Sunrise Children's Association Inc.

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

Newsletter
April - June
2019

Sunrise Home and Reintegration Program

Dear Sponsors,

We are delighted to share this quarter's news from Sunrise Home and the Reintegration Program in Nepal, including **exam results,** news of the **recently rescued children, graduates volunteering and employment, trainings and various other extra-curricular activities.**

With your continuous and generous support, we saw our **9th group of youth graduate from school (year 10) and our 7th group from college (year 12).** The youth are now pursuing their dreams with the support of our team through career counselling and regular monitoring, home visits and family counselling.

Sunrise Home

Welcome 21 new children to Sunrise home

On 2nd and 3rd of June 2019, our team welcomed **19 new children** who were rescued from an unauthorized children's home in Kathmandu, along with 103 others. The children were rescued by the Central Child Welfare Board's, National Centre for Children at Risk after finding the children were not being fed or cared for adequately and many had parents back in their remote villages who had been charged hefty fees of up R100,000 to provide a home in Kathmandu where the children would receive a better life and education than they could provide in their village.

The government were able to return 88 children to their families directly and the remaining children were sent to homes like Sunrise where we could provide immediate support, and then being the work of tracing their families and re-uniting them where possible.

Above: Staff of Sunrise home welcoming some of the children

Above: Welcoming 19 children to Sunrise home following rescue

The new children who joined Sunrise Home integrated well with the existing children and develop friendships in no time. After medical checks, necessary treatment and initial counselling, the children **started school which the enjoyed and began more brightly talking about their families and their futures**. The children were helpful, caring and respectful to the others in the home and school. They participated **in extra-curricular activities and performances at school** and made the most of their time at Sunrise whilst the plans were being made for their return to their families was going on.

Above: Group of new 19 children in their first week settling into Sunrise Home

13 children re-united with their families!

As at mid-July, our Sunrise team managed to re-connect all 19 children with their families and **return 13 of them permanently to their homes after family counselling and assessment of their family situation.**

SCAI will now support the children to stay with their families, through education and other support depending on their genuine needs. Our team will monitor them all for a minimum of three years to help ensure they are not sent away from their homes again.

Above: Reintegration of Pushpalal Budha with his uncle, the first of the 13 children to be returned to their biological families

Above: Prashant, the second rescued child to be handed back to his family, saying goodbye the children at Sunrise Home

Welcome Dhiraj and Ramesh

A couple of weeks prior to the 19 children joining Sunrise Home, we also welcomed **2 other boys** who had been living in a temporary transit home for the past year but were not providing them adequate care.

Above: Niraj, the oldest boy at Sunrise Home welcoming Dhiraj and Ramesh to Sunrise Home

Family tracing and assessment continues for those still at Sunrise Home

SCAI strongly believes every child has the right to grow up in safe, loving environment, ideally with their own biological family. Our team works on an ongoing basis to find families, assess their situation and provide necessary counselling and other support to help create nurturing family environments **so that at some point, all children in our full-time care can be returned to their permanent home.**

Above: Our SCAI Program Manager Raj along with our NGO partner team, visiting the extended family of one of the rescued boys, Dil Bahadur, in preparation for his full reintegration

Child Progress

Outstanding final exams result!

We are thrilled to share that **ALL children passed their final term exams**, with 2 Distinctions, 11 1st divisions and 1 in 2nd division. **Congratulations to all our beautiful seeds!**

Above: Sushila, scored 86.3% in her final exams of UKG securing 1st in her class

Above: Sushil, scored 86.2% in his final exams of LKG securing 2nd in his class

This year we had 1 youth from Sunrise Home who sat his Secondary Education Examination (SEE), the final year of school (year 10). After a hard year of study and tuition, Niraj scored a C+ which was a great result. **Congratulations Niraj!**

Niraj, along with the 6 other SEE graduates from the Reintegration program mentioned below, are now moving on to exciting next steps at college.

