



Photo: Larry Closs

Dear Friends,

When I assumed leadership of NGN just over a year ago, I had no idea what the future might hold. I vividly remember the sparkling clear day I accepted the challenge and immediately headed to Nepal for seven weeks of complete immersion in everything from the chaos of Kathmandu to the rugged mountains of Humla. Having jumped headlong into the mission of NGN, I am happy to report we have much to be proud of. However, we would not be here today

without all the groundwork that came before—the extraordinary efforts of the staff in Nepal and the many volunteers, supporters and committed board members who care so much about the future of Nepal's children.

Over the last year, we welcomed two new volunteers to Nepal, opened a second transitional children's home and returned 25 children to their home district. More than 50 children continue to receive our care and support while we monitor their visits and reconnection with family. And, after months of careful work, we permanently reunified another child with his family and community last November.

Read on for a taste of what's ahead. NGN is positively bursting with recognition and growth, spurred in no small part by the publication of NGN founder Conor Grennan's international bestseller "Little Princes." In both the U.S. and Nepal, NGN leadership has joined the global stage as members of U.N. working groups in anti-trafficking and child protection. We have deepening organizational relationships and emerging new partnerships, not to mention many generous new supporters. You can become part of our story. Join us as we reconnect trafficked children with families and give them a chance to grow together in stronger, safer communities. You can make a difference!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hallie Tamez".

Hallie Tamez
Executive Director

Update: A Library Takes Shape with Books for Bajura

By Caleb Fountain



Photos: Sundup Lama

In the fall 2010 edition of the NGN Newsletter, we introduced Santosh Karki (not his real name) and his mission to establish a community library in his remote Humli village, in far northwestern Nepal. With the support of Next Generation Nepal and our French partner, Karya, he undertook this ambitious project on his own. As of last October, he had gathered 70 books from French school children who had helped collect donations.

Noting that his village was a week's walk through the Himalaya from Simikot, Humla district headquarters, Santosh wrote, "I don't know whether this project will succeed, but trying to do something is better than not. Don't you think so?"

Indeed we do! And, despite Santosh's hesitations, the new library has been a resounding success. Santosh ultimately secured more than 200 books and, with the help of the NGN-Karya team, transported them to his village, where he set up the library in his family's home and held a community meeting to announce the opening. Villagers, and, in particular, teachers, were thrilled. The books include volumes intended for primary, secondary and higher-level school children, as well as an encyclopedia, a dictionary, maps and stationery. There are also toys for children too young to read.

In rural areas where courses of study rarely vary year-to-year, libraries serve as crucial sources of knowledge but remain extremely scarce. Santosh, and NGN hope that Santosh's library will not only supplement the basic curriculum offered by village teachers but eventually help the larger community to become more literate.

With the establishment of the library, Santosh should be justifiably proud. As he continues his studies in Kathmandu, he can rest assured that he has taken an enormous step in fulfilling his dream of improving the standard of education in his village.

As he wrote last fall, "This is not *my* project, it belongs to *all* of us."



Target: Education in Humla

By Caleb Fountain

In Fall 2010, NGN welcomed its first volunteer, Claire Nabet, to the recently initiated educational project in Humla. Begun in June, the project addresses one of the root causes of trafficking in rural Nepal—a sore lack of educational resources that significantly increases children’s vulnerability. Parents in remote villages who are desperate to provide a good education for their children fall prey to the empty promises of traffickers and assurances that their child will be taken to a reputable boarding school in Kathmandu. For many parents, it’s a choice between family and education. For traffickers, it’s an opportunity to exploit children for profit.



Claire reviews homework at Karnali house

Photo: Hallie Tamez

NGN firmly believes that by reinforcing the resources already available in these regions, and providing some that are not available, parents will not be as tempted to entrust their children to traffickers, and the strength of community in the face of traffickers will be vastly increased.

The educational project will focus on children studying in Simikot, the district headquarters of Humla, a region where many children were trafficked during the 10-year civil war from 1996 to 2006. NGN is committed to working with staff and

administrators to improve the overall quality of schooling by upgrading teaching materials and classroom facilities, in addition to providing teachers with methodology workshops and training.

The volunteer’s report, issued in November, emphasized the project’s potential, with recommendations on how best to move forward. She found that many teachers took advantage of—and were very grateful for—the professional development components of the project, and that the structural improvements were beginning to be felt.

