"Since Next Generation Nepal was founded we have been able to reconnect over 500 children with their families!

Help us bring another 500 families back together again."



#### **Autumn 2016 Newsletter**

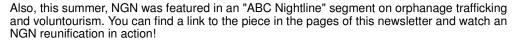
#### Dear NGN Friends,

This summer, NGN celebrated its 10th anniversary of work combatting child trafficking and reuniting children with their families. We have done this together with you, every step of the way.

Just weeks before we marked this milestone, NGN rescued 22 children from ill-treatment and neglect. Our amazing teams have already reunited a number of these vulnerable children with their families.

The children from Little Princes have become responsible, kind and thoughtful young adults. It's only fitting that this year, as NGN rounds out a decade of work, these same youths, who have been growing up alongside NGN, have their own accomplishments to

celebrate as they inch closer to graduating from college and university -- a dream that once would have seemed impossible.



The Dashain Nepali holiday season is around the corner, and all of us are blessed to have so much to celebrate and be grateful for. Thank you so much for all your continued support over the last decade.

Warmly, Conor Grennan

President

Next Generation Nepal

# **Big Smiles for 22 Rescued Children**

In May 2016, NGN worked with the Government of Nepal to rescue 22children from a dirty children's home in Kathmandu. Before the rescue, the children were living in a poorly managed, unsafe home where they were denied the basic care that every child needs to grow. Without access to working toilets or sufficient attention to their hygiene,most of the children were, unsurprisingly, infected with scabies and parasites.



When the children boarded the van to the NGN transit home they were skeptical. NGN's reintegration officers had explained where they were going, but since it had been a long time

since they had been able to trust the adults in their lives, they were understandably reserved. The kids had only a few caretakers at the children's home, and occasionally unskilled foreign and local volunteers would come and go from the building. They therefore felt they had no one they could rely on. Nevertheless, within a few hours of their arrival at the NGN transit home they had let their guard down and they were laughing and smiling as they played in the yard and ate as much food as their hearts desired.

With the children on the mend under NGN's care, reintegration officers began the process of searching for their families in the remote villages of Nepal. The NGN team's hard work paid off and soon the children's families had successfully been traced. Assessments were done and the team began to bring the children home to happy families. The work will continue until all 22 children are safely back in their homes.

The road to heal and reunify these children with their families is never an easy one. It is only through the determination of the NGN team, and with the immense support we get from people around the world, that we are able to overcome the difficulties and challenges we face, and bring children back home to their families.

## **Empowerment Project Update**

The past few months have marked a turning point for many of the youth under the NGN Empowerment Project. Four youth passed their SLC (School Leaving Certificate) exams with top marks and have begun their next course of study. Nanda (you can read more on him below) did so well that, along with 35 other students, he got the second highest score in the entire country! An additional three youth have graduated from 12th grade and are moving onto their bachelors or other further course of study, and they have all chosen to study disciplines that will allow them to give back to their



The hard work these Empowerment Project youth put into studying for the SLC exams were rewarded when they saw the amazing grades the received.

communities. Bikesh is studying hard in dentistry school, and soon he will be one of the first youth under NGN's Empowerment Project to graduate with a bachelor's degree. The youth that NGN supports under the Empowerment Project are the future leaders of Nepal, and time and again they have proven what great and compassionate leaders they will be.



Tushar shows off his hard

## **Tushar's Day**

Imagine a small boy far away from his family's care a nd living in an abusive children's home without proper food, care or support. Tushar, 5, is a young boy from a rural village in western Nepal who was living in just such a place before he was rescued and brought under the care of NGN. Before coming to the NGN transit home, Tushar's days were filled with worry and unknowns, and there was nothing he could count on. Now that he is being looked after by NGN and has structure in his life and adults he can rely on, he is worry-free and can focus on learning and growing.

A typical day for Tushar at the transit home begins at six in the morning when he and the other children wake up and go through their morning routine of washing and getting ready for the day ahead. This is generally followed by a calming yoga session with the NGN home manager and a tutoring session where the kids complete their school assignments and read storybooks. Then Tushar and his friends play games and skip around the yard until it is time to eat a

nutritious breakfast of dal bhat at 8:30.



