

Spring 2013

Dear NGN Friends and Supporters,

In January of this year NGN made its 100th family reunification. I know very well the painstaking process this is from the beginning to the end, and I can't help but marvel at the dedication of our local team – all the more so because that's just the beginning.



You'll read about the Australian NGO that approached NGN to help them rescue 20 girls from an exploitative orphanage. The girls like so many others were not orphans, but rather they have living families who very much want to be part of their lives.

You'll also learn about an 18-month search for the parents of a young boy who was trafficked when he was just 4 years old. Also, the remarkable story of how we've been able to reconnect him with his family.

NGN continues to provide scholarships to children under our care. Kids who once struggled to read and write are, incredibly, now training to be lab technicians, IT managers, dentists and much more. NGN is helping them use their skills and leadership roles to raise awareness and do their part to help stem the flow of trafficked children.

NGN remains the only organization in Nepal exclusively dedicated to reuniting trafficked children with their families. Without your support, we wouldn't have the ability to fund search missions or even feed and educate these children. We need you and we thank you for your commitment to the kids in Nepal.

Conor Grennan, President
Next Generation Nepal

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info@nextgenerationnepal.org

100 is Just the Beginning

Krish was only 5 when he first came into NGN's care. He had been taken from his home in Humla to Thankot and then to Kathmandu. Now 12, he is a happy, considerate boy who loves walking in the mountains and looking after his family's goats.



This year NGN and our partner, The Himalayan Innovative Society (THIS), worked to reunify Krish with his family -- his parents and three siblings. We found his family in 2008 when one of our reintegration officers went on a mission through the villages of Humla.

Krish is much like many of the children NGN works with, and his family is average and hardworking. However, what is remarkable is that Krish's reunification -- a full and legal return to his family -- is the 100th that NGN has conducted. This is great news -- a real milestone in NGN's work only a few years after our humble beginnings.

As we celebrate with Krish and his family in the mountains of Humla, we remind ourselves of our vision -- a Nepal free of child trafficking and exploitation -- and we reaffirm our mission to bring home Nepal's lost children.

Next Generation Nepal Highlights

We are very proud of the work we do with Nepal's lost children, and we hope that you are proud of your support for NGN. Below are NGN's highlights as of February 28, 2013.

**Help NGN
Reconnect
Trafficked
Children with
Their Families**

DONATE

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.

All donations are tax
deductible.



A Brave Rescue by NGN's New Partner

Vasundhara is a thoughtful 14 year-old who tells us: "I am so happy to be far way from those people and to be in a new place, starting a new life with new dreams. This is the first day of the rest of our lives."

Vasundhara, along with 19 other girls, were trafficked to a Kathmandu children's home from their villages during Nepal's civil conflict. Forget Me Not, an Australian non-profit, had been supporting the children's home for six years. However, after appointing a Country Director in Nepal, Eva Capozzola, it became apparent that the managers in Nepal were using the home as a means for financial gain. Capozzola quickly identified abuses and reported them to the Forget Me Not Board of Directors in Australia. From that point on, she was denied access to the children and received personal threats from the home's managers.

"It was a heartbreaking case," says Martin Punaks, NGN's Country Director. "Twenty girls had been denied the right of access to their own families. I applaud Forget me Not for realizing what was happening and acting quickly to help the girls gain their freedom".

There are over 11,000 children living in "orphanages" in Nepal, but more than two-thirds of these children are not orphans. Eighty-five percent of these "orphanages" are in the main tourist hubs of Nepal, and NGN believes that many are being used as profit-making enterprises to raise funds from tourists and charities to increase the owner's personal wealth and have no interest in benefiting the children in their care.

Now, with the girls safe, NGN is working with Forget Me Not to trace the girls' families and, as far as possible, reconnect and reunify them. Within two months, we have already reconnected 15 year-old Zarina with her parents in their village after having been separated for 10 years.



Photo by Eva Capozzola, Forget Me Not

Still Much More to Do

There are an estimated 11,000 trafficked children in exploitative children's homes in Nepal. 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 hope that the shopping list below will help you. Your gift will help bring an end to child exploitation.

Some Sample Costs:

\$34 buys a child's school stationery for one year of living in NGN's transitional home.

\$212 pays for a child, returned to his or her family, to attend a local school and reducing the risk of re-trafficking.

\$628 buys the cost of a mission to search for the family of a trafficked child in remote locations of Nepal.

\$655 pays for a trafficked child to live in safety in NGN's transitional home for one year.



