

Sunrise Children's Association Inc.
"Bringing a brighter future to the needy children of Nepal"



NEWSLETTER
Quarter 3
July-September 2013

Dear Friends,

This quarter **we are reporting from our new home and school at Sunrise Children's Village (SCV)**, in Gurje Village, Nuwakot just outside the Kathmandu Valley. That is exciting in itself! The live in carers have been doing a fantastic job settling in to the new home and helping make the transition as smooth as possible for the children, and the children have adapted extremely well.

Sunrise Orphanage (at SCV)
8th Birthday of Sunrise!

This quarter kicked off with a wonderful celebration – **the 8th birthdays of Sunrise Nepal and Australia, a handful of children's birthdays and graduation celebrations for the SLC students. What a day!** So much fun, laughter and of course good food!



Above: SLC graduates Mansingh, Lasang, Palsen, Ashish, Laxmi, Sabin, Bijay and Lal



Above: Some of the Sunrise committee members cutting the cake in celebration of our 8 year anniversary

New children-welcome Bikash, Pushpa and Puja!

The big party day was no doubt a little overwhelming, but hopefully also a very joyful day for **11 year old Bikash Thapa** who joined Sunrise on party day. Bikash came from the Kalimati slums where he was living with his two teenage siblings, and is an elder brother of 10 year old Kajol, who joined us in November 2012.



Above: Newcomer Bikash Thapa with sister Kajol re-united at Sunrise

In August **10 year old Puspa and 7 year old Salina (Puja) Dangol** also joined Sunrise on request by the District Administration Officer of Nuwakot District after being terribly neglected and mistreated by their family.



Above: New siblings Pushpa and Puja with new Sunrise sister Kajol

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Re-integrated children

Milan Tamang and Lokendra Khatwal, two of the 15 boys rescued and sent to Sunrise in May 2013, were re-integrated to their families at the end of July and early August respectively. Great news, we wish you all the best at home boys!

1st Term Exams

1st term exams were held in September, for the **first time at their new school**. Given that they had to adjust to new teachers after many years at the same school in Kathmandu, new textbooks, quite a different school environment and a late start, **the children did very well, with 53 of 63 children passing**. The system of education is slightly different under the community/government school vs private school system, so sponsors please see the notes at the bottom of the exam sheet for details.

Training

All staff and children underwent **fire fighting and evacuation refresher training in September**, with new plans made for the new home and new fighting and evacuation teams established. The team captains passed the practical fire extinguisher test with flying colours (well lots of flying water!)



Above: Isak Tamang, one of the fire fighting team members during practical training

SLC graduates start college!

In July, Mansingh Aidee, Bijay Tamang and Lasang Lama started year 11 Science at Canvas College in Kathmandu and Palsen Lama, Laxmi Rana, Ashish Tamang and Lal Bahadur BK started year 11 Management.

Jobs/Work Experience

Ashish Tamang, who is studying Management at college (year 11) daily from 6.30am-11am, started **working full time (1-8pm) at an upmarket mountain sportswear store** in Kathmandu. Like the other college students, Ashish is gaining very useful and practical experience for his future as well as earning some money of his own, gradually leading to his personal independence.



Above: Ashish Tamang, now working at a mountaineering clothing store while studying at college

Palsen Lama also started some practical work experience, in the head office of Sunrise in Kathmandu, after her morning college classes.

Encouragement Awards

The July awards went to Subash Tamang, Bishal Thapa, Rajaram Thapa and Bishal Rayamajhi, **August** to Bikash Thapa, Isack Tamang, Yub Raj Bhatta and Niruta Lama and **September** to Tilak Kandel, Mariam Tamang, Niroz Ghimire and Dewaki Shrestha.

Festival, sports and other activities

School

In August a **quiz competition** was held at the new school for classes 7 to 10, with 16 children from Sunrise participating. In September the children **celebrated Teej Festival and presented a culture program with song, dance and drama. Very entertaining as always!** On Teej festival, women and girls throughout the country traditionally dress in red with lots of bangles and flock to local temples with offerings to pray for the long life of their husbands, or husbands to be!

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Above: Arati, Marium and Niruta dancing at the Teej Festival program at the new school

Home

In mid September all Sunrise staff and children enthusiastically took part in a **Puja (worship) to bless our new Sunrise home, led by a local Hindu priest. Peace and happiness prevail!**



Above: Bishnu Sharma receiving a blessing from the Priest during the blessing ceremony of the new Sunrise

In mid September, 26 of the children ran their little hearts out in the annual **Kathmandu Marathon, 5km event and again did very well**, even without regular training! To complete the day out they then spent the afternoon at the beautiful and peaceful Boudhnath Stupa. The following weekend 17 children enjoyed an **excursion to a circus**, a fundraiser for a children's project in Kathmandu.

Fundraisers – Kathmandu Kids do it again!