Tushar ready for school

As part of NGN's reintegration program, educational support is provided to rescued children so that they continue to make progress in their classes. For this reason, Tushar has been enrolled into a kindergarten class at school. He enjoys playing and chatting with his new friends and all of the interesting things he is learning. It's a long day at school for a young boy-from 9:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.-but he loves to play and study with his friends and teachers, and before he knows it, school is out for



Morning Yoga

the day.

Evenings at the transit home are a time to wind down after a busy day. The kids do some homework before dinner, and then they are free to play until bedtime. Tushar loves curried cauliflower and is extra excited when it is on the menu for dinner. He likes to talk with his friends and sing popular Nepali songs, and never hesitates to put on a little concert for those around him. As one would expect from a 5-year-old boy, his favorite games include playing with toy airplanes, helicopters and jeeps.

Tushar is healthy and active, and with the support from the NGN team he is continuing to heal and make progress in his learning. Reintegration officers are working to reunify Tushar with his family, but until that time he is being nurtured and cared for at our transit home. When he does go home, we know that we have done everything we can to set him up to succeed.

## NGN's Wisdom Wednesdays Raise Awareness in Kathmandu

Anyone who has visited Kathmandu knows that the tourist district of Thamel is a crazy mini-metropolis of cafés and bars, bright lights and incense, hooting rickshaws and taxis and touts selling everything from tiger balm to orphanage visits. In the midst of all this chaos NGN has been running its latest awareness-raising campaign for tourists from the comfort of a friendly Irish bar. Wisdom Wednesdays was an initiative devised by NGN to spread awareness amongst well-intentioned foreign travelers about the dangers of volunteering in an orphanage, and how such seemingly good work may inadvertently be fueling child trafficking and psychologically harming children. See our Ethical Volunteering page:

### http://www.nextgenerationnepal.org/Ethical\_Volunteering

Between March and May 2016, NGN ran 11 talks by leading personalities and child-rights activists from NGOs, ethical tourism companies and embassies. The talks focused on everything from



The EU Ambassador to Nepal gave a thoughtprovoking and insightful talk during the second series of NGN's Wisdom Wednesdays.

how child trafficking works, to how the tourism sector responded after the earthquake, to how embassies protect their citizens and promote human rights. But what every talk had in common was the message that volunteering is a wonderful thing to do-both for yourself and for others-but it should always be practiced ethically, and this means not volunteering in an

orphanage. Her Excellency, The Ambassador of the European Union, Rensje Teerink, encouraged her audience to be ethical tourists engaging in the local culture and spending money on local businesses, while NGN Country Director Martin Punaks argued that volunteering should be re-framed away from a donor-beneficiary relationship towards an equal dialogue where both sides are considered givers and receivers of learning and support. NGN's Wisdom Wednesdays has been so popular that we are already planning a new series of talks for the fall. See here for more information:

http://www.nextgenerationnepal.org/Wisdom\_Wednesdays

For those of you that cannot make it to the other side of the world, thankfully we have filmed some of the previous talks and you can watch them here:

http://www.nextgenerationnepal.org/Videos

### **NGN on ABC Nightline**

NGN was featured in a special report that aired on ABC Nightline in August.



The Dark Side of Orphanage 'Voluntourism in Nepal That's Putting Children at Risk ABC Nightline
By Terry Moran and Jackie Jesko

# **Next Generation Nepal Highlights**



NGN is committed and proud of the work we do to bring home the lost children of Nepal. We hope that you, too, share our dream of protecting Nepal's children and continue to support our work.

Below are NGN's highlights as of the end of August 2016:

- 560 children reconnected to their families
- 196 children reunited with their families

In addition, through the Empowerment Project:

- 22 youth have passed the SLC
- 14 youth are enrolled in +2 or Diploma
- 9 youth have passed +2 or Diploma
- 3 youth are enrolled in Bachelor Degree Programs

#### NGN is 10 Years Old!



Dashain Party -- Conor & Liz with NGN youth

It has been a decade since NGN was formally established and we set out to rescue and reunify trafficked and displaced children in Nepal. As we mark this seminal anniversary, we want to take this opportunity to reflect on some of NGN's accomplishments over the years and thank all of our supporters around the world who have made this work possible.

