

Dear NGN Friends and Supporters,

Not long ago, we received one of those urgent calls. We were asked to come immediately -- 14 children were found living in terrible conditions near a bus station in Kathmandu. We found 14 children being exploited, sick, frightened and malnourished.

Within hours, the NGN team, together with the Government of Nepal, had rescued the children, removing them out of harm's way and into our Karnali Transit Home. In the van, safe for the first time, the children literally sang with joy and relief.


These kids were not in good shape. They were dirty, malnourished and sick. After taking them for medical exams at the hospital, it was found that six of the children have TB. They will need treatment for months with extra-cautionary care by the staff during this recovery time.

Although the reunification with their families will be delayed because of their health conditions, our Reintegration teams will still begin the search to find these children's families. We will do everything possible to bring these children home healthy and safe.

In the backdrop of all of this, we have also launched "Reintegration Guidelines for Trafficked and Displaced Children Living in Institutions," authored by Julien Lovera and Martin Punaks. These guidelines follow on the heels of a widely distributed paper, "The Paradox of Orphanage Volunteering," authored by Martin Punaks, NGN's Nepal-based Country Director, and Katie Feit, our U.S. volunteer. Together, these two papers address some of the root causes of child trafficking in Nepal. Both papers help to educate not just the individuals who want to make a difference through voluntourism, but also to international organizations and governments who can use these guidelines for child anti-trafficking policies.

In this issue of the newsletter, you'll learn more about the extraordinary commitment of our local reintegration officers, our work in preventing trafficking and the impact NGN has on children's lives.

Your support keeps us going -- it's just that simple. We can do this as long as you stand with us. We are grateful that you do.



Conor Grennan  
**President**  
Next Generation Nepal



## **Spring 2015**

### **CONTENTS**

[14 Children Out of Harm's Way](#)

[Lost Children of Nepal Video](#)

[Part of the Solution](#)

[Academic Stars!](#)

[Interview with Bikash](#)

[Highlights](#)

[NGN Canada](#)

[Escape the Box Video](#)

[Family Matters](#)

[The Gift of Sight](#)

[Ambassador Program](#)

[Paradox of Orphanage Volunteering](#)

[Reintegration Guidelines](#)

[How You Can Help](#)

[Thank You, NGN Supporters!](#)

## 14 Children Out of Harm's Way

Beside a dirty bus park in Kathmandu, 14 kids were living in squalor, left alone to fend for themselves. On their way to and from school each day they had to weave through prostitutes and drug addicts to gain access to the filthy and dismal orphanage they called home. Inside wasn't much better. The scent of urine permeated the house, and nearly every surface was covered in dirt and grime, including those intended for sleeping, eating and bathing.

By the end of the day on March 17, 2015, these same 14 children who had been in danger when they woke up that morning were safe when they sat down for dinner that night. On that day, NGN's amazing team supported the Government of Nepal in the emergency rescue of eight girls and six boys from an incomprehensible state of neglect in an exploitative "orphanage." The rescue itself was swift, and it wasn't long before the kids were safely on a bus headed to NGN's transitional home, literally singing with elation and relief.

The task ahead of us is huge. All the children need medical care and trauma counseling. We have received their medical reports back, and six of the 14 children need on going treatment for TB. All of them are malnourished. NGN will provide the care they need to bring them back to good health so that we can bring them home.

Sitting together on the floor in the living room that first night the kids and staff introduced themselves and began getting to know one another. It was the first step in building the bond of trust that is essential to uncovering the information we need to find their families. The assessment process begins by eliciting their stories and listening for clues in their dialect and even observing their habits to determine where in Nepal is "home." NGN's reintegration teams stir memories that continue to bring us closer to finding their families and their community.

The weeks and months ahead will be challenging. It is in the faces of these kids that we find the motivation and strength to never give up our work to bring home the lost children of Nepal. It is with your help and support that all of this is possible

Thank You!



---

### Lost Children of Nepal Video



<https://vimeo.com/88786394>

---

## Part of the Solution

Under NGN's Empowerment Project, Anish has gone from a bright-eyed child to a mature and well-rounded young adult. He is currently studying hard with the goal of becoming an engineer. He wants to end the cycle of poverty and instability that led him to being taken from his family and placed in a children's home, a cycle that brought fear and abuse to himself and others.

No child should have to endure what Anish experienced in the children's home, and he has every intention of using the knowledge and skills he has acquired under NGN's care to help create a society of prosperity and peace.



