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SUNRISE CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION INC. (SCAI) AUSTRALIA

Bringing a brighter future to the needy children of Nepal

Who We Are – About Us

SCAI is an **not-for-profit, non-government** Australian based charity, established in July 2005, with a vision of all children living a life of freedom, happiness and peace, in an environment where they are loved, valued and respected and have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

We do not receive any government funding and as such, depend entirely on the generous donations of businesses and individuals. We continually strive to keep operating and **administration costs to a minimum (e.g. only 2% in the 2010/11 financial year)**, with **all work in Australia being conducted by volunteers**.

SCAI is run by a committee of five Australians, and is monitored by a Public Fund committee of 3 Trustees. In Nepal, SCAI is registered as an International Non-Government Organisation (INGO) and is run by co founder Emma Taylor, who resides in Nepal for most of the year, overseeing the direction of all projects and future development.

In June 2010, SCAI was endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) in Australia by AusAID, the Australian Overseas Aid Organisation, and the Australian Taxation Office. This means that donations since then to SCAI **over \$2 p.a. are tax deductible**.

What We Do – Our Work

SCAI aims to provide children with a safe, loving, family environment where they have the opportunity to reach their full potential, free from discrimination, violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and poverty. **We do this through three core strategies:**



1 Tackling the problem at its source - keeping children with their families

We provide **Education Scholarship Programs** to hundreds of children who are at risk of being sold to traffickers, used for labour or simply sent by their families to orphanages or other types of institutions in the hope of a better life and education.

The programs, which now support the fees, tuition, uniforms, books, bags, shoes and all education materials for **around 400 children, provide vital support for the families and thereby dramatically reducing the likelihood of unnecessary separation of children from their biological family**.

We also provide training programs at our **Community Training and Development Centres** for adults to develop their personal skills and become better educated, employable and earn a regular salary, also reducing the risk of children being used for labour or being sent away from their homes. The



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centres are developed in line with the needs of the local community. Currently we provide training in sewing, computing and Nepali and English literacy and some other smaller programs such as candle and incense making, **assisting over 600 students to date.**

2 Re-integrating children with their families

We aim to re-connect children who may have been trafficked or willingly sent away by their families to orphanages in Kathmandu with their families and, where possible, re-integrate them and place them under our one of our Education Scholarship Programs.



3 Home care for orphaned or abandoned children

Where children have been orphaned or abandoned and have no relatives that can care for them, we provide children with a safe, loving, home environment, a good education and a range of facilities and opportunities for their personal development at our home, **Sunrise Orphanage.**

This was our first project in Nepal, established in July 2005, in response to a need for a safe, loving, home for many orphaned and abandoned children who were living in corrupt and abusive orphanages in Kathmandu. Many of the children in these orphanages were not orphaned but had either been enticed by traffickers or willingly sent away by their families to Kathmandu to escape the Maoist conflict in their villages or simply in the hope of a better life and education.

So far we have re-connected 70 of the 74 children living at Sunrise with their relatives and they now spend at least the annual Dasain Festival holidays with them back in their home villages. In addition, over 20% of the children Sunrise has cared for have been successfully re-integrated with their families.

Our Plans – Sunrise Children’s Village (SCV)

Sunrise Orphanage has been residing in rented premises since opening almost 6 years ago, and has on average had to move every 18 months due to unreliable landlords. In addition to moving, there are ongoing problems such as power and water shortages. Kathmandu is becoming increasingly overcrowded and it is unlikely that suitable premises will be available in the future.



These factors result in a less stable home for the children than we would like and one that is not sustainable or secure in the longer term. These factors have resulted in our vision to build an eco-friendly permanent home for the current and future children of Sunrise Orphanage, called ‘**Sunrise Children’s Village**’.



We call it **SCV**, as it will not only be a 'home' but also a training ground to provide a strong foundation for the children's future, as well as providing much needed facilities for the local community and a home base for future operations of SCAI.

There are 3 components of SCV with a range of facilities:

1) A permanent home for the current and future children of Sunrise Orphanage

We believe institutionalised care should be a last resort for children. Sadly, though, whilst the incidence of trafficking, abandonment of children, displacement of families and the mortality rate has declined leaving less newly orphaned children since the civil war ended in 2006, given the lack of medical facilities and the very poor economic condition of many village areas, there is likely to be thousands of orphaned children for several years to come.



In order to create an environment which is as close to a natural family environment as possible, we are planning to **build 8 self-contained flats**, each with a boys' bedroom and a girls' bedroom so that siblings may stay together, a mother's bedroom, and an open plan living/study/activities room and kitchen. Each flat will be home to a maximum of 10 children.

In addition to this, there will be a communal **playground, courtyard, quiet areas, and a small farm area made up of vegetable, fruit and herb gardens and farm animals for Sunrise consumption.**

2) A multi-purpose centre for our children, as well as for the children and adults from the surrounding community. This will provide space for various training and development programs, as well as a rehabilitation centre, office and meeting area.

3) School for the Sunrise children and children from the local community

Around the village of Gurje where we have bought land there are limited school facilities, resulting in most children being poorly educated and a migration of youth as well as whole families to Kathmandu for a better education. In partnership with the local community, we plan to expand the educational facilities in the community by developing the infrastructure at the existing primary school. For example, we plan on renovating buildings, providing additional teachers and teaching materials and adding pre-primary classes and senior classes, as well as building more new classrooms and other much needed facilities such as a library, computing and science labs and sporting facilities.



It is anticipated by the local community that these steps will prevent further migration to Kathmandu, as well as enable some youth and families to return to Gurje and the surrounding village areas.



Both English and Nepali will be taught at all levels, along with the Nepali government curriculum and additional subjects for the children's further development.

Environmental Sustainability at SCV

The environmental impact of the Sunrise Children's Village is being reduced with careful planning, design and the selection of low cost, low tech, locally built, solutions. The use of local materials, resources and labour will provide employment, boost the local economy, encourage greater ownership, responsibility and sense of achievement by the locals and produce a model that can be replicated in other communities.

Sustainable Living Initiatives at Sunrise Children's Village

Energy efficiency – With simple traditional Nepali housekeeping practices such as hand washing and cooking with fresh produce, we will minimise the need for washing machines, dryers, dishwashers, fridges/freezers, thereby and minimising our water and energy needs.

Renewable energy - Renewable energy sources at SCV will minimise our reliance on the government electricity supply. These include solar power for electricity and biogas for heating and cooking.

Building design – Site layout and building design features will increase building comfort and reduce energy demand with passive heating and cooling, ventilation and light through location, orientation and shading, and materials for thermal mass, insulation, and door and window seals.

Water supply – A combination of rainwater captured and stored on site. These include stream and bore water, as well treated grey water, with the aim being a reduced reliance on government supplied water.

Food – A large organic garden and orchard on site will produce organically grown food that can be eaten in season or preserved.

Recycling - Environmentally friendly rubbish and sewerage disposal and practicable recycling methods such as composting bins and toilets and the use of biogas are planned.

Sustainability Beyond SCV

We hope that SCV will be a model for other organisations to replicate in Nepal. The rural location approximately 20km outside of the city, will provide a healthy environment, away from the air pollution of the city and with stunning and inspiring Himalayan views.

We believe education is a key requirement in building hope and creating a sustainable future for generations to come. We plan to not only educate our staff, teachers and Sunrise children about sustainable living, but to create a unique program whereby they take their knowledge out into the wider community, educating people through our training centres, through the 30 or so schools where we currently support children and beyond.

If you would like further details on SCAI or SCV, please contact Emma at emma@scai.org.au or +977 98033 70997.

