

Sunrise Children's Association Inc.

"Bringing a brighter future to the needy children of Nepal"



NEWSLETTER

**Edition 1,
November 2006**

Dear Friends of Sunrise,

Well, 2006 certainly has been an enormous year for Sunrise Children's Association. Most of you will remember that we started this year with only the nine children that we had originally opened the orphanage with in August 2005.



Original nine Sunrise Children

Emma and Sarah visited Sunrise in March/April, and their arrival coincided with the successful transfer of 18 children from the Shree Mother Nepal orphanage to Sunrise Orphanage. Along with the children came Fulmaya and her two daughters, a wonderful lady who had been caring for these 18 children for the past couple of years. She is now one of our live-in carers/cooks, and much loved by the children.

April was a busy month, with the Child Welfare Board of Nepal requesting us to care for a further nine children who had been rescued from another orphanage in Kathmandu, where they had been deserted by the people running it. Three more referrals were then made by members of the local Nepalese community. So by July 2006, we had 41 children under our full time care.



Above: Sunrise children, Right: Karen and Lal

Sangeeta and the wonderful Sunrise staff have worked tirelessly, organizing the rental of a second property, purchasing everything necessary to outfit a second house, and hired new carers, all at minimal cost. So now we have two houses: Daisy and Marigold, each only 5 minutes walk from the school the children attend.

Dashain and Tihar: The great festival of Deepawali

Sangeeta and the Sunrise Committee held a charity dinner at Hotel Mandap in Kathmandu to raise money for Sunrise Orphanage. With the proceeds they were able to hold a wonderful celebration for the festivals of Dashain and Tihar in October.

These festivals focus on the importance of family, and as much as possible people travel to be with their families. The tradition is to sacrifice a goat in celebration and to bring good fortune on the house. This is followed by a feast, which the children of course loved. All the children received new clothes as is traditional for Dashain, all bought from money raised by the local Nepal community.

During 'bhai tika' sisters can 'make' brothers by placing a blessing on their foreheads. This special relationship lasts a life time, and is renewed every year at bhai tika. The boys and girls of Sunrise Orphanage formally honoured their sibling relationships with each other during this festival.

Sponsor Karen Della Torre visits Sunrise, Nepal

Karen sponsors Lal Bahadur Biswokarma at Sunrise Orphanage. She visited him while holidaying in Nepal in August. Here's what she had to say:

"... it was great to see first hand the wonderful work Sunrise are doing to care for these children. Sangeeta, the Chairperson of Sunrise Orphanage in Kathmandu picked me up from my hotel and took me to the house as the children came home from school. I was greeted enthusiastically by the children and given a Hindu blessing and flowers from Lal, the boy I sponsor. Most of the children were doing their homework and I was impressed at their level of enthusiasm and concentration, particularly as the homework was an exercise in writing English!



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I spent a couple of hours talking to Sangeeta and the children and even with the language barrier, was made to feel very welcome. The children were obviously happy and well cared for. It was a very rewarding visit and one that anyone who is involved in supporting these children should make the effort to do. I feel very proud to be involved in supporting these bright happy children and the visit certainly was a highlight of my holiday, one that I will cherish always."



Karen and the Sunrise children

Shree Mother Nepal Orphanage

Discussions are continuing with this orphanage to transfer the children sponsored by Sunrise to the Sunrise Orphanage. The children at this orphanage are visited regularly by Sangeeta. The orphanage remains overcrowded, and we are working with the Child Welfare Board of Nepal to reach a situation that is in the best interests of the children.

Welcome Bharat to Sunrise Orphanage!

We are very excited to announce that 12 year old Bharat Pariyar has just moved from Shree Mother Nepal Orphanage to Sunrise Orphanage. Bharat has cerebral palsy and extreme difficulty walking, and we have long been campaigning for his transfer to Sunrise so that we can provide him with the physiotherapy and specialist care he requires. He is now receiving regular physiotherapy at a local clinic and is doing strengthening and flexibility exercises daily with one of our live-in carers. He has transitioned easily and is very happy to be at Sunrise. Welcome Bharat!



Bharat at SMNDA, March 2006

Volunteer Program

We have several volunteers ready to travel to Kathmandu in the next few months.

Anyone can put their hand up to volunteer at Sunrise Orphanage. Many volunteer programs charge several thousand dollars just to participate, even before you have paid for your flight. We are unique in that we offer this experience at no extra charge, other than those we incur.

Our program includes a one week or two week language, culture and sightseeing program which we strongly recommend volunteers participate in. The two-week program includes travel outside of Kathmandu Valley to Pokhara and the beautiful Chitwan National Park. Costs are variable depending on time of year.

Volunteering is how Emma, Michaela and Sarah came to create Sunrise Children's Association. It is a truly life changing experience, and we thoroughly recommend it. For more information, and an application form please go to our website: www.scai.org.au.