Anish is part of the winning team at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Junior Youth Flat Volleyball Tournament

## Nanda & Krish: Academic Stars!



Nanda & Krish relax after acing their exams

While we are always beaming with pride for the students under NGN's Empowerment Project, this month we have even more reason to brag about some of their achievements. The exams these kids have to take are extremely difficult and challenging, so it is no small feat to do well. But Nanda and Krish didn't just do well; they excelled. Nanda not only came in first in his class, he came in first in the entire school! And Krish did so well in the second semester of his Diploma course in Civil Engineering that he was given a scholarship for next semester. We couldn't be happier for them. Congratulations, Nanda and Krish!!!

## Voices of the Youth: Interview with Bikash

**Katie:** *Hi. How are you? You are studying to be a dentist, correct?*

**Bikash:** *Hi. I am well. Yes, I will be a dentist.*

**Katie:** *How much longer do you have before you graduate?*

**Bikash:** *Three more years.*

**Katie:** *That's a long time. How long have you already been in dentistry school for? far I have been studying for two and half years. The program is five and a half years altogether. It is great. Hard, though.*

**Katie:** *How has this year been for you? I know that many students have recently taken big exams. Have you taken your exams yet?*

**Bikash:** *It has been a good school year so far. Semester exams are in a month, and there will be board exams six months after that.*

**Katie:** *When you graduate will you have any more schooling that you need to complete?*

**Bikash:** *No. I will be done with all my school.*

**Katie:** *I know you still have some time left before you graduate, but are you excited, nervous or both?*

**Bikash:** *Now I am nervous. I very much want to be a dentist so maybe after I graduate it will be better. It will be my happiest moment.*

**Katie:** *Have you known for a long time that you wanted to be a dentist? Are you glad that you chose to study dentistry? Are there any other subjects you thought about pursuing instead?*

**Bikash:** *I like science and medicine. I always wanted to be a medical student, and dentistry is the most interesting to me. It is a respectable field. I am very glad with my choice. No regrets. Soon I will have to choose a specialty.*



**Katie:** Do you know what that will be?

**Bikash:** (points to his braces, smiling) I am interested in orthodontics I think.

**Katie:** Do you think you will stay in Kathmandu and be a dentist here or go somewhere else?

**Bikash:** I am not sure if I'll stay or leave the valley. Sometimes I think I want to stay, but there are many dentists in the valley.

**Katie:** Do you find it hard to stay motivated and study sometimes living in a hostel with so many other students? Or do all of you focus on studies equally?

**Bikash:** First year was so difficult, but it has become a comfortable environment now with the other students in the hostel. Sometimes we are not studying. We go on excursions together.

**Katie:** Becoming a dentist must take a lot of work and you must spend a lot of time studying. How many hours a week do you have to spend studying?

**Bikash:** Three to four hours most days, but not every day. Except exam time, then everyday. Usually go to school from 9-4. Then take an hour rest and then study.

**Katie:** That is a lot studying! Do you spend time with patients as part of your requirements? Or if not yet, will you further along in your degree?

**Bikash:** Yeah, we are doing that now. Everyday after 2 p.m. we counsel with patients. We only do simple things with patients now, like take their medical history.

**Katie:** Do you like working with patients?

**Bikash:** Oh, yes, I like it very much. I like that it is one-on-one.

**Katie:** You can't be in school all the time. What do you like to do when you are not studying? Do you have any hobbies?

**Bikash:** I like listening to music.

**Katie:** What kind of music do you like to listen to? Do you also play music, or just listen?

**Bikash:** I like all types of music. Classic Nepali, English and Hindi. Many kinds. I like to play guitar sometimes, but I do not have one, so it is only sometimes that I play.

**Katie:** Any other things that you do in your spare time?

**Bikash:** I am interested in a little poetry.

**Katie:** Reading or writing?

**Bikash:** Both. Also I like to read novels. But I don't have much time for this while I am in school.

**Katie:** I like to read a lot too, but it is hard to read for fun when you have so much required reading to do for class.

**Bikash:** Yes. I will do more when I am no longer in school, I think.

**Katie:** So, back to your living situation. How many students live there with you?

**Bikash:** Two hundred live in the hostel. First-to-fourth-year students live together, but separate boys and girls (laughs). There are seven of us that live together.

