

Dear NGN Friends and Supporters,

We have some great news to share in this Autumn 2014 Newsletter.

Back in November we rescued 18 children. For the past months, we've been on a long road nursing them back to health. School was also a major challenge in those early days-education is the last thing on a child's mind when they have gone through what those kids went through.



Thanks to the love and care of our Transit Home staff, the children have gained weight, their skin lesions have healed, and they're laughing again. Thanks to our tutors, every single child passed their final term exams. And thanks to NGN's Reintegration Teams, we have found 17 of 18 families in remote parts of Nepal. (Five children are already happily reunited with their families.)

You know who paid the salaries of those caretakers, those tutors, those teams that searched the hills and mountains of Nepal? You did.

Thank you for that.

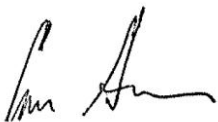
And that's not all. The kids you've been helping for years now are surpassing our wildest expectations. Thanks to your support for their education, these young people are not only passing their final high school exams, they are scoring in the top percentages of the country! When I think about where they came from, I am stunned. But that is what comes from the love of home staff, tutors, and people reconnecting them with their families.

You know who paid for all that support over all these years? Yep. You did.

That is the impact you are making. I'll leave it to you to decide if it is worth continuing your support. I'll just say that we are grateful beyond words for it.

Finally, I want to congratulate our very own NGN partner, my friend for many years, DB Lama. DB was with me on my first trip to Humla. This year he has been nominated for the national N-Peace Award this year for his hard work in bringing home the lost children of Nepal. Nepal will always be indebted to him for his inspiration and service.

We hope you enjoy the stories in this Newsletter. Thanks so much for reading.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Conor Grennan".

Conor Grennan,
President
Next Generation Nepal

Meena's Journey Home

Meena's father earns his living as a seasonal worker during harvest time in India, and for the rest of the time he is working his land in the village. One year was particularly tough, and the family was suffering from economic hardship. Left to cope by herself, Meena's mother had been struggling to manage a young family and her in-laws. It was at this time that a trafficker from the same village approached the family and persuaded Meena's mother to send her to a "boarding school" in Kathmandu. The trafficker promised that Meena would be well looked after by sponsors and would attend a great school. Reluctantly, the mother agreed thinking this would be a good opportunity for Meena to get a better education and good prospects for her future.

Unfortunately, the "boarding school" turned out to be an orphanage in another area of Nepal that ran as a profit-making venture to make money from foreign donors. In 2012, several girls at the orphanage were sexually abused (fortunately, not Meena), and other children were subjected to neglect and a lack of proper care. In 2013, after intense negotiations, the Government of Nepal authorized NGN to take responsibility for Meena and seven other children who were believed to have living family members. According to the official paperwork, Meena's family had been living in desperate conditions with parents too sick to care for the children and living well below the poverty line. It was even claimed that Meena's mother was bedridden, and her father was an alcoholic who had been diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Fortunately, the NGN Reintegration Team has learned through experience that traffickers will go to any length to justify their actions. Reintegration Officer Rupa doubted the report and began to build a deeper relationship with Meena to learn the truth about her village and her family. Rupa then set off on an eight-day mission to the midwestern hills where she found Meena's family. They were delighted to hear about Meena, to see her photos and to be assured that she was safe. They had been worried about her and had missed her a lot. They lovingly showed Rupa a family portrait with Meena as a baby.

Rupa conducted a family assessment which revealed that Meena had indeed been unnecessarily displaced. The father was not terminally ill; he was regularly supporting the family with income from seasonal work in India, and, when home, he tended their land which produced enough for the family to live on. Meena's mother was healthy and actively working the fields, running the household and looking after her children. Meena's siblings went regularly to the local school, and her uncle was a very well respected teacher there. Meena's family income was well above the average in the village in fact.

The first phone reconnection between Meena and her mother was very emotional. Her mother felt guilty for what had happened and was convinced that Meena would not want to talk to her. But of course Meena wanted to talk to her! A month later Rupa and the Reintegration Team made another family assessment followed by an in-person reconnection between Meena and her father who had traveled a long way, and was delighted to see his daughter again. He also felt very guilty about what had happened and was upset that Meena had been taken away in his absence and without his consent.

It wasn't long before Meena left the transit home accompanied by her father and was legally reunited with her family. After two months, the Reintegration Team set off on a monitoring trip and found Meena to be a happy and healthy little girl, who had adjusted perfectly to life in the village and at her local school. Her parents are hard-working people who are keen to move on from the past and strive to put the needs and the well-being of their children first. Meena is an intelligent girl with a loving family, and together again, they have bright futures ahead of them.