Sunrise Kid's Feature Column

We are pleased to introduce a part of the newsletter that will be created by the Sunrise Children. Over the year the kids will be asked to draw or write something they would like included in the SCAI newsletter.

To start us off for this year, is this lovely drawing by Anita Lama.



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News from SCAI Australia

We would like to introduce our newest committee member: Urmila Cuganesan.

Urmila has been working with Sunrise for the past four months. She has committed many hours of her time with the organisation of the Sydney and Melbourne fundraisers. Urmila is a Registered Nurse and has worked as a manager in the disability sector for several years.

Sunrise Nepali Fundraising Dinners: Sydney and Melbourne

SCAI held two fundraising events in September and October, both of which were a great success and enjoyed by all!



Above: Nick Hardcastle (MC) assists in displaying a live Auction item in Sydney.



Above: (right to left) Michaela, Sarah and Emma

The MC's did a fantastic job, and we were thoroughly impressed and entertained by the beautiful Nepali dancers, the various musical performances, and the captivating Bollywood dancing troupes.

In Melbourne, guests had the opportunity to enjoy an inspiring presentation by Brigitte Muir, the first Australian woman to summit Mt Everest and the first Australian to climb the seven highest peaks in the world.



She too was impressed with the work Sunrise was doing:

"Fantastic job!...thank you for being such an inspiration and for making me a small part of your dream."

At these two fundraisers we raised just over \$30,000 in total! These events were reported in the local papers of Melbourne, Leichhardt and on the Central Coast, which has provided us with some further exposure and some additional volunteers.

Sponsorships and Sunrise Children's Village

We are proud to say that of the 72 children we support, we only have 2 Sunrise children who require half sponsorships (\$24 per month), so a big thank you all again for your kind support!

Whilst some very generous people have come on board to sponsor some of the rent, gas, water, electricity and live-in carer salaries, we still need several more to cover these monthly costs:

We still require:

- 1 gas/water/electricity at \$60 per month
- 5 carers salaries at \$60 per month each
- 7 more sponsorships of \$30 per month for the Marigold house rent (total Marigold rent \$300 per month.)

Sunrise Children's Village Building Fund

As many of you will know, we recently launched our building fund. So far, we have had 6 kind sponsors come on board, donating \$40 each per month (\$480 each per year).

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To purchase one large block of land of sufficient size to build **4 Sunrise houses** plus room to graze animals and grow crops, it will cost around AUD\$240,000.

The countdown is on, from 500 we now only need 494 more people to get involved and contribute \$40 per month!

So for only one cup of coffee per week, you can be a founding donor of Sunrise Children's Village, a safe, loving, and importantly permanent home for more than 100 needy children!

Contact Emma or Michaela today about getting involved with either Sunrise Children's Village, supporting a child or our current household needs.

What's coming up in 2007?

In Nepal:

We would all like to take this opportunity to say CONGRATULATIONS to Sarah Kemp, who is getting married in Kathmandu on December 12th to Mr. Bikash Bhattarai. Sarah arrived in Kathmandu last week to make the final preparations.



Sarah and Bikash

She will be living in Kathmandu until July 2007, and of course will be working at the orphanage during that time. Emma is delighted that she will be in Nepal in time for Sarah's wedding, leaving on December 10th. She will be staying with the children for 3 weeks.

Next year we are fortunate enough to have the entire committee in Kathmandu, with Michaela spending a month in April and Urmila spending 2 weeks in June.

In Australia:

Two fundraisers are being planned in Sydney:

May 2007: An exciting cultural program of dancing, singing and readings by the Sri Lankan, Indian and Nepali communities. September 2007: Another one of our popular Sunrise dinners. We are also considering a third fundraiser in Melbourne.

If you live in Sydney or Melbourne and would like to be part of the magic of helping to organize a Sunrise fundraiser, please contact Emma emma@scai.org.au or Michaela michaela@scai.org.au.

Other ways to get involved with Sunrise

Become a member today!

Our membership form can be found at www.scai.org.au, so if you are not currently a member of Sunrise, please join us in this wonderful quest! Please email or post the form along with the membership fee of \$15 to:

Michaela Drapes
PO Box 444
Edgecliff NSW 2027

Alternatively you can transfer the money directly into the Sunrise Bank Account, see website for details. Once we reach 100 members we will be able to apply for Deductible Gift Recipient status, and our donors will be able to claim their donations back on their tax.

Next Edition February 2007

A wrap-up of Christmas at Sunrise, words and art from the children and an introduction to our new "Books for a Brighter Future Program".

Please continue to spread the word of the great work that Sunrise is doing, and let's continue to work enthusiastically together to bring the children of Nepal a brighter future.

From the Sunrise Family, a big thank you for your wonderful support. We couldn't do it without you!

<i>Emma Taylor</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Michaela Drapes</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Sarah Kemp</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Urmila Cuganesan</i>	<i>Committee Member</i>