**Katie:** And all seven of you get along? Do you cook and eat meals together?

**Bikash:** Yes, we get along well. We eat together when we can. Sometimes our schedules do not allow for us to eat at the same time.

**Katie:** Do you yourself like to cook or do your other roommates?

**Bikash:** I am not a very good cook. We have a didi who cooks for us. We buy the food and she cooks.

**Katie:** What is your favorite food?

**Bikash:** (without hesitation) Dal bhat. I like pizza and spring rolls too though.

**Katie:** You said you go on excursions sometimes. What kind of excursions do you go on?

**Bikash:** Sometimes to places like Manakamana. (note: Manakamana is a famous Hindu temple in Nepal where people can take a cable car ride to get there).

**Katie:** Anywhere else?

**Bikash:** I went bungee jumping three weeks ago. You know bungee jumping?

**Katie:** *I know it, but I think I am too scared to do it! Was it your first time? Were you scared?*

**Bikash:** *We, some friends from school and me, went over holiday. It was my first time. It was so fun. I went first out of everyone. It was scary but I like it.*

**Katie:** *So you would do it again?*

**Bikash:** *Yes!*

**Katie:** *I am very impressed. I like to think I would do it, but I don't know.*

**Bikash:** *You could do it, sister.*

**Katie:** *Well, thank you. I don't know if I am as brave as you though. How do you feel about becoming so independent now? Do you feel different now than when you were younger? Excited about moving out into your own place?*

**Bikash:** *I feel different now. My thinking has changed.*

**Katie:** *How so?*

**Bikash:** *In the way I think about the world and myself. Lots of things in the way I think are different. Before, when younger I only looked from outside. Now I look inward. [I think about] how other people are. Why people are good. How they think about me.*

*I enjoy life, but not so independent now, after three years will be. Once I graduate I will be. Excited to be independent and live on my own and want to be, but I am not yet.*

**Katie:** *Do you keep in touch with your friends from NGN still?*

**Bikash:** *Still hang out with them sometimes. We are in contact regularly though, on the phone, Facebook, that kind of thing. I miss them though. We see each other sometimes every month, sometimes every week.*

**Katie:** *Well, I know you must need to get back to your studies. Thank you so much for taking the time to talk with me. Best of luck on your exams next month!*

**Bikash:** *Thank you.*

---

## Next Generation Nepal Highlights

NGN will continue to rescue and reunify Nepal's lost children. We wish we could bring them all home to their families. These are NGN's rescue and reunification highlights as of February 2015.



### In addition, through the Empowerment Project:

- 16 youth have passed the SLC
  - 17 youth are enrolled in +2 or Diploma
  - 5 youth have passed +2 or Diploma
  - 4 youth are enrolled in Bachelor Degree Programs
-

## NGN Canada Serves its Canadian Supporters

"Next Generation Nepal Canada has been in operation for 2 1/2 years providing our Canadian donors an opportunity to donate through a Canadian source. Opening emails and seeing donation notifications from our Canadian donors fills me with gratitude. The fact that people across Canada take the time to not only donate, but also to thank Next Generation Nepal for helping children is extremely humbling." Paul Woodley, Secretary Treasurer NGN Canada.

This is what a few of our donors have to say:

*"Thank you for all the great work you are doing for all these young lives. They/we are lucky to have people like you."* – A.F. Maple, Ontario

*"It was our pleasure to donate -- I actually saw Conor's post on FB, as it comes up in my news feed. I like that we can donate through Paypal and was pleasantly surprised to see that it was NGN Canada."* – Anonymous

*"It is an awesome cause and we were more than happy to help out."* – H. & B. Waterdown, Ontario

*"You are very welcome, thanks for all the amazing work you do."* – U.W. Prevost, Quebec

*"I enjoyed the book immensely and feel for those children. As a mother myself it would be devastating to have anything happen to mine so i wanted to help another's child(ren)."* – (L.S. Alberta)

NGN Canada wishes to thank all of our donors from Newfoundland to British Columbia and especially our very youngest donor, Ethan Sturm, who is only 10 years old. Your kindness has helped change the lives of these young children in Nepal. Thank You!!!



Paul Woodley & Ethan Sturm  
fundraising for NGN in Ontario



---

## Escape the Box Video



<http://escapethebox.dudaone.com/home>

---

## Family Matters

Bibek's story is of a resilient young boy who has bounced back from great loss and is now thriving at home and school.