Above: Niraj, SEE Grads who secured C+ in his final year of school (SEE 2019)

Following his exams, **Niraj** volunteered as a Teacher Assistant in his own school, Kalika Devi, relief teaching for absent teachers as well as helping organise extra-curricular activities for the junior blocks.

Above: Niraj receiving Certificate of Volunteering from his school principal

Beginning of 2019 school session

Our children began their new academic session in line with Nepal's new year in mid-April with new energy and enthusiasm for their new classes, with new uniform, notebook and books. After attending for April, May and June, the school conducted 1st internal assessments and across July and August have 45-day monsoon vacation.

Above: Students in their new uniform on the first day of their school 2019

Above: Dhiraj and Ramesh, who joined Sunrise Home shortly after the new school session

Siblings Anuradah and Yasodah elected to Board of School Child Club

After showing their leadership skills and enthusiasm about bringing positive change to the school and local community, **the girls were elected to Joint Secretary and Executive Member of the school child club committee.**

The child club empowers youth to have a voice about issues concerning them and their peers, their school and wider community, and help create child friendly schools and communities. They are encouraged to actively participate in discussions and awareness activities and educate their peers. The clubs enable them to develop their leadership skills, teamwork, advocacy and play an active role in their community. **Congratulations girls!**

Above: Anuradha as a Joint Secretary and Yashodha as a Member of Kalikadevi Child Club

Extra-curricular activities foster physical and mental growth

We teach our children that '**Participation is more important than winning'** and hence encourage every child to participate actively in a wide range of extra-curricular activities at school and home for their enjoyment as well as personal development.

This quarter, we are pleased to share that every child from Sunrise Home participated in some sort of extra-curricular activity, including quiz contests, drawing competitions and others.

From grade 6 and above, **Anuradha and Pooja** and their team came **2nd** whilst **Arjun**, one of the recently rescued children and his team came **3rd** in the **Quiz Contest**.

In **grades 4 and 5**, **Sujan, Joshana, Prashant, Rajendra and Sapura** came 2nd, whilst **Ram, Laxman, Dhiraj and Dhanjay came** 3rd in the **Quiz Contest. Congratulations to all!**

Above: Sunrise children participating in school quiz contests

Ongoing counseling helps the children maintain good mental health

Our counsellor continues to run regular sessions for the children in home to identify any issues they may be facing and provide necessary guidance and support.

Above: Children participating in counseling activities at Sunrise Home

Counselling support for families as well as children to prepare for possible reintegration

On 4th of May 2019 (Mother's Day in Nepal), our NGO President Ms Laxmi Subedi visited the mother of Sushil, Sushila and Sujan who has been suffering long term mental illness and is being treated at a live in centre in Chitwan. She found her to be improving and was able to **facilitate a phone call between the three children and their mother which naturally brought great joy to the children**.

Above: Our NGO president with the mother of Sushil, Sushila and Sujan

Another new member of Sunrise Home!

The children of Sunrise Home continue to enjoy fresh milk daily from our very own cows. We are always happy to see a new little calf join the family : -).

Above: New baby calf born at Sunrise Home

Momo making fun

From time to time the team from both outside the home and the live-in carers run some fun activities to help broaden the children's skills. The recent momo making event was enjoyed by all, both the preparation and the eating!

Above: Staff and children preparing the momo

Above: Children enjoying their home-made momo!

Reintegration Program

The children in this program have been reintegrated back into their families from Sunrise Home. Many of the children are unable to live with own parents so they are **provided a home by older siblings, aunts and uncles.**

Most the families are unable to support the children's education and basic needs, so in order to enable the children to stay with their families we provide education support and other support as needed such as room rent, some food expenses, transportation and the like.

The children attend various meetings and trainings designed to empower them, usually through Sunrise youth club.

Monitoring - Home visits and School visits help create stable living environments

Our team continue to conduct regular home and school / college visits to assess the progress of the children, to check their attendance and help the families and children if they are facing any problems.

