



Executive Director Hallie Tamez enjoys time with 3 girls at Karnali House.

Dear Friends,

It has been a busy couple of months at NGN! Our Nepal-based staff has **found 58 more families** in Rasuwa, a district in northern Nepal; we prepared our new children's home in Humla to welcome 27 long lost children home, and much more.

In January we were very fortunate to engage a young photo journalist, Erik Wilson, with a passion for helping vulnerable children in Nepal. Erik is spending 5 months in Nepal documenting the work of our Search Teams; his amazing images and stories of a recent field expedition are the subject of this newsletter.

In this newsletter you will learn how NGN found a young girl's father, long thought to be deceased. You will read of a mother's joy at making contact with her daughter after two years of painful separation, and a school principal's pride and sadness as he says goodbye to the children of NGN's Kathmandu-based Karnali House as they depart for their home district of Humla.

You can get involved! Please visit our website at www.nextgenerationnepal.org, and donate now to help reconnect children with their families. As always, thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

HallieTamez

Hallie Tamez
Executive Director
Next Generation Nepal



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58 More Families Found:

The NGN Search Team spends three weeks in Rasuwa

NGN staff spent three weeks traveling through villages of the Rasuwa district in Northern Nepal, searching for the families of children living in Kathmandu under the care of our partner organization, the Umbrella Foundation.

The trip was highly successful – the joint team, led by NGN, was able to successfully contact and gather information on the families of 58 children. Many of these children have only seen or talked to their families one time since leaving home nearly two years ago.



NGN Search team maps out routes to villages with locals

Most families in rural Rasuwa have extremely limited access to facilities such as telephones; some villages have only one phone for the entire community, making it difficult for villagers to call or be called by their children. Most parents did not even have a phone number for their child.

NGN's visit brought news, photographs and phone numbers, establishing the first concrete link between child and family. Such connections are critical to the future of Nepal's villages and small communities.



Children are cherished in rural villages and accompany parents into the fields

As ever more people leave their villages to travel to Nepal's cities or even abroad, the need for strong family connections is critical to ensure that these villages survive. The small steps taken by NGN help lay the foundation for a more promising future for ALL of Nepal's communities.

First Contact in Two Years:

A mother's joy at learning daughter is alive in Kathmandu

For one mother, NGN's visit to the village of Ling Ling meant the first opportunity to contact her daughter since she left home more than two years ago. Chokpa Tamang lives a life of extreme poverty in Ling Ling, working fields of landlords in order to support the three children that she lives with in a small one room house. Her husband passed away several months ago making the already difficult task of child support that much harder.

The mother was overjoyed to learn that her daughter is well and being cared for in Kathmandu. She was even more ecstatic at the opportunity to speak with her child on the phone, thanks to NGN. It's these moments that



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truly illustrate the importance of our work – establishing connections between families torn apart, even in that moment, with a cell phone.



A mother is astonished hearing the voice of her child on the phone

In a country that is changing so rapidly, people are constantly seeking the means to migrate to Kathmandu, hoping to establish a better life for themselves and their children. For some parents this includes sending their children to Kathmandu alone with only the promise of a stranger that the child will be well cared for and given a proper education, even at the risk of the child being trafficked.



Little girl waits patiently while family discusses village life with NGN Search team

Parents should not be faced with this choice – a good future for their child, in exchange for possibly losing them forever. NGN believes in the importance of quality education for all children as well as the importance of living in one’s community with family in order to preserve family ties and culture. By supporting local schools and health systems, improving the infrastructure and facilities available to families, mothers like Chokpa Tamang will no longer be faced with such horrendous choices.

A Father Found:

On record as deceased, a father discovered alive and well

The sun was shining down on the village of Thuman as Julien Lovera and Sundup Lama searched for the home of Mingmar Ghale, a child living in Kathmandu in one of the Umbrella Foundation’s children’s homes. Records showed that Mingmar’s father was dead and that the mother was living alone in the village, supporting several other children by herself.

After inquiring at several houses, the group arrived in front of a rather large, newly constructed farmhouse. The woman outside informed us that she was not the mother and that the mother was in fact behind us. We turned to find Phurbu Choezom smiling and gesturing for us to enter her small house, attached to the side of the larger farmhouse.

The team crowded around the fire in the early morning chill and gladly accepted the mugs of butter tea that were already prepared. The discussion started concerning Mingmar and quickly turned to the matter of the parents. When asked to confirm that the father was deceased, the mother looked surprised, gestured outside, and informed us that he was in fact out in the fields. Quiet glances were exchanged and the information was quickly corrected.



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Tragically, it is not uncommon for death certificates to be forged when children are taken to Kathmandu and placed in children's homes. These children are at great risk of being sold, or even adopted illegally and taken from their families forever.

It is impossible to stress enough the importance of family and community, especially in a place such as Nepal where communication and travel are not as simple as they are in the United States or Europe. There are many more families out there just like Mingmar's, and we continue to work hard to find them.



Mother and son peek from the doorway as NGN Search team approaches

As Children Return to Humla:

A principal says goodbye

When he was informed that more than twenty of NGN's children would be leaving his school in Kathmandu, National United High School's Principal, JB Hamal expressed feelings of both joy and sadness. On one hand he stated a firm belief in the importance of the

children being close to their families and communities. As an educator he recognizes the importance of these things in a child's development and ability to flourish intellectually.



Eager faces wait for the school day to begin

In addition to his feelings of happiness, Hamal conveyed a sense of melancholy at the approaching loss of so many of his students. The principal explained that NGN's children are among National United's brightest, constantly placing within the top 5% of their respective classes on exams. His biggest concern as he prepares for their departure is that the children that come to take their place are able to fill these very big shoes.

The principal's words and outlook are indicative of the success NGN has had over the past three years in providing a fruitful and positive environment for our children. We pride ourselves on offering a home life that allows our children to grow and flourish socially and personally. For the past year we have done all that is possible to provide this life in Kathmandu, but as we recognize the importance of family and community, we are now taking the necessary steps to provide in this way for our kids in their home district of Humla.

Our ability to touch the lives of many more children and make a positive difference is only hindered by resources. Imagine the difference that NGN can make with your support!



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NGN needs your help.

Please visit our website at www.nextgenerationnepal.org to make a donation.

YES! I want to help NGN prevent child trafficking in Nepal and reconnect children with their families.

Please consider joining us by making a tax deductible gift of:

\$ 100 Friend \$ 500 Supporter \$ 1000 Sustainer \$ 5000 Leader Other \$ _____

Here are some ways we use your donations:

\$50 cost of searching for one family in remote areas.

\$150 educates a child for one full year.

\$1000 feeds 30 children for a year

\$1000 supports teacher training and literacy development in village school

\$ 3000 pays rent on children's home for a year.

There is no minimum or maximum donation – every dollar helps!

Next Generation Nepal is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization in the State of New York.

Thank you for your continued support