



CHILD ACTION NEPAL

Newsletter No 1

Oct 2003

Dear Sponsors and Supporters,

We are happy to present our first Newsletter. Twice a year, it will give you an up-date of the children's activities at our current project, Lalguraas Baal Uddhyaan (LBU). Progressively you will learn more about each of our 20 children and about the problems encountered by children in Nepal. We will also keep you informed of our fund raising activities and investments in the project.

Why are so many Nepalese Children in distress?

Based on GDP, Nepal ranks as one of the world's ten poorest nations. With the economic slowdown, diseases, natural disasters, poverty and the current Maoist "People's War", there are a growing number of children orphaned or made homeless.

Some are left with relatives, who often are unable to cope with additional numbers, or join the thousands of homeless street children, who usually end up in the cities living a life of misery.

Many young girls (estimated at up to 8,000 per year) are abducted and forced to work as prostitutes in India where their comparatively fair skin is considered attractive.

If a couple separates or divorces, or one of the parents dies, the parent with custody of the children often remarries. Usually the new spouse will want little to do with the children who are either treated like household slaves or are cast out on the streets.



*Before LBU:
Mina and
Kalpana in the
refuge where
Florence was
working as a
volunteer*

Our Philosophy

Child Action Nepal establishes and sponsors small orphanages in order to create a family atmosphere for the children it is responsible for. We are committed to supporting them until they are able to find a job and will provide them with an education adapted to their individual capacity.



Dinner at LBU

Our Organisation

In London, Child Action Nepal consists only of volunteers who make sure that nearly 100% of your donations are forwarded to our orphanage in Nepal. The administrative charges are supported by the Trustees.

In Nepal, the orphanage is run by a staff of 4 full time and 2 part time individuals. It is supervised by a Working Committee of 7 members.

Please do not hesitate to send your comments to info@childactionnepal.org.uk
Child Action Nepal, Reg. charity number: 1097447, www.childactionnepal.org.uk
c/o Florence Krief, PO Box 39679, London W2 6YP Tel. 07773 277 647



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Buddhiman in the refuge where Florence was working as a volunteer.



Healthcare: one of our priorities

Some of our children have suffered very greatly. Buddhiman, for example, before we found him, had sustained severe burns to his torso and right leg and due to improper medical care, the flesh of his thigh and calf fused. From then on he was unable to walk without the aid of a stick.

Buddhiman at LBU

Fortunately an international organisation noticed him and financed a complicated operation to separate Buddhiman's contracture and he was then able to walk with crutches. Now he is able to walk without any help but is still undergoing physiotherapy to develop his atrophied muscles.



Kalpna also suffered third degree burns to nearly half of her body from boiling water. In early 2002, she underwent reconstructive surgery to release a burn contracture and in September the same year, Dr Rai, performed additional surgery to further release the contracture, improve the mobility of her arm and neck.



Next year, Kalpna will have to undergo a third operation to improve the development of her breast where the skin has been badly damaged by the burns.

Today all our children are very healthy. They all have been vaccinated for Diphtheria, Typhoid, Tetanus and Hepatitis B. Their eyes and teeth are regularly checked and we record the health history of each child in individual files.

Education

All the children of LBU go to the nearby school. However, most of them never went to school before joining LBU. A few went to their village school where English was not taught.

The education system in Nepal gives as much importance to English as to the Nepalese language. Therefore, it is very important that we help the children to catch up with their English. Not only do we have an Education Manager who comes every day to help them with their homework but we also are trying to have British volunteers come on a regular basis to teach English.



Krishna, Arjun, Binita and Karishma at school

Some of our children are exceptionally bright and next year five of them (Buddhiman, Karishma, Som Bahadur, Krishna and Arjun) will go to a new school which is more expensive but with excellent credentials. We will have to raise £1,000 to finance the school expenses for these 5 children.



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Entertainment is important to widen the children's horizons:

The children of LBU come from small villages in the mountains or from refuges which could belong to a Dickens's novel. Bikash for example did not dare to enter the house the first time he came to LBU. He had never seen such a big and clean house before.

We believe it is part of the education to enable the children to live different experiences.

Most of our children had a dreadful life before coming to LBU and they are not used to express their feelings because nobody used to care. We want to give them many ways of expression and for example, have drawing and music lessons.

This summer, some of the children started karate lessons and all of them went to the swimming pool for the first time. We hope they all will soon know how to swim.

The children also enjoyed their first party. They invited friends from school and had a lot of fun.

The high of this summer was our trip to Pokhara, one of the most beautiful places in Nepal and the starting place of most of the treks to the Himalayas.

Back at home, we do not have a TV because we want the children to concentrate on their studies and develop a taste for reading. However, we buy films and cartoons which they watch on the computer.



The children in Pokhara



At the swimming pool



Watching Mulan on the computer



Nepalese culture:

October and November see the two most important festivals of Nepal, Dasain and Tihar. For Nepalese they are at least as important as our Christmas and New Year's Eve. Dasain lasts 15 days and celebrates the victory of Goddess Durga over the force of evil personified by the buffalo demon Mahisasura. Tihar is the Festival of Lights. On the fifth day, brothers and sisters meet, place a tika on each others' foreheads and exchange gifts. In LBU all the children celebrate Tihar.

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Thank you for your support:

We need £10,000 a year to run LBU and more if we are to open new homes.

We are delighted by the support we have received so far. Special thanks are due to The Street Children of Nepal Trust who helped us get started and to Dawn Leonard who ran the Great North Run for Child Action Nepal.

Thank you for the kind support of our friends and family.

We also thank the readers of the Evening Standard and Sunday magazine. Please look out for new articles about us in the Daily Mail and the Hill.

We still have quite a way to go if we are to provide proper support and to secure a future for our children. Sponsoring a child costs only £40 per month.



Gratefully yours

Florence Krief



CHILD ACTION NEPAL

Gift Aid Declaration

I enclose a donation of:

Title: Forename:

Surname:

Address:

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Postcode:

E-mail:

I want all donations I have made since 6th of April 2003 and all future donations to be Gift Aid until further notice. I confirm that I am a UK tax payer and the income tax and/or capital gains tax I pay will be at least equal to the tax that the charity will reclaim on these donations.

Signature: Date:

Notes:

- You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the charity
- If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.
- If you pay tax at the higher rate you can reclaim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
- If you are unsure whether your donation qualifies for Gift Aid tax relief, ask your local tax office for leaflet IR65 or call the Inland Revenue on 0151 472 6056.
- Please notify the charity if you change your name or address.

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