NGN Extends Reach to the U.N.

By Caleb Fountain



UN Photo: Yutaka Nagata

In light of Next Generation Nepal's increasing reputation for skillfully addressing the impact of family separation that results from child trafficking, Executive Director Hallie Tamez has been invited to join the United Nations Working Group on Children without Parental Care. This gives NGN the unique opportunity to develop a voice in the international community and speaks to how NGN's approaches are becoming more widely recognized among organizations in the field of child protection.

Established in November 2004, the Working Group's initial purpose was to draft the U.N. Guidelines for Appropriate Use and Conditions of Alternative Care for Children, which was designed to ensure that children are never unjustifiably deprived of in-home care, and that out-of-home care, when necessary, addresses children's basic rights and needs. Over the next five years, the Working Group shepherded the proposed guidelines through the U.N. system, ultimately achieving a General Assembly resolution "welcoming" what is now known as the Guidelines for Alternative Care of Children on November 20, 2009; the General Assembly's resolution appropriately coincided with the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, which the Guidelines seek to clarify.

Having completed its first goal, the Working Group is now committed to the equally important and no less daunting task of overseeing and reporting on promising practices in implementation strategies for the Guidelines. This will include, but is not limited to, the broad dissemination of material promoting the Guidelines at all levels of civil society—from the upper tier of government in Nepal, for example, down through district welfare administrators and all the way to the workers NGN has on the ground with kids in Humla. The impact of the Guidelines, and of this particular method of implementation, has most recently been felt in the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake, when they were used to direct child-protection policymaking.

That NGN has been invited to sit on this Working Group is a great privilege for the organization and a great opportunity for the children and families NGN impacts. By giving their interests a voice at the U.N., NGN will advance its cause of improving the welfare and protection of trafficked children and of reconnecting them with their families and communities.

New Partnerships for NGN: Sanctuary for Kids, Mountain Hardwear and UncommonGoods

By Caleb Fountain

In November, Next Generation Nepal received a substantial donation from [Sanctuary for Kids](#) (S4K), a Canadian charity devoted to protecting children in crisis. The funds will be allocated to NGN's fieldwork and help address the logistical challenge of keeping children and families connected through regular communication and visits.



Amanda Tapping, Jill Bodie and daughter visit NGN staff in Kathmandu

Inspired by the hit Syfy Channel series *Sanctuary*, S4K was founded by executive producer Damien Kindler, teacher and social worker Jill Bodie and *Sanctuary* star Amanda Tapping. Last fall, in Kathmandu, Bodie and Tapping met with NGN field staff and several of the children in their care, later writing “the many children that have been helped by Next Generation Nepal—nearly 400 to date—are truly in the best of hands.”

With the support of S4K, our effort to reconnect trafficked children with their families has found new support. But

actually going into rural Nepal to find these families requires that our field teams, and the children in our care, brave the harsh extremes of the Himalaya. Enter [Mountain Hardwear](#), the renowned outdoor clothing and gear company.



Mountain Hardwear has generously donated seven jackets, which will be emblazoned with NGN's logo and used by our field team and staff on fact-finding and reconnection missions in the remote mountains of Nepal. These missions require days and sometimes weeks of rigorous trekking from village to village in search of families. The donation of warm, rugged clothing is

appreciated beyond measure. We extend an enormous thank you from the field staff of Next Generation Nepal.

Additionally, [UncommonGoods](#) has stepped up to support NGN through a partnership with their Better to Give Program. An online marketplace for creatively designed, high-quality and affordable merchandise, UncommonGoods allows its customers to select their nonprofit of choice to receive a one-dollar donation at checkout. In addition, inputting an NGN source code at checkout directs 10 percent of each sale to NGN. As of January 2011 we can be counted among the organizations of choice. Thank you, UncommonGoods!

Notes from the Field: Another Child Returns Home

By Sandup Dorje Lama, NGN Project Field Manager, Kathmandu



Reunited with father

Next Generation Nepal and local NGO partner The Himalayan Innovative Society (THIS) have successfully reunified Phurba Tamang (not his real name) with his family after a seven-year separation.