While we love to share stories in which everything works out for a child in the easiest way possible, sometimes the truth is more complex and the journey incredibly challenging. These stories deserve to be told as well. They tell of the strength of character of the children that come into NGN's care, and the complexity of factors that our reintegration officers must deal with on a case-by-case basis.

When Bibek was just five years old his father and mother both passed away leaving Bibek, his seven sisters and one brother orphans. It is difficult to comprehend the fear and sadness these nine children were feeling. Left with only his older, alcoholic brother, who also became very abusive and violent, the children experienced immense fear. Bibek withdrew and sank into depression. Everyday was torture. The only way out, he began to think, was to end his life.



Bibek at home during a monitoring visit

A neighbor, concerned for Bibek's well being, sent him to a children's home in Kathmandu, thinking he was acting in Bibek's best interest. Unfortunately, Bibek suffered neglect and abuse at this "orphanage." He was always hungry, with barely enough food to survive. He and the other children lived in squalor in one small room where sickness and filth prevailed.

NGN and THIS worked with the Government of Nepal to rescue Bibek and the 17 other children living in the orphanage. Once they were safe from the abusive home, the process of uncovering Bibek's story and tracing his family began. Although he had lost both his parents, Bibek still had family that could potentially care for him. NGN strongly believes that it is in the best interest of a child to be raised by his or her family whenever possible, so it was with them that NGN has worked to reunify Bibek.

The reconnection was not without its challenges. Bibek's brother has been undergoing counseling and support to put him in the best position to care for his younger brother. At first, NGN was concerned about fully reunifying Bibek with his family. With the hard work and dedication of our reintegration officers, however, and the commitment of Bibek's family, he is now living back at home with his family, where he belongs.

Extensive assessments and in-depth monitoring were carried out and it is clear that Bibek has a solid support system and is safe, healthy and happy. NGN and THIS will continue to check in on Bibek and make sure that he continues to thrive. What we know for sure is just how wonderful it is to see all of the hard work pay off and the care Bibek is getting reflected in his bright smile.



Pravohjan out in the field helping our reintegration officers find and monitor the families of other rescued kids

## The Gift of Sight

This is more than a story about two brothers -- it is also a story about the people who have put their hearts into ensuring that two kids have a bright future at home.

Shahjan and Satya's mother died in childbirth, leaving their father, Narayan, as their primary caregiver. At first Narayan only suffered from night blindness and he was fortunately, still able to work as a laborer in Kathmandu. Over time, though, his eyesight degenerated and he was forced to stop working in Kathmandu and return to his village. He continued making bamboo baskets and mattresses, which he sold to his neighbors as a way to earn at least some money to care for his family. But in 2010 he completely lost his ability to see and just like that, he was jobless.

With the loss of his vision and work, he was unable to support his family both economically and physically, or provide quality care to his children. So when Narayan heard about an organization that would provide lodging, food, and a good education to his boys, he believed taking them there was the best thing he could do for them.



Two brothers, home at last

It is a hard lesson to learn, but the best intentions do not always translate into positive outcomes. The children's home that Narayan brought Shahjan and Satya was not what he had imagined. It was from this deplorable orphanage that they were rescued.

During the process of family tracing the story of their dad, and the challenges he confronted due to his blindness became apparent. It became clear that reunifying the boys with their father would be difficult. That didn't stop NGN's reintegration officers from setting about to find a solution. Based on a doctor's assessment that Narayan's sight could at least be partially restored, we knew what we had to do. With donations from our generous supporters, we have been able to provide Narayan the treatment that might allow him to partially see again. In turn, he will be able to help care for his sons.

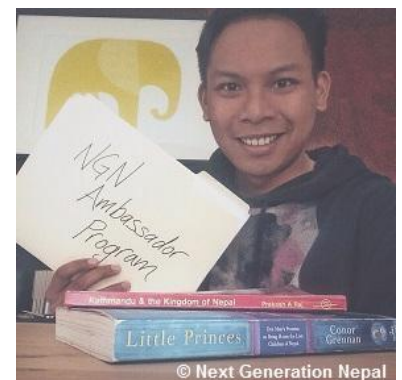
Narayan is now well into his gene therapy treatments. He must undergo many sessions and he has already noticed some progress. He can distinguish shapes, size and colors. From close up, if he concentrates, he can even read the lettering on sign boards! It no longer seems like a far off dream that Narayan will be able to see the smiles on his children's faces and play a role in caring for them, because it is a real possibility. What's more, this experience has brought together the whole family. Other relatives have also become involved and stepped up to offer their support and help in caring for these two brothers. Shahjan and Satya are now counting the days that they will be able to go home and be together with their father as a family.