Meena going home with her father

The Story of Kaylan

Kaylan was 5 when he was taken from his family. The traffickers took him promising Kaylan's parents that he would be enrolled in a boarding school in Kathmandu and have a bright future. Instead, Kaylan was taken to a small orphanage in a small village two hours away from Kathmandu overflowing with children that were neglected, sick and under-nourished. Kaylan cried a lot and didn't want to stay at the orphanage, but the trafficker left him there and disappeared.

Kaylan missed his mother, father, sister and brother back in the village. He kept thinking that the trafficker would come to take him back home. Three dark years passed and Kaylan learned to survive with very little and to follow the harsh rules to avoid getting into trouble. Kaylan's thoughts often wondered about his family and the dream of going home. He often wondered if they were okay? Surely, something must have happened otherwise they would come for him.

In November 2013, Kaylan and 17 other children were rescued by NGN after hours of negotiation and heated arguments with the orphanage owners and the police. Kaylan packed quickly and held on to his small plastic bag even after he arrived safely at the NGN transit home. That first night at the NGN transit home was strange, and he was exhausted, but he fell asleep as soon as his head hit the pillow.

When the sun came up, Kaylan remembers hearing voices of his friends chirping around the room and down the corridors, joking, pushing and yelling with glee. Then, there was that nice smell, freshly cooked food, dal bhat-tarkari, and he heard the hiss of the pressure cooker inviting him to breakfast. He was up in a jiffy!

That first day at the transit home was so different than anything he had experienced. Food and snacks appeared every time he was hungry and he had water, clean bathrooms, showers, new and warm clothes, his own bed and staff talking and playing with them all the time. There were also medical checks and medication for his ears that had been aching for a long time. His caretaker was gentle and gave him his medicine every night, and, finally, after a week he started to feel better.

One day after school his caretaker at the transit home called him in to the office. She explained that the NGN reintegration staff had traveled to his village and had found his parents. "As a matter of fact," she said, "we can call them now. Do you want to speak to you mother?" Kaylan did not reply. His mind wandered between a hazy picture of his mother's face, and whether he was in trouble for telling people about his family. When the caretaker handed him the phone and he heard her voice, it was like a dream, and just like in dreams, he could not speak. The words built up into a swell at the back

of his throat, until it ached. It took several minutes until he started replying to his mother, first a simple "yes" and "no" and then "me, too, mum."



Kaylan (far right) with his sister and brother

After that first phone call, Kaylan spoke to his family two more times. The reintegration officers brought him news and pictures of his family. He had so many questions and every answer would bring up five more questions.

In April, Kaylan was reunited with his family. Kaylan is a happy 8-year-old, trying to catch up on the lost three years without his family. He enjoys school, has made many friends and his family couldn't be happier to have him back-for good.

NGN Empowerment Project Update

NGN's Empowerment Program offers scholarships and mentoring to a few young people from Humla under NGN's care who were trafficked during the conflict and kept in orphanages for a prolonged period of time. To receive a scholarship, the young person must be fully and legally reunified, be reacquainted with their home culture, language and customs and show real academic promise. This June, six of our youths have passed the exams for their School Leaving Certificates with great results.

A big, heartfelt congratulations to Sweta, Hriteek, Kavita, Ishan, Priya and Pawan!

We are so proud of you!!



Sweta On The Way To Make Her Dreams Reality

Sweta, a 16-year-old girl from Humla, is a part of the THIS-NGN-Empowerment Project, and has been receiving support for the past four years to complete her studies. She recently finished Year Ten School Leaving Certificate (SLC) with distinction.

Sweta's family are farmers in a remote village in Humla, and she is the youngest of eight children. She loves to go to her village during school holiday to help her parents at home and to work on her family's land. Her parents know how important education is for her, so they encourage her to study even when she is at home. The last two years have been quite hard for her academically. She enrolled in a new school two years ago and has worked very hard to catch up with her friends.



The year 10, or SLC exams, are usually referred to as the "iron gate" in the Nepali language, to indicate the difficulty of the exams. The results of these exams are crucial to one's academic future, and this pressure brings a lot of anxiety in typical Nepali families.

Nothing but the best is expected of the students, and the parents often spend a lot of money on tutors to ensure their children do well.

Sweta's brother and sister have completed 12 years of study but she wants to do even better than them. She has been thinking and preparing for the SLC exam for over a year. In a typical day she would wake up at 5 a.m., freshen up, browse the most difficult subject for the day, have some tea and go to school, which starts at 6 a.m. and finishes at 5 p.m. For the past two years, Sweta signed up to attend extra classes in preparation for the upcoming exams. Once at home around 6.30 p.m. she would change, quickly have dinner and usually study till 11:30 p.m. and even later when needed.

