

Dear Friends,

Thank you again for your support!

NGN has much to tell: We recently rescued and reconnected 16 kids with their families. We've watched our empowerment youth grow into young adults who are beginning to make impacts all over Nepal. Our advocacy has continued to grow as we educate communities on the dangers of trafficking in rural Nepal. Our Wisdom Wednesdays educate tourists and Nepalis alike about voluntourism. We are attacking this problem of child trafficking at its roots.

In this issue of the newsletter, we update you on our latest rescue and the reconnection of those children recently brought home to their families and highlight NGN's Country Director, a Nepali himself, who served as a keynote speaker at the European Union conference in Brussels on child trafficking – something we couldn't have imagined when we began this work.

NGN continues to rescue and reunify children trapped in abusive orphanages in Kathmandu. We are doing everything we can to rescue and bring those kids home. Together we can do even more!



Conor Grennan

President  
Next Generation Nepal

## **Update: Recently Rescued and Reconnected!**

Over a few days in July, NGN completed an urgent rescue of 13 children ages 6–14. The children's home where they were being held was without funds and deteriorating. That put these kids on a razor's edge, as it was only a matter of time before the "orphanage" owners looked for other ways to profit from them. They were in the highest risk category of being re-trafficked, certainly to



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a fate far worse than the one they had found themselves in. They are now safe at our transit home while we begin the next steps of getting them back to their families. Our goal was to search for and find all their families before the most important holiday of the year was upon us. We did it! All are now reconnected and were even able to get home to celebrate Dashain with their families and friends! Such a gift for everyone.

## **Spotlight: NGN's Ambassador Program**

### **Introducing Zia, NGN Ambassador and Intern**

My name is Zia Lasky, and I am a senior at the Academy of Arts and Academics (A3) in Springfield, Oregon. I have a deep passion for travel, exploring new cultures, making connections and experiencing the world first hand. Last year I was able to travel to Nepal with eight of my fellow high school classmates. We spent three weeks there in different areas. We participated in village homestays in Eastern Nepal, explored the big city of Kathmandu and trekked from Lukla to Namche Bazaar. Each place was completely different from the other. The diversity of the landscape, culture, religion and people are just some of the many things that make Nepal such an interesting and beautiful place. Out of the trip grew a deep love for the country, a strong drive to learn more about Nepal and an intense curiosity about the planet I live on. Upon my return, I started to look for opportunities focused around Nepal or any internationally engaged organization that I could become involved with. Out of this search, I became in touch with Next Generation Nepal. After reading the book "Little Princes" and learning more about the trafficking issue in Nepal, I want to focus on educating myself and spreading awareness on voluntourism and its effects. After high school, I am planning on attending college for international and cultural studies and I plan on returning to Nepal in the future. In the meantime, I look forward to interning at NGN and participating in the Ambassador program, while expanding my knowledge on Nepal, voluntourism, and about how such an important organization works and makes a difference.



*One of our Southern California Ambassador Chapters*

Read more about the Ambassador Program here:  
<https://nextgenerationnepal.org/get-involved/the-ambassador-program/>

## **Our New Website: Give it a Look!**

We are thrilled to announce the launch of Next Generation Nepal's new website. We encourage you to visit [nextgenerationnepal.org](https://nextgenerationnepal.org). Experience the ease of navigating the site, explore new stories and enjoy the photos of the kids that have been taken home. We would love to hear what you think!

One of the things we love most about the site is that it uses photographs and videos taken by our team members while on missions in the field. This gives you real insight into the incredible emotion behind the work we are lucky to be a part of. The images we have chosen reflect the hope, joy and passion of those whose lives NGN has touched and they make evident the difference your generosity has made.



A huge thank you to all of the writers, photographers, videographers and staff members who made this project possible—we truly wouldn't be here without you.

## Breaking News!

**Our Country Director, Samjyor Lama, speaks before the EU in Brussels on the Dangers of Child Trafficking to orphanages.**



On October 18, NGN's Country Director, Samjyor Lama, represented NGN and the at-risk children of Nepal at a prestigious European Union anti-trafficking roundtable in Brussels. The EU's Anti-Trafficking Day featured a high-level roundtable discussion hosted by the Cabinet of Neven Mimica, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development on the link between trafficking and institutionalization, and featured Lumos as co-sponsor of the event. Representatives from the European Parliament, European Commission, and civil society were there along with speakers from Haiti, Kenya and Nepal. Speakers reflected on orphanage trafficking in their country and its' effect on their country's children, families, and communities. Thank you Lumos for the opportunity for Samjyor to take part in this prestigious meeting.

Brilliant work Samjyor!

## Empowerment Project Update: NGN Youth Continue to Make Strides

As is always the case, we are very excited by the academic progress of our empowerment youth! Currently there are 15 youths studying under this project. Five of them are doing their Plus 2 levels. One of them is being supported for his diploma course and seven youths are being supported while they attend their bachelor's programs. Their chosen fields vary from dentistry, to engineering to pharmaceutical to tourism. These youths have chosen their fields with the help of NGN's mentoring program, which introduces the youths to several accomplished Nepali individuals who share their experiences and successes in their own field. We also have one student still completing his secondary schooling and one who just graduated after passing his Secondary Education Examination and is deciding what to study now. NGN youths—constantly moving forward!