Over the years, NGN has made a name for itself as a leading organization addressing both the causes and consequences of children being trafficked into abusive children's homes in Nepal. From reuniting children with their families, to working in communities to prevent children from being trafficked and displaced in the first place, NGN has reached thousands of people, and protected hundreds of vulnerable children. Since 2006, the NGN team has reconnected over 500 children with their families across 31 districts of Nepal! Our supporters make this possible.

In addition to our reunification and community awareness work, NGN has positioned itself as an authority on ethical volunteering in Nepal. Recognizing the influence that well-meaning foreign volunteers have on the orphanage business, NGN has sought to educate the public on this important issue so that people are equipped with the knowledge and resources they need to make informed and ethical choices on where and how to donate their time and money. Our work in this area has been featured widely in distinguished media outlets across the globe --from Spiegel in Germany to ABC in the United States, and we are honored to be at the forefront of this issue.

In the last 10 years, NGN has continually adapted to Nepal's ever changing physical and political environment. We have responded to every challenge that has come our way head on and we are stronger for it. We can see the difference we are making every day in the faces of the children who have come under our care. We are proud of the work we have done, and we hope you are proud to be a part of it!

We look ahead to the coming years with excitement and promise. With your support the number of children we can protect is endless. With determination, love, and support, NGN was created. And it is these same things that will see us into the future. Thank you for joining us on this incredible journey!

### Nanda's Big Heart

Nanda is one of four NGN youth under the NGN Empowerment Project who completed their SLC (School Leaving Certificate) exams this year. To celebrate this rite of passage, he and the

other youth had the chance to visit with family in their villages before returning to Kathmandu for further study.

It took Nanda six days to travel from Kathmandu to his remote village in Humla. He went by bus, plane and foot and had to walk for nearly three days from the district capital in order to reach his home! Once there, he didn't spend his time idly wasting away his summer like many 15-year-olds might. Instead, he relished the opportunity to volunteer and give back to his community. "I spent my days looking after my cattle. [Those days were] the most interesting and memorable in my life," he notes. "I also went to the school of our village to meet the teachers there. They allowed me to teach the students of class 9 and 10. I was so happy to provide my knowledge to them." Wanting to do even



Nanda is honored by his new school

more, he helped in a development project aimed to make it easier to reach his village. Nanda's spirit of giving shows itself daily in the way he conducts his life.

The three weeks that Nanda spent visiting with his family went by fast and soon it was time to return to Kathmandu to move forward in his education. "I was happy to continue my study but also sad to leave the village. But it was for my future. So, I informed my father about my study and promised to labor more for a better future." He said goodbye and began the long journey back to the capital.

Nanda has since started his +2 courses in science-the first step on the road to becoming a doctor. He has wanted to go into the medical field since he was a boy. Nanda was displaced from his family when he was just 5 years old, and not long after his mother passed away. When Nanda was reunified he learned that she had died without access to proper healthcare. He knew then that he wanted to become a doctor so that he could prevent others from suffering the way his mother had.

Nanda knows that with access to health facilities and treatment many lives could be saved, and he is committed to being the one to do it. With Nanda's hard work and commitment to giving back, he will surely bring his talent and big heart back to his village, and breathe new hope into his community.

## NGN's Anti-Trafficking Message Helps Keep Families Together

In Sindhupalchowk, NGN's Community Anti-Trafficking project is working to prevent children from being trafficked and displaced from their families. Our multi-level approach has reached over 51,000 families since it was launched in the months following the 2015 Great Earthquake!

One of the key ways that we are raising awareness about the dangers of trafficking is through our street dramas. Due to the great success we have had with our street dramas, NGN has expanded the geographical area in which it is being performed. Now, even more people in Sindhupalchowk can come out and watch the show live. If you want to see the drama for yourself, and learn even more about our Community Anti-Trafficking project, then head over to NGN's website, where you can watch this and other NGN videos <a href="http://www.nextgenerationnepal.org/Videos">http://www.nextgenerationnepal.org/Videos</a>.