When asked about her free time Sweta says: "I don't know how to play games. I am lazy at playing games." The truth is that for the past year her mind has always been occupied by the exams. She felt she didn't do well in the first term exams so needed to work even harder to get better.

When on holidays in her village in Humla, she would relax and spend time with her friends and then the SLC exams would pop into her mind and she knew she had to go and study some more.

When the results of her exams were published in the district capital, she was in her village in Humla, which is a long way from the district capital. Sweta had to call a friend who read her the results. Sweta's score was in the distinction category, but she was not pleased. She expected to do even better.

As a little girl, Sweta wanted to be a doctor, but she wasn't quite sure about what that meant. Now that she knows the meaning, she wants to be a doctor even more. She realized that to become a doctor she needed to excel at science, so this year, she enrolled in science.

In 10 years, Sweta plans to finish her studies and the internship in medicine and go and serve as a doctor in her village in Humla. NGN will help Sweta anyway we can to ensure she gets there.

Ph.D. Ann Looby: Child Trauma and Crisis Response Training

We were very honored to have the renowned U.S. psychologist Dr. Ann D. Looby visit us here in Nepal. Dr. Looby has nearly 50 years experience in treating child trauma in cases of natural disaster, trafficking and losing parents, among others.

Over the course of a week, Dr. Looby had individual briefing and counseling sessions with all NGN/THIS staff, and concluded with a day's training on various useful approaches to be used in detecting child trauma, engaging the children in therapeutic play, and supporting the children overcome trauma.



Dr. Looby leading the NGN/THIS training session

Fighting the Causes of Child Trafficking

NGN not only supports the victims of child trafficking but also fights its causes.

One of the ways we do this is by promoting "ethical voluntourism." This means raising awareness of how orphanage volunteering can actually fuel further child trafficking. Unfortunately, volunteering often creates an incentive for children to be taken from their parents and put in "orphanages" to meet the needs of well-intentioned volunteers as well as to attract financial donations from them and others.

NGN recommends that volunteers find placements which match their skills with the genuine needs of local people. We also emphasize the importance of volunteers coming to Nepal with an open mind to "learn" from local people before trying to solve their problems, so the whole experience becomes a two-way exchange of cultures and ideas.

NGN has been working closely with the Government of Nepal, other NGOs, the media and embassies to spread this message.

We are pleased to announce that four embassies in Nepal have heeded our warning and changed their travel advice for tourists. So, a big "Thank you" to the United States, Britain, France and Switzerland!



Tourists in Thamel

If you want to know more about this important but sometimes confusing topic, do read our short publication called "Orphanage Trafficking and Orphanage Voluntourism: Frequently Asked Questions"

available here:

[FAQs on Orphanage Trafficking and Orphanage Voluntourism.pdf](#)

NGN In The Press

Al Jazeera U.S.

"The orphanage tourism industry essentially exists because of global inequality, with the uneven power dynamic between the untrained Western volunteers and the children in orphanages dictating rather than eliminating this inequity." Al Jazeera America lays bare the problems with orphanage voluntourism and praises the work of NGN.

<http://america.aljazeera.com/opinions/2014/8/cambodia-orphanagetourismwatopotwesternvolunteerism.html>

The Newsroom

NGN's Conor Grennan and Martin Punaks were recently interviewed by The Newsroom about orphanage volunteering and its links to child trafficking. NGN is a proud supporter of ethical voluntourism! What does this mean? Read the article to find out.

<http://newsroom.macleay.net/volunteering-philanthropy-or-misanthropy/>

Congratulations Dhan Bahadur Lama

All of us at NGN wish to say, "Congratulations" to Dhan Bahadur Lama, Executive Director/Founder of The Himalayan Innovative Society (THIS), who is instrumental in supporting the work of Next Generation Nepal. Recently, DB Lama was nominated for the 2014 N-Peace award for his hard work in bringing home the lost children of Nepal.



The N-Peace Awards were first launched in 2011 to recognize and profile leaders and peace-builders creating change at the grassroots and national levels in Asia. Coordinated by the N-Peace Network across Indonesia, Pakistan, Myanmar, Nepal, Afghanistan, and the Philippines, the Awards shine a light on women and men who demonstrate leadership in building peace and empowering their communities.

<http://n-peace.net/n-peace-awards>

We are very proud of you DB. Keep up the good work!

Volunteer Corner

This corner is dedicated to the amazing work carried out by our volunteers and supporters from all over the globe, who are raising awareness and funds for Next Generation Nepal.

Rachel Kuster, in her own words...