## Wisdom Wednesdays: Shining a Light on Voluntourism

NGN has continued running its public advocacy events, “Wisdom Wednesdays,” to raise awareness about the issue of orphanage trafficking and voluntourism. Every Wednesday during the tourist seasons, NGN offers free talks aimed at backpackers, volunteers, diplomatic missions, tourism industry professionals, the expatriate community and local citizens. The talks are a chance for NGN staff and guest speakers to share their experiences of working in Nepal, and to explain how children end up in orphanages and how foreign voluntourism can incentivize separating children from their families. As well as explaining the problem, the talks also share advice on how travelers and residents can take positive action to help.

The events have proved very successful, with an average of about 50 people attending each session, and the feedback is overwhelmingly positive. Here are a few comments offered by participants:

*“I really hope the awareness grows and people really understand the big picture. I feel like I have a responsibility to tell this message to my country. Hearing these stories gives me strength for that. Thank you!”*

*“I planned myself to work as volunteer but now I have changed my mind and will research more on to where I volunteer. Thanks for this eye-opening program. Wonderful presentation for well-intentioned first-time volunteers. Not too heavy but including enough info to pique interest and make people ask questions. Well done, and thank you.”*



As well as collaborating with long-term friends such as the U.S. Embassy, The Umbrella Foundation and Forget Me Not, we also were honored to be able to host new partners such as His Excellency Glenn White, Australia’s Ambassador to Nepal, who talked about how Australia has amended its travel advice to try to prevent its citizens fueling orphanage trafficking through volunteering. One of our most successful talks this spring was our own youths’ Q&A session. They offered their views and experiences on the problems with orphanages in Nepal and offering advice to those interested in volunteering.

Overall, Wisdom Wednesdays has inspired hundreds of people to become long-term advocates for NGN and ethical volunteering!

## Our Community-Anti Trafficking Project Successfully Wraps Up in Sindhupalchowk

After the earthquake in April of 2015, and witnessing the dramatic need to stop the new surge of trafficking at its source, NGN began The Community Anti-Trafficking (CAT) Project. CAT’s focus is prevention, family preservation and sensitizing vulnerable communities to the dangers of trafficking. We used a variety of methods such as



street dramas, leaflets and radio broadcasts to spread the message and raise awareness. As the need for initial response changed, we adapted also.

Around 17,400 people from local communities were educated and encouraged to further discuss the risk of trafficking and how to keep families together through our street dramas alone! Children's rallies were held in the villages of Chautara and Melamchi for National Children's Day and International Child Rights Day. This brought together over 550 child participants who marched to draw attention to the problem of child trafficking. FM radio spots in both Nepali and Tamang languages were used to further our reach into all the villages in the district, reaching an estimated 11,000 people. NGN, along with the Nepali police monitored vehicles for unaccompanied or trafficked children through our manning of three checkpoints. Over 40 children were intercepted, and all 40 were returned to their families!

Overall the CAT Project has been very effective, and the increase in awareness has reduced the number of intercepted children by over 50 percent! We are happy to report the CAT project will now be continuing in the Humla District before also moving into Mugu. Now, even more communities in rural Nepal will be educated about the risks and dangers of trafficking!

## Follow Us and Stay Informed!

At NGN, we know that it's important to keep you informed about all the ways that you are helping children in Nepal. Please don't forget to follow us on Facebook where new posts about our work appear every other day keeping you in the know.

([www.facebook.com/nextgenerationnepal](http://www.facebook.com/nextgenerationnepal)) and Twitter @NextGenNP. Also, check out our NEW website ([www.nextgenerationnepal.org](http://www.nextgenerationnepal.org)) regularly for updates that are sure to inspire you.

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

Across Nepal, thousands of children are living in squalor, needlessly separated from their parents and loved ones, after being trafficked to orphanages far away from their homes and communities. With your support, NGN works to rescue these vulnerable children from abusive institutions, get them the care they need to heal and reunify them with their families. Change a life today. Please contribute to NGN and help us fight child trafficking and bring families back together again.

Here are some examples of how your donations are helping:

- **\$30** covers the monthly cost of searching for and reunifying a child.
- **\$55** provides all the post-rescue care for a child for a month.
- **\$350** covers the costs of searching for and reunifying a child for a year.
- **\$650** provides all of the post-rescue care for a child for an entire year.

**Thank You Supporters!**



We all know that our actions have consequences, but we want to take a minute to recognize the important actions that you, NGN's supporters, have taken to improve the lives of children in Nepal. Children who were once scared and in danger are now safe because of you. They are surrounded by the love of their families and communities because of you. You have given them their lives back, and because of you, their futures are bright. THANK YOU!