Phurba was born in the village of Rugin in 1999 and lived with his parents for five years. During the 1996-2006 civil war between the Maoists and Nepali government, his parents unknowingly sent him to Kathmandu with a trafficker, hoping to provide a better education and security. He was, however, taken to an illegal child orphanage in Thankot.

In Thankot, conditions were the exact opposite of everything Phurba's parents had hoped for: Children were beaten, kept out of school, deprived of adequate medical care and food and forced to beg on the streets. Alerted of the situation by a volunteer, the District Child Welfare Board stepped in and rescued the children, sending Phurba to a children's home in Godawari. In 2007, Phurba's father journeyed to meet his son, re-establishing contact for the first time in at least three years.



Getting reacquainted with cousin and new friends
Photos: Sundup Lama

In June 2008, an NGN field team traveled to Rugin to assess Phurba's family's situation. The team discovered that the family was thrilled at the prospect of seeing their son more often. In November 2010, after helping facilitate communication for several years between Phurba and his family, NGN facilitated the transfer of legal responsibility for the child back to his parents, and subsequently helped Phurba and his father move to Martadi, where Phurba is enrolled in school.

Both Phurba and his parents are very happy to be closer and in regular contact. NGN and your support played an important role in giving him

back the family and connections to the community he lost so many years ago. There are many more kids in need of this kind of intervention. You can make it happen by making a donation to Next Generation Nepal.

Bringing NGN to the World

By Conor Grennan

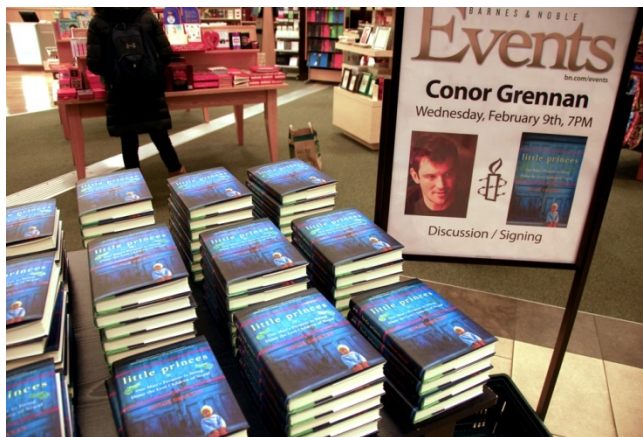


Waiting patiently for a signed copy of *Little Princes*
Photos: Larry Closs

corner of the world where the children came from. They know, in detail, how parents reacted when we first entered their tiny village with photos of their children, children that had been taken from them years earlier by child traffickers.

People seem to really respond to the fact that this was all started by a guy (me) who really had no idea what he was doing—he just set out to try to volunteer somewhere for a bit. No more than that. There’s something heartening in that, I think. There’s almost no prerequisite to volunteering—just the willingness to take the first step and learn about another part of the world, or about a people who might need a little extra help.

More importantly, readers are responding to the children. Again and again, we hear how much folks love these kids. I think that’s because we were able to talk about them—the kids—honestly, openly, without motive other than to portray them as they are. No undue sympathy, no violin music playing, no yanking at the heartstrings to try to get a reaction.



Two years after I started writing “*Little Princes*,” the story of the children in Nepal is finally out. It’s amazing to see the actual book, printed between hard covers and sold in stores.

The thing that really blows me away, though, is talking about it to strangers, folks who have read the book and write to us at NGN. They talk in detail about the children—their names, their character. They know what the children have lived through. They can describe the landscape of Humla—that remote, mountainous

The kids would never want that, trust me. What they want, more than anything, is for people to understand that they are just like kids anywhere; they can be goofy, funny, annoying, frustrating, bright, and in the end, a joy to be around. Just like kids in the U.S. and elsewhere.

It’s an honor to be able to travel the country and share the story of the kids from that tiny mountain country on the other side of the world. We’re humbled by the reception that we’ve gotten. We hope it continues to build.

We still need your help. This book tells the story of NGN—it gets people invested. That’s what we need more than anything—that’s what the kids need. We need more staff to find more families. We need to prevent trafficking at the source. Please share this story with others. The more we can share of it, the more critical funds we can raise. And that was the whole point of writing this in the first place.

Thank you for your warm reception, and I hope to see you out on the road!

NGN Needs Your Help

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

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!