Like many people, I heard about NGN from reading Conor's book a few years ago. I had the amazing opportunity to volunteer at the NGN Gala held in March 2013 in NYC, and there I started thinking about ways I could help NGN/THIS raise more funds. I had just recently decided to run the November 2014 Marathon in NYC, and realized that might be one way.

I started asking friends and family to sponsor my run, with all money to go to NGN. Soon, I expanded to knocking on the doors of local businesses and talking to everyone about NGN. During this time, I began training and thinking about how to represent NGN running the marathon. I realized that I needed a shirt.

I emailed NGN and got the official logo, and the go-ahead to use it in my design. Then all I had to do was find a shirt supplier/printer. After lining this all up, a few weeks later my running shirt arrived.

I then thought, if I wanted a shirt surely there are other NGN supporters and "Little Princes" fans out there who would like one, too, so I again contacted NGN about making them available to everyone, with a small profit from each shirt going to NGN/THIS. My first order came the last week of April, and since then is slowly growing.

As of now, not too many people realize they are available, but I am confident that as time goes on, more will know (and hopefully buy one). I think this can be a great way to help raise money for the work you are doing!! There is only about a five-dollar profit on each shirt, but if a lot sell, eventually it will all add up to making a difference!

So far, between shirt sales and marathon sponsors, I have raised over USD \$1,300. Out of this, I was able to get shirts for the staff and send the remaining money to NGN.

You can have a look at the NGN t-shirts on my Facebook page www.facebook.com/NGNshirts or contact me at nqnshirts@yahoo.com



Rachel (center) with her children

NGN Visits

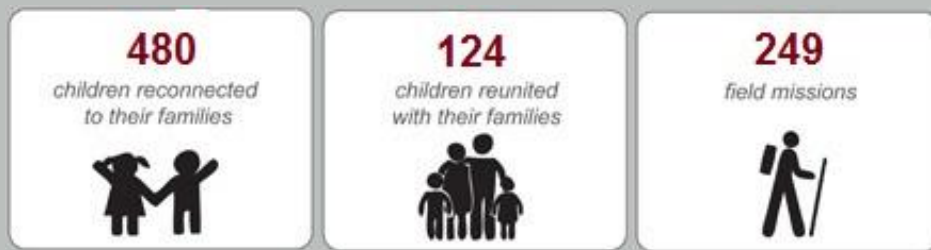
We were very pleased to have our Executive Director Anna Howe on a work trip with NGN for one month. Anna lived and worked in Nepal for 18 years and she is now living in the U.S. and again working for NGN. For Anna, coming to Nepal is "coming home." Anna was a great presence and provided even greater support with annual budgeting, advocacy and reintegration work. We look forward to having you back soon, Anna.



NGN Executive Director Anna Howe
at the NGN Transit Home

Next Generation Nepal Highlights

All of those who work for and volunteer with NGN, believe strongly in the work we do to help Nepal's lost children. We hope that you believe in us and continue to provide support for NGN's work. Below are NGN's highlights as of July 31, 2014.



18 working relationships have been created between NGN/THIS and other I/NGOs through which we have helped to reconnect and reunify children.

23 civil society organizations, Government bodies or individuals have been trained and/or technically advised by NGN/THIS in our methodology and approach.

33 youth have been supported by NGN/THIS through some or all of the following: support towards educational fees and material support at SLC, +2, diplomas or bachelor level; one-to-one mentoring as well as shelter, food, medical costs and leisure costs.

4 diplomatic missions in Nepal have changed their travel advice to warn against orphanage

voluntourism as a result of NGN advocacy.

Help Us Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal

There are still thousands of children experiencing exploitation in Nepal. Most of these children are likely to have been trafficked and may be being abused.

Our goal is to bring them all home!

Should you wish to make a donation or organize a fundraiser in your community or workplace, we have created a shopping list below that can help you. Your gift will help bring an end to child exploitation.

How your donations can help:

\$53 pays for one child's immediate medical treatment post-rescue.

\$434 pays to search for the family of a trafficked child in remote locations of Nepal.

\$456 pays for one child to go to school locally for one year.

\$1327 pays for one child to be fed and cared for in NGN's transitional home for one year, while searching for their families.



Buddha home with his family

Help Spread the Word

If you are inspired by the work of NGN and what you read here please feel free to forward this newsletter or the NGN Facebook page to a friend. We are always so encouraged by the people who get in touch and want to find out more. The more people who know about child trafficking and exploitation in Nepal, the sooner we can put a stop to it.

www.facebook.com/nextgenerationnepal

Thank You, NGN Supporters!

Finally, a big, heartfelt "Thank you" from all of us at NGN to our supporters and donors! It has been an incredible, challenging and fulfilling six months.

Their success is your success, because your donations make this happen!

THANK YOU!!!