Above: Home visit of Sushmita Lama

Above: Arati with her elder sister during home visit

Above: Our Psychosocial counselor visiting home of our one of youth, Ramchandra

Above: Laxmi and Durga with their uncle and aunt

Above: Bishal, Bipin and Binam with their aunt and our psychosocial counselor

Above: Home visit of Som

Above: Mithu (Meera) with her mother during home visit

Above: Dhandev with his family during home visit

Above: Bipin and Binam during their school visit

Child progress

The outstanding Final exam results

There were 19 school students under the reintegration program and 20 youth at college. We are very happy to share that ALL 19 students passed their board exams among which **2 scored Distinctions**, **9 secured 1st Divisions, 4 2nd Divisions and 4 scored 3rd Divisions.**
Big congratulations to all of you!

6 more youth graduate from school and 8 more from college

We are thrilled to share that 6 more youth sat their Secondary Education Exam (SEE) and ALL passed!

Bhasker - A

Bibhu- A

Rajaram- B+

Dipesh-B

Raju- C+

Bharat- C

Graduates on their way to independence!

Given the tough competition to get reliable jobs in Nepal for youth straight out of school and college, we are always pleased to see our youth getting jobs or undertaking work experience or volunteer work to develop their skills and utilize their time wisely.

Sadumaya Budha, who recently graduated from year 12 in Humanities has been working as a salesperson for the past year at an upmarket outdoor clothing store. She is enjoying working and doing a great job we hear!

Above: Sadumaya working in an outdoor clothing store

Ramchandra Gauchan, in 12 this year has recently started working part time at the local bakery to earn pocket money for some of his living expenses and utilize his spare time. Good work Ramchandra!

Above: Ramchandra working at his local bakery part time

Shankerman Shrestha, who has recently completed year 12 has **started teaching Science and Sports for Primary level student**s in Miniland Secondary School. After doing a week-long volunteering stint, he was appointed as a Teacher by the school principal. **A HUGE congratulations to Shankerman!**

Above: Shankerman in front of the school where he is now teaching

Bibhu Limbu, after finishing his Secondary Education Examination (SEE), joined his local school as a volunteer teacher, assisting his teachers by filling the classes with absent teachers and taking extra-curricular activities.

Above: Bibhu volunteering in his school during his gap period between school and college

Bharat enters Lok Star Idol singing competition!

Recent school graduate Bharat has always dreamt of becoming a singer. Following his dream and talent, he boldly auditioned for Nepal Lok Star singing competition. What a wonderful experience and example of courage!

Above: Bharat, recent school graduate participating in national Singing contest "Nepal Lok Star"

Material distribution

With the new academic session, our sponsored children received new uniforms, shoes, socks, stationery, notebooks, bags and other materials for their studies.

Above: Kajol and Bikash receiving bags and stationery items

Above: Youths receiving shoes kindly donated by Susannah and Martyn Cook

Youth Club Activities

Sunrise Youth Club is 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.

Career Counseling to SEE Grads, Grade 11 and Grade 12…

In May, the youth from year 10,11 and 12 participated in a one-day Career Counseling Program facilitated by a senior Trainer from Central Child Welfare Board. The youth found it very fruitful in helping them develop a vision and identify their area of interest.

Above: Grade 11, 8th Batch

Above: 7th group of year 12 Graduates

Above: Group photo to end the workshop

Visit by sponsors Mark and Twanna…

The children were happy to receive another visit from Mark and Twanna who sponsor twins Ram and Laxman. It's always great for sponsors to see what a difference their sponsorship is making to the children's lives.

Above: Ram and Laxman with their sponsors

We hope you enjoyed reading some of the highlights for the quarter. For more pics and news see **www.facebook.com/SCAI.Aust** and Instagram **sunrisechildrensassociation.**

Thank you all for your ongoing support which makes all this possible!

Emma, Raj, Mansingh
SCAI Australia/Nepal