Another way in which we are working to keep children with their families is through checking buses for vulnerable children who are traveling without a legal guardian. Between our three check posts, NGN monitors have intercepted 102 at risk children and worked with authorities and local agencies to reunify them with their families.

Our anti-trafficking radio message continues to be aired in two languages and can be heard on

radios miles away from where it is originally broadcast. Even more people are being reached through the thousands of leaflets that we've printed and distributed.

Through our Community Anti-Trafficking project, NGN is tackling child trafficking at its root; we are raising awareness and working with communities to protect vulnerable children from being trafficked and displaced from their families. Every day our message is being heard by more and more people, and with it, the number of children who never have to suffer a fate of being separated from their families continues to grow.

### **Tanvi Shines**

Just a few weeks before her sixth birthday Tanvi was rescued from an abusive children's home along with seven other children and brought to the NGN transit home to mend and heal. We were able to reunify Tanvi with her family within just a few months, and now, almost three years later, Tanvi is still living happily with her family-she couldn't be doing better!

You would have a hard time finding a girl with a more positive approach to life than Tanvi. Her bubbly personality and infectious smile win over the hearts of everyone who is lucky enough to meet her. But for everyone who loves her, Tanvi holds an extra special place in the hearts of her grandmother and aunt, and the feeling is mutual. These days, at home with her aunt (with whom she was legally reunified), Tanvi and her aunt shower affection on each other.

No child is perfectly behaved, but Tanvi comes pretty darn close. She is happy to help around the house-taking care for her younger cousin, or doing any other chores that need to be done. When the NGN reintegration team goes to monitor Tanvi, they find a girl who can't find anything wrong with her life. She has no complaints and her bright smile reassures the reintegration officers that she is doing great.

When she isn't studying, doing chores, or being doted on by her grandmother, Tanvi can be found running around with her best friend. The two are thick as thieves and love to play tag or make-believe with their dolls.

Tanvi is often described as "adorable," "affectionate" and "sweet" by those who know her. But most importantly she is described as happy. Her outlook on life belies the challenges she's faced. Her amazing spirit and kindness are good for her and good for her community. Tanvi is still just a little girl. She has a lifetime of possibilities in front of her, but whatever she decides to be when she grows up, we know that with the love and support of her family, her future is as bright as her smile.



What a smile! Tanvi nestles happily into her grandmother's lap at home in her village.

# Help Us Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal

NGN depends on the generosity of our supporters to fulfill our mission of rescuing children from abusive children's homes and reunifying them with their families. We are good at what we do, but there is still a lot more work to be done. Thousands of children continue to live in abusive and illegal "orphanages" in Nepal, despite having parents and families who could care for them. NGN will continue to work on behalf of Nepal's lost children, but we need your help. Please consider making a contribution to support our work. Together, we can bring them home.

Here are some examples of how your donations are helping:

• \$30 covers the monthly cost of searching for and reunifying a child.

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- \$40 provides all the post-rescue care for a child for a month.
- \$375 covers the costs of searching for and reunifying a child for a year.
- \$460 provides all of the post-rescue care for a child for an entire year.

Please make a donation today. www.nextgenerationnepal.org/Donate\_Online

## Stay in the Loop

At NGN, we know it's important to keep our supporters informed about the work we are doing, so we make sure to provide regular updates and information on our Facebook page <a href="https://www.facebook.com/nextgenerationnepal">www.facebook.com/nextgenerationnepal</a> and website <a href="https://www.nextgenerationnepal.org">www.nextgenerationnepal.org</a>.

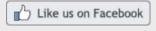
Please be sure to visit these sites often to learn more about our projects and what we've been up to. If you are inspired by what you read, please help us spread the word about NGN and share our accomplishments with your friends!

### THANK YOU!

To all of our supporters across the globe, thank you! It is not an exaggeration to say that without your ongoing support, NGN would not have made it to our 10th anniversary. Your commitment and generosity has kept us going through the years. We may do the work on the ground, but it is you who enable us to do it. You are the champions for hundreds of children in Nepal, and we are endlessly grateful to you. Thank you!

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