were greeted by Ashok's large smile and made our way to Shreeram's home. I was taken with the landscape, people and hospitality. Shreeram warmly welcomed us and promptly pulled out photos he had saved of Carrie and her teaching companion from ten years ago. As we shared our meal together our conversation continually drifted to education- which is my career.

The following day we visited the local school that Carrie had taught at. The students were eager to learn. They were engaged, passionate and, of course, wondering who the foreigners were! Following our visit we accompanied Shreeram as he visited a school that had requested grant money. It was clear that they school had a desire to improve the educational opportunities for their students and were happy to show us around their humble classrooms.

I knew I had to be a part- to give back in some way to this wonderful organization that was providing educational opportunities and a future to so many. I am grateful to be a part of the board of directors and hope to do my part in supporting FACE Nepal.

Miguel

Advisory Board

Our advisory board continues to provide support, to identify potential local projects and to propose where assistance should be a priority.

Members are:

Mr. Chuderaj Timilsina - Chairman

Mr. Jitu Mahato - Secretary

Mrs. Shovha Rijal – Treasurer (and representative of sponsored children)

Mrs. Tara Bista – Member (and representative of community groups)

Mr. Bavanath Adhikari – Member

Mr. Shree Ram Devkota – Managing Director

Our International Board provides oversight, support, and fundraising.

The members are Ann Bartholomew, Zoe Dryden, Daniel Lawrence (Chair), Helen MacDonald, Darren Pardon, Vinita Schürch and Miguel Gonzalez.

Thank you to all our sponsors, volunteers, donors and supporters for all you have done to help improve the lives of communities in Chitwan!

Contact Us:

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