---

## New Ambassador Program

Next Generation Nepal (NGN) is preparing to launch its new Ambassador Program. The program is designed to boost the organization's local presence in the United States, and increase the connection between its programs and supporters. NGN will be recruiting and training ambassadors from across the country to promote and represent the organization at different events, presentations, speaking engagements, and fairs. These ambassadors will share the stories of the children in Nepal, and help connect audiences with ways to get more involved with the work that we do.

"This is a great opportunity for people to support the organization using their talents," says Philippe Lazaro, Director of the Ambassador Program. "It would be ideal for somebody who may not be able to donate but would like to support NGN in some way." Many supporters of NGN have one or two days a month that they would happily lend to the organization by representing them at an event in their own city which would bring NGN's work to a local level of involvement.



Philippe Lazaro, Director  
NGN's Ambassador Program

Selected ambassadors will be invited to a training summit in Portland, Oregon, where they will be equipped to represent the organization in public appearances such as human rights fairs, film festivals, school assemblies, church groups and other similar gatherings. Watch for the notification that applications for the Ambassador Program are now available. Check the NGN website for updates or email [philippe.ngn.us@gmail.com](mailto:philippe.ngn.us@gmail.com)

---



## The Paradox of Orphanage Volunteering



Martin Punaks, Nepal Country Director

NGN has been working to spread awareness of the links between orphanage volunteering and child trafficking with a new report:

["The Paradox of Orphanage Volunteering: Combating Child Trafficking Through Ethical Volunteering."](#)

In the past few months, six country embassies in Kathmandu have changed their travel advice to include a warning of the harm that can be caused by well-intentioned citizens who give valuable time and money to illegal "orphanages." In the UK, our Country Director Martin Punaks presented the report at an international workshop. We also spoke with a group of passionate American students at [Kansas State University](#) who

went on to set up their own campaign [Escape the Box](#).

In the fall of 2014, [UNICEF Nepal](#) helped "get the word out" by organizing a launch for our report. The report details everything NGN has learned in the last nine years about how orphanage trafficking works and how well-intentioned but naïve volunteers may be fueling it, as well as our thoughts on how to practice ethical volunteering.

The report was shared widely across the globe. Now more people than ever before understand how traffickers prey on vulnerable families, and trick kind volunteers and donors into making donations to feed their greed. If you would like to learn more about this issue, or to download the report, visit the new [Ethical Volunteering](#) page on our website.

---

## NGN Publishes its Reintegration Guidelines

Unfortunately, orphanage trafficking and abuse is widespread in Nepal and our work at NGN can sometimes feel like a mere drop in the ocean. But our spirits are always raised when we meet other like-minded organizations and individuals doing similar work as us. We are often contacted by inspiring individuals seeking our advice and training in "how to rescue trafficked children" and "how to find children's families and take them home." As a small organization, we are limited in how much help we can realistically give, but we always try to offer the support we can. Recently, we decided that one of the best ways we could help our "brothers and sisters in arms" would be to document and publish our entire approach to rescuing and reunifying children -- so we did it! "[NGN's Reunification Guidelines for Trafficked and Displaced Children Living in Institutions](#)" was launched on March 19, 2015 in Kathmandu.

---

## Help Us to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal

There are still thousands of children being exploited in illegal "orphanages" throughout Nepal. Our goal is to bring them all home! With your help we can continue to rescue, care for and reunite these children with their families. Without your support our work could not continue. Your contribution is making a real difference in these children's lives, giving them back their childhood. Here are some examples of how your donations are helping:

- **\$35** covers the monthly cost of finding a child's family and bringing them home.
- **\$75** supports one child in our transitional home for one month.
- **\$420** covers the yearly cost of finding a child's family and bringing them home.
- **\$900** supports one child in our transitional home for one year.

---

## 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](http://www.facebook.com/nextgenerationnepal)

---

## **Thank You NGN Supporters!**

All of us at NGN wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all you who have supported NGN. These six months have been filled with hard work and excitement. Your donations and continued support play a vital role in children being rescued and reunited with their parents and families.

**THANK YOU!**

---



*Next Generation Nepal*