Rescued from an abusive children's home Shruti was reunited with her family in 2012. Here she is with her grandmother in their village.

Results from the Winter Holiday Campaign

We are delighted to report that our amazing supporters raised over \$58,384 during the Winter Holiday Campaign, which will help educate survivors of child trafficking and enable them to be agents of positive change in their communities. Thank you to all who donated.

From Negative Experiences Comes Positive Change



Priya wants to become a social worker and help other children who have been through difficulty and trauma -- and we can think of no one better suited to the task! She is being supported by the NGN Scholarship fund, which will give her academic qualifications, skills and life skills to be a force for good in her community. Priya is an absolute delight despite the traumas of her childhood. She is always upbeat and playful, and we know that her character and determination will stand her in good stead for her future aspirations. Go, Priya!

How We Search for Families

We are often asked how we find families of trafficked children (in a mountainous country with a population of 23 million and one of the fastest urbanizing nations in the world) and what NGN does to ensure that kids are not re-trafficked after returning home. All great and important questions!

Here begins a series of 10 articles that will highlight NGN's innovative approach to finding families of trafficked children in Nepal. We hope you enjoy learning about the journey as much as we love going on it with these kids.

1. Rescue

First things first: we do not enter exploitative orphanages by breaking down doors and scooping up these vulnerable children. Despite what our fantasies may be, that would be traumatic for the kids and illegal.

NGN does, however, work tirelessly with government officials and orphanage funders to bring about a safe, secure and legal removal of any children who have been trafficked and are being exploited.

While the government officials carry out a rescue we are there to lend help, support and expert advice. NGN's main aim once any child is removed from an orphanage is to bring them to safety and avoid any further trauma. The process of organizing a rescue is complex and risky and it can take many months just to organize one. It is heartbreaking to know of cases of exploitation and know that we have to wait to get the legalities in place, but it is the right thing to do to ensure the kids are not taken and re-trafficked and that the children fully understand that they are going to a place of safety and care -- The NGN Transitional Home.

Read about how NGN cares for and rehabilitates trafficked children in its transitional home in the Fall 2013 newsletter.



A Happy Reunion Tinged with Sadness

Sanjay was 4 when he was trafficked into a children's home. That home was to become one of the most notorious in Nepal – Mukti Nepal, in which such serious abuses were carried out that one child died from beatings and neglect.

After rescuing Sanjay and 20 other children and bringing them all to NGN's transit home, we set about finding their families. Sanjay, unlike many of his friends, had little memory of his family so we knew this reconnection would not be easy or quick.

It took 18 months to find Sanjay's family, even though they lived within a few kilometers of the transitional home. Once Sanjay's aunt and grandmother heard that he was nearby, they immediately came to see him.

Sanjay waited nervously at the gates before a flurry of smiles, hugs and kisses were planted on him. At last! They had found each other. But in the midst of the joyful reunion, a sad fact came to light. Sanjay's mother and father had passed away years earlier, within months of each other. Even before NGN had begun searching for Sanjay's parent, he'd lost them.

This is a rare situation for NGN. Most trafficked children who are labeled orphans have at least one living parent. Our staff used all the courage they could muster and told this excited 11 year-old boy who was so full of smiles, that his mother and father would not be meeting him. He was shocked and heartbroken.



Sanjay (left) getting to know his cousin again.

Since that meeting, NGN has helped Sanjay to make contact with his cousins, a stepfather and half-brothers and sisters. They are all delighted to be in each other's lives once again, and Sanjay is eager to live back at home with his relatives.

Sanjay's remarkable story is far from over. Right now though, it is gratifying to know that this boy, who had not seen his family for half of his life, is able to say with a smile on his face, "I can see they love me very much." And they really do.

Welcome NGN Canada!

We are delighted to announce that people across Canada can now donate through our new branch – NGN Canada! This means that all Canadian donations can be tax deductible. If you wish to donate through NGN Canada simply visit us at www.nextgenerationnepal.org/donate_online and click on the Canada icon.



Thank You, NGN Supporters!

We hope that you have enjoyed reading about all the NGN news from the past six months. It has been busy, tough, inspiring and fulfilling, and we hope that you are inspired by what you read here.

We simply could not do this work without our donors and patrons who give money, organize sponsored walks, bake sales and much more. We want to thank you for all you do to help us bring home the lost children of Nepal.



Photo by Leanna Creel

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Next Generation Nepal | 527 Third Ave, Suite 196 | New York | NY | 10016



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