In September **Kathmandu Kids** held another fantastic cocktail party, **raising over \$20,000 for**

the Kalimati slums Education Scholarship Program. Over the past 5 years, Kathmandu Kids have worked tremendously hard to support over 100 children in the slums (now over 150 including the pre-schoolers), **raising almost \$145,000 to date! A HUGE thank you to everyone who supported the event;** in particular to key committee members **Paul Cumming, Mike Dworkin and Annette Advani. Everyone at Sunrise and the Kalimati slums sincerely appreciate your incredible support!**



Special visits from volunteers, sponsors and donors

Volunteer Briony Hume returned for her 5th visit to Sunrise, much to everyone's delight! Briony is a much loved member of the Sunrise family, and contributed again enormously on this trip. This year she joined us on monitoring trips of the Mustang and Jhapa Education Scholarship programs, and once again captured some fantastic footage which will be seen on our new DVD, coming soon!



Above: Volunteer Briony Hume with some of the staff and children in Jhapa that Sunrise sponsors

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Nada Tuta from Canada and **Annie Kruckemeyer** from Adelaide joined us at the end of September for 4-6 weeks. They both made a tremendous contribution to the new school in particular, with Annie transforming Nursery class and Nada focusing on Kindergarten. They both spent a lot of time hands on with the local teachers and teacher's assistant, applying new and different techniques to help improve their teaching methods, children's behaviour, health and hygiene. Many fun activities were also organised at home which the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed and lots of goodies kindly donated! We were also thrilled, the boys in particular, to have **Thomas Kruckemeyer**, Annie's wonderful hubby come for a week at the end of her stay.



Above: Volunteer Annie Kruckemeyer with some of the Sunrise children with a bit of fun face painting during Tihar holidays



Above: Volunteer Nada Tuta creating some fun activities with the Sunrise children

Chris O'Reilly from Adelaide, also known as Grandpa 2, visited us for the second time in September, but not for long enough according to

the children! Thank you for your generosity again this year with support for our new SCV home!

Last but not least, it was great to have **sponsor Sylvie Pellet** also visit one of her two sponsor children at the Transition Home for College Kids (and donated a fantastic keyboard to them!) and **Ryan Benson and Ah Young Kim** visit from Sydney and provide lots of generous goodies, including a round of winter fleeces for all the kids!

Education Scholarship Programs **Pleasing 1st Term Exam Results**

In the 3rd quarter, most children sat their 1st Term exams for the 13/14 school year and again we were very pleased overall with their results. This year the number of students formally sponsored through these programs (i.e. ex the 50+ pre-schoolers inside the slums) has increased from 363 to 418.

Kathmandu Program: Of 88 children, **56 children passed (64%)**, 20 failed, 1 didn't sit, 11 n/a yet

Kalimati slums Program: Of 106 children, **66 passed (62%)**, 33 failed, 4 didn't sit, 3 n/a yet

Jhapa Program: Of 100 children, **96 passed (96%)**, only 3 failed, 1 didn't sit

Sindhupalchowk Program: Of 60 children, **48 passed (80%)**, 12 n/a yet

Mustang Program: Of 64 children, **53 passed (84%)**, only 1 failed, 11 n/a yet

The children that didn't sit were ill. Regarding the results, there is a general improvement year on year which is great.



Above: Some of the children Sunrise sponsors in Mustang

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Jhapa monitoring visit by Kathmandu team

Sunrise staff, Sita Siwakoti, who lives in Jhapa amongst the local communities from which the sponsored children come, closely monitors this program on a weekly basis, visiting the homes and schools and providing guidance and support for the children and their families. **Annually, our team from Kathmandu make the journey** to South Eastern Nepal to meet with the schools, the children and as many families as possible. **Over a 5 day period in early September, we managed to visit all 6 schools, visit 27 families in their homes and see 98% of the sponsored children.**

In addition to the school necessities for the sponsored children, Sunrise provided **a range of sporting equipment for all students** to enjoy as well as **awards for the top 3 students in each class and the most regular attendees.** A very eventful and successful trip! **Thank you to Sita, sponsors Kathmandu Kids and everyone that helps make this program possible for the 100 very needy children it supports.**



Above: Sunrise staff Sita Siwakoti visiting one of the families Sunrise sponsors in Jhapa

Mustang monitoring trip by Kathmandu team

In late September, the Kathmandu team also visited the schools and children Sunrise sponsors in the mountainous district of Mustang. **We visited 6 of the 7 schools (1 was closed) and met nearly all of the 64 children we are sponsoring** this year. At the school visits we met with parents, children and the key teachers/principals and talked about the program, their children's performance at school, attendance and support from their families. As in

Jhapa, in addition to the school necessities for the sponsored children, we provided **a range of sporting equipment for all students** to enjoy as well as **awards for the top 3 students in each class and the most regular attendees.** It too was a very worthwhile trip, and it was great to see the positive development of many of the children.



Above: Some of the children Sunrise sponsors in Mustang

Community Training Centres

Another **12 new students started the sewing course at the Jorpati centre and 12 at the Kalimati slums centre this quarter**, taking the total to 296 since the program start in Jorpati in Oct 2008 and 155 in the slums since April 2010.



Above: One of the students at the sewing centre in the Kalimati slums

Sunrise and all the project beneficiaries would like to thank all donors for your generous support that makes this work in Nepal possible.

**With love and appreciation,
The Sunrise Team, Australia and Nepal**