



Next Generation Nepal

Newsletter

May/June 2010

Dear Friends,



Hallie in the mountains of Humla with search team.

On March 27, 2010 as the twin engine plane touched down on the hard packed dirt runway in Humla bumping precariously along as it gradually slowed to a stop, 30 eager and anxious faces were pressed to the windows peering out at their new home. This flight was full of children; our children returning to their home district and families in Humla. After years of living in Kathmandu where they had been trafficked so long ago, they stepped tentatively out of the plane and gazed upon families and a community that was finally welcoming them back permanently. This was a dream come true for NGN and most importantly for the children!

Thanks to the planning, patience and energy of our entire Nepal based staff, partners and volunteers and the enduring trust felt by the children, this extraordinary day made history for NGN.

The success of these recent events is the subject of this newsletter. Inside you will find the story of the children's journey home to Humla, the expansion of our NGN family through a partnership with the Umbrella Foundation, and finally the exciting and last minute collaboration with the Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB) in Kathmandu to return a rescued 2 year old girl to her grateful father in Humla.

This all takes significant financial support so please consider getting involved! Visit our website at www.nextgenerationnepal.org, and donate now to help reconnect children with their families and keep the dream alive. As always, thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

HallieTamez

Hallie Tamez
Executive Director
Next Generation Nepal



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The Journey Home:

A dream comes true

After months of planning, the day finally arrived for 30 children under NGN's guardianship to return to Humla, their home district. Five years ago, these children were brought to Kathmandu by traffickers who made promises of safety and quality education to families, during the height of the Nepal civil war. In reality the children lived in squalid illegal orphanages with insufficient food and facilities or were abandoned to the streets. Instead of attending school they were often forced to beg in the markets to collect money for the traffickers who brought them. The children were rescued from these illegal homes and taken under NGN's guardianship in 2007.



New home in Simikot, headquarters of Humla

Since taking responsibility for these children it has been NGN's primary objective to strengthen their connection with their families and assess capacity for permanent reunification if possible.

So in March of this year NGN opened a new children's home in Simikot, the district headquarters of Humla and welcomed 30 children through its doors. The children

will continue to live under NGN's guardianship while they attend school in Simikot and most importantly visit their families and surrounding villages on a regular basis.

To get 30 children to Simikot was an arduous task with all the logistics of mobilizing an army. The first leg of the journey was a 21-hour bus ride from Kathmandu on a bus loaded with everything from kitchen appliances and bamboo racks to stationeries for the new school year and all the children's belongings. Upon arrival in Surkhet in southwestern Nepal one of the few places to catch a plane to the high Himalaya, the children found themselves at the airport anxiously awaiting their flight to Simikot.

The flight passed through the hills of Bajura district and into Humla, the mountains soaring higher into the sky as the pilot steered the small plane towards Simikot. The plane touched down on the dirt runway and before the doors were barely open, there was an immediate rush to exit the plane and discover who was waiting outside. Parents, relatives, and local NGN staff were waiting anxiously at the airport to bless the children with katha scarves, tika, and colorful rice.



A grateful father celebrates the arrival of his child.

Parents were able to talk at length with their children, exchanging stories about life in Kathmandu and their



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village, a connection that had been difficult for so many years. This has been NGN's hope and dream from its small start back in 2006, to bring together these families that were unnecessarily and carelessly torn apart. On the 27th of March 2010, this dream came true.



Wearing the tika blessing and a shy smile, a boy is welcomed by family.

The NGN Family Grows:

Seven more children join us in Humla

Seven of the 30 children welcomed into NGN's newly completed home in Simikot were from a collaborating partner the Umbrella Foundation. These seven children were taken from Humla by child traffickers during the civil conflict just as NGN's children were. They have lived for the past several years under the guardianship of the Umbrella Foundation, an organization based in Kathmandu that oversees the operation of 9 children's homes and supports more than 200 children.

The opening of the new children's home in Simikot provided the perfect opportunity for NGN to expand its relationship with the Umbrella Foundation, offering the

chance for seven young children to return home and live in their community close to their families and relatives.



New friends in a new home.

The children from Umbrella arrived about a week after NGN's children. They adapted quickly to their new environment and started school after only two days. The children are happy in their new home and are enjoying their new friends as well as the big sky, wide open spaces to play, freedom from the noise and pollution in Kathmandu and all the closeness of families that Simikot has to offer.



Umbrella children arrive in Simikot.



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It's a Miracle:

The tiniest child returned to a grateful father

On the eve of our children's departure for Humla after so many months of planning, NGN's local partner organization, The Himalayan Innovative Society was contacted with an urgent request from the Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB) of Kathmandu. The CCWB had recently rescued a small girl about three years old that had been involved in a trafficking situation in the Tarai. The child's history and background was largely uncertain but the CCWB was able to provide the girl's name and home village in Humla.



NGN Country Director, Julien Lovera carries tiny girl home to her father.

As NGN is one of a very few non-governmental organizations (NGO's) working in the child welfare sector in Humla, we were the obvious choice for the CCWB to contact regarding the small girl. The CCWB requested we take her into our newly completed children's home in Simikot and try to find a solution for her as she was simply too small to be living alone in a children's home in Kathmandu.

As NGN's field team prepared to leave Simikot they included finding a solution for the little girl on their list of priorities, intending to visit her village and hopefully find her family. After three days of walking, of which Country Director Julien Lovera carried her much of the time, the team arrived in her village on the border of Humla and Mugu districts overlooking the Karnali River. The field team easily found her father who was thrilled to welcome the NGN team into his home, in fact word had reached him from Simikot that his daughter had returned and he had hoped and prayed that she would be brought back to him by the NGN team. The father explained that his wife had died suddenly one year earlier in an unexpected accident and that he had sent his tiny daughter to Kathmandu in a moment of desperation as he felt he couldn't care for her properly.



In Humla, everyone walks to make their way home.

The NGN team listened respectfully and explained that she was simply too young to be living in a children's home and that she needed the love that her father could provide. NGN field leader assured the father that we would monitor the situation as she grows and when the time is right help the father with education for his daughter. Recognizing his mistake, the father quickly agreed, happy to have his daughter back home with him in their village.



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This was a rapid but significant success for the NGN team and an example of early intervention offering a child the opportunity to grow up in their village surrounded by family. It also extended our reach into another area of Humla and increased our influence in our crucial fight against child trafficking.



Tiny girl looks to her father for comfort.

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