Sunrise Children's Association Inc.

"Bringing a brighter future to Nepal's children in need"

Newsletter
January-March 2019

Sunrise Transition Home and Reintegration Program

Dear Sponsors,

It is our immense pleasure to share the newsletter for this quarter with great news of our sponsored children and their involvement in school and extra-curricular activities**.** Your continued support helps them to have much brighter futures than they would otherwise have had.

Sunrise Home

Reintegrating children to their families

SCAI strongly believes that every child has the right to be with its biological family wherever possible, and that a nurturing family environment provides the best foundation for a child's overall development.

Whilst we provide the children with a family environment as much as possible, a good education, and opportunities for personal development while in Sunrise home, it is only a temporary solution for children with no other option for safe care within any immediate or extended family.

Above: Children in Sunrise home

While at Sunrise home, our team works to trace their families if they have lost contact, facilitate regular communication and strengthen bonds with any relatives they may have, with the intention of reintegrating them back into their immediate or extended family and communities as soon as is feasible. Two families are still yet to be found.

The ideal time to reintegrate children to minimize disruption to their education is at the end of the school year (March, April) or if not during a lengthy holiday period during the year, to enable them time to adapt.

Unfortunately, this year we are unable to reintegrate any of the 14 children currently in the home. We continue to work with immediate or extended family to create safe environments, with some parents undergoing counselling and rehabilitation.

Read below for news about some of the 50 or so children who we have successfully reintegrated back into family and are still supporting!

Child Progress

Outstanding 2nd term exam results

All children passed their exam results with **1 Distinction, 9 1st divisions** and **4 in 2nd division**.

The children were also gives various awards at school on the 31st Annual Day and Parents' Day Programme! **Congratulation little champs!**

Above: Sushila receiving 1st Prize award

Above: Sujan, Puja and Pushpa receiving awards at school for their good performance

Above: Anuradha receiving a 2nd Prize award at school

Participation in Extra-curricular activities

The Sunrise children continue to participate enthusiastically in various activities at school as well as at home.

Above: Laxman doing a cultural performance with a classmate at their Annual Day Program 2019

Above: Ram, Laxman, Deval and Sushila performing at school

Above: Bishal hosting an informal part of the program on Annual Day at school

Educational tour

Three youth, **Anuradha, Pushpa and Niraj,** went to Pokhara, Lumbini and Palpa on their school tour, three important historical places in Nepal, for 3 Days with 33 other students from years 8, 9 and 10.

Above: Niroj departing from School for educational tour

Children preparing for their final exams

The end of year exams were held at the end of March, so the Sunrise children studied hard in the lead up. Results in next newsletter!

Above: Sunrise children preparing for their final exams at home

Counseling support for the children

Psychosocial counselling sessions run on a regular basis for the children in the home, to assess if they are facing any issues and provide appropriate mental and emotional support.

Above: Sunrise children in regular counseling session at Sunrise home

Annual Sunrise Picnic

On 19th January 2019, our team organized the Annual Picnic where our children from **Sunrise Transition Home, youth from the reintegration program, graduated youth, staff and local board members** enjoyed a wonderful picnic at Godawari Botanical Garden.

This event is scheduled annually in order to strengthen the bonds between the various groups, and have fun and fellowship among children, youth and the team working together to improve the lives of the children.

Above: SCAI Program Manager Raj with Sushila, Kajol and Abhishek

Above: NGO Program Manager playing games with young Sunrise children

Above: SCAI President/CEO participating in the 3-legged race with one of the Sunrise graduates Repa, and below with Ganesh, Chirring and Susmita

Holi, The festival of Colors

Holi, the festival of colours, is always a highlight and the children and live in carers and management staff again celebrated in a colourful way! Everyone enjoyed very much!

Above: Siblings Sushil and Sushila, and below Yasodah and Niraj enjoying Holi

Above: Some of the Sunrise children and staff enjoying Holi Festival together

Amazing Snow Fall in the Sunrise village

This winter (December, January and February), snow fell quite heavily for the first time in our local area. The children and staff enjoyed playing with snow and making a big snowman. It was first time some children and staff had seen snow this close so they had a lot of fun!

Above: Kids playing with snow near Sunrise home

Reintegration Program

One of the main reasons so many children in Nepal are sent away from their homes to orphanages is **for a better life and good education. It is estimated around 80% are not orphans.** Alternatively, if they remain at home, often children they are sent to work to help the family earn money, as the families cannot afford their education or other basic needs.

At Sunrise home, we care for children who have no other options for safe care or after being rescued from an orphanage or similar institution that was corrupt or abusive. Whilst in the past children have stayed at Sunrise home for some years, in recent years, we have more **actively working to build stronger care networks amongst extended family**, to enable children to live safely with them and receive an education**. In most cases, the children are now living with older siblings, aunts and uncles.**

SCAI is **currently supporting 39 children.**

With your sponsorship, **SCAI supports youth up to year 12 or a 3-year Diploma** in place of year 11 and 12, unless we assess that they can manage on their own before that. We also provide varying levels of support such as clothing **and other personal needs, rent and food** assistance based on the needs of each individual child.

Above: Som with his maternal aunt and cousin whom he lives with

Monitoring through Home and School visits shows reintegrated youth are doing well

As part of our regular monitoring schedule, our team visit the children at home at school to assess their situation and progress, provide guidance and emotional support and help the children and families with any challenges they may be facing.

Overall, the children are doing well, attending school and college regularly and are happy with their relatives. As with the children in Sunrise home, the reintegrated youth actively studied for their **end of year exams at the end of March.**

Above: Laxmi and Durga Shakya with their aunt whom they live with

Above: NGO Program Manager visiting Meera (Mithu) at college

Above: School visit of Dipesh Lama

Above: Kajol living with her older sister and her sister and her sister's husband and children

Above: Visit with Milan with his elder sister Marium, who is his now his guardian

Above: Pasang, now living with his grandmother

Above: Sanjeev, living happily with his maternal uncle

Above: School visit of Bhasker Bhandari, (with brother Deewaker), now living with their aunt and her family

Child progress

Great Exam results

The children's families are usually uneducated so the children do not receive the same level of support at home for their education. Despite this, the youth are doing very well overall, and some are really excelling!

Big congratulations to **Deewakar Bhandari and Dipesh Lama in particular for their impressive results!**

- **Diwaker** secured **80.3%** in his 4th semester of a 3 year Diploma in Electrical Engineering
- **Dipesh** secured **71.9%** in his year 10 pre-final exams (officially the final year of school still in Nepal).

Sanjeev Bhatta, participated in "New Year Special Photo Contest 2076"

Sanjeev Bhatta, now in year 12 participated in "New Year Special Photo Contest 2076" as a contestant number 66, Organized by National News Daily, Dhading (New Year in Nepal is in mid-April).

Above: Sanjeev Bhatta, a contestant for New Year Special Photo Contestant 2076

Family Progress

Amber's sister in law working hard to take care of Amber and their family through farming

With a lot of hard work, Laxmi, the sister-in-law of Amber Tamang, has developed a thriving vegetable farm. She, with Ambers help, grows seasonal and off seasonal vegetables at her farm. Amber is now studying in year 12.

Above: Amber with his sister-in law, and her impressive cabbage farm

Sunrise Youth Club Activities

Youth 16-40 years make up 40.68% of the total populations of Nepal according to Nepal Demographic Health Survey (NDHS) 2016, so play an influential role in society.

Sunrise Youth Club is a graduate led platform for skill enhancement, professional and personal development, networking and exploring opportunities for further study and careers for our youth. The club members meet to discuss various topics as well as doing community work in various places.

Painting at Kalika School

In February, members of the youth club re-painted our community school playground, along with our SCAI and NGO teams.

Above and below: Emma and Palchhen, Amber, Sadhumaya

Above: Mitthu and Ram Chandra

Above: Some of the SYC members with staff, repainting our community school playground

Capacity Building Training to staff & key board members of NGO partners - Child Protection Training

This training, organized by SCAI, was very useful to educate our team further about child related issues, policies of the government, roles of community service officers at field level, reintegration approach and rights of children. The 3-day intensive session was run by senior Trainers from Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB).

Above: During 3 day Child Protection Training

Above: Live in carers at Sunrise home, Shanti and Angur, with Emma and Laxmi, SO NGO Chairperson during training

Above: Participants from SCAI, our NGO partners and Central Child Welfare Board at 3 day Child Protection Training

Project Advisory Meetings

Every six months SCAI holds a review meeting with key government bodies where we present our progress over the last 6 months, take on board valuable feedback and further strengthen support for our programs.

At central level the advisory team consists of the Social Welfare Council, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen, Central Child Welfare Board, National Planning Commission, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration. At district level, the advisory committee includes Chairperson of Rural Municipality, Coordinator of District Coordination Committee, School Principal and other key stakeholders.

Above: Bi-annual central level progress and coordination meeting at Social Welfare Council

Above: Bi-annual district level project coordination meeting with Dupcheswor and Shivapuri RM's

We hope you enjoyed reading some of the highlights for the quarter.

Thank you all for your ongoing support, which helps us bring much brighter futures to the children and their families!

Emma, Raj, Mansingh and the SCAI Team in Australia and Nepal