

PAPA'S HOUSE MAGAZINE

EDITION NUMBER EIGHT OCT 2024



PHOTO: MICHAEL HESS

INTRODUCTION

This issue of Papa's House Magazine is dedicated to our young adults who have settled in other countries, either for college or life. The list grows. The thirty-first young adult, Bhumika Rai, has recently settled in London to pursue her master's in IT. She joins Ashok who now has a year in Bristol where he too is pursuing a master's in computer science, and Roshan who began law school in London earlier this year.

Sandhya arrived in the U.S. a month ago; she has joined the nursing program at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, which is about two hours south of Saroj in the St. Louis area. Saroj and his wife arrived in July, and he is now working in a large supermarket while getting acclimated. Anil Subedi and his wife have recently settled in Little Falls, New York where he was hired as a lab technician specialist.

Asha will soon be receiving a work visa to Romania, adding to the list of places I never imagined our children living. At this point, we have lived in or are living in: Iran, Dubai, Tanzania, The Maldives, Croatia, Kuwait, Australia, Canada, the US, Japan, Germany, and the Netherlands.

And in each place, whomever our Papa's House young adults meet, they are spreading the pure goodness that is the hallmark of all of our children.

As the parents that NOH staff feel they are, we take immense pride and active joy with each child's journey. From the time they came to us as small children, they have lived in an environment of loving support from all their brothers and sisters, with awareness and encouragement to dream big knowing that we are all for one, and one for all in helping each other's dreams to come true. There has always been recognition of the spirit that imbues a Papa's House child, by each other and by the community at large: a spirit encompassing deep kindness, and the acceptance of challenge with determined grace and joy. And through our focus on education, our children have learned how to think and to perform, and as a result are high achievers in school, in their chosen professions and, as they have always reflected, in life.

This issue coincides with the 20th anniversary of Papa's House. A small celebration was just held which 65 of our independently-living older children attended. We will cover that event with photos and stories in an update soon. So here is this issue which is made up solely of the updates of 20 of our overseas "children."

We trust that you will enjoy reading how, in their own words, they see life now.

Thank you very much.

Hello to all my Papa's House brothers and sisters from Mannheim, Germany. I have finished two years of preparatory training and now begin my first of three years to become a Registered Nurse.

Learning German has been challenging, but I feel confident now. The more you are able to understand and share in German the more your world opens up. Something that seemed almost impossible has with time become part of my nature. It is said that in order to do anything we need to have three things, the interest, the courage, and the dedication.

Working and studying takes place in the hospital and I am gaining confidence. I love working with all kinds of patients, but especially the elderly. They are full of love and parental advice.

I would like for all of my brothers and sisters still in Nepal to know that if you really want something, then make it happen. It will be hard at first, but it will all be worth it.

Finally, I am on my path to a nursing career, and it is a path that I enjoy every day, so I am not anxious for it to end, but I know that when I get my contract in 3 years, my life will be secure and full of opportunities.

I am working on getting my sister Sima to pass her German exam and get a visa. It can happen, now we are six of us from Papa's House in school or almost ready for school for nursing. None of us are in the same city, but we will try and get together when we can.

Thank you.
Anisha



Anisha as a student nurse



Anisha in 2007



Nama in Croatia in 2024



Nama at Papa's House in 2008



Aspara doing her master's in 2024



Aspara enjoying being young in 2006

My name is Nama Sunwar. I grew up in an orphanage in Nepal that provided me with amenities I might not have otherwise had access to. I lived there for almost twelve years, until I finished grade 12, before embarking on my own journey. I was passionate about sports and dreamed of becoming a national basketball player, but unfortunately, that dream never came to fruition. I played many basketball matches in Nepal, but eventually realized there was no future for me in that field. Consequently, I applied for a work visa to Croatia and succeeded.

When I first arrived in Croatia, I felt lonely, as I didn't know anyone, and the work was very tough. However, I believe in hard work, and now I am very happy with my life. I have met wonderful friends and family here. Currently, I work in a supermarket in Croatia and am satisfied with my job. I don't plan to return to Nepal for a few years, but I might consider it later, depending on the circumstances.

If I were to advise my juniors, I would encourage them to come but also warn them that the path is not easy and requires many struggles. But I would say that everything is possible if you are willing to try.

I am Apsara Basnet, and I am currently in Australia pursuing my Master's in Information System Management at Macquarie University. I just completed my first semester. My journey has been both challenging and rewarding, filled with new experiences and opportunities for growth.

Living in Australia has been an incredible adventure. The multicultural environment at Macquarie University has allowed me to meet people from all around the world, enriching my understanding of different cultures and perspectives. One of my favourite things about Australia is its beaches. I love it.

Reflecting on my time at Papa's House, I realize how much it has shaped me into who I am today. The values of resilience, kindness, and community that I learned there continue to guide me. I often think about the times we shared and how they prepared me for the challenges of living and studying abroad.

I miss everyone at Papa's House dearly and cherish the memories we made together. I would like to thank everyone for the endless support and love. I look forward to reconnecting with all of you and sharing more about our journeys.

With love and hugs,
Apsara Basnet

My name is Sarita Chaudhary. I am a daughter of Papa's House currently living in Okinawa, Japan for my higher education. I have completed 2 years of Japanese Language School, and now I'm studying for my Bachelor of Business in Hotel Management. After completing my bachelor's, I want to change my student visa into a working visa. I'm planning to return to Nepal after 10 years, where I want to open my own business. The knowledge which I gain in Japan I want to utilize in my own country.

I'm working part time in a convenience store. Weekly I have 5 days of college and 2 days of holiday. My college starts at 9 o'clock in the morning and finishes at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. After finishing college, I go directly to work.

At the store I have lots of conversations with customers. I feel very lucky because I can speak English with customers, and I can translate them into Japanese. Where the store is located lots of customers come from different countries; mostly they come from the USA, but also Canada, Korea, China and Taiwan.

I have made lots of friends and I learned from them that nothing is impossible in this world if you have an interest in your goals to learn Japanese and to communicate effectively with others. On my own I learned the value of time and how to deal with struggles in life. When I first came to Japan it was very challenging for me, it was not easy because of the language.

I would like to give some advice to my dear Papa's House brothers and sisters. The best idea is to complete your bachelor's in Nepal and then only apply for your master's abroad. If you're planning to come to Japan, then first you have to learn Japanese. Japan is a very safe country, and the Japanese people are very kind. In Japan there are many rules; they are very strict, and you have to follow them.

At last, I would like to thank our dearest Papa. Because of him I'm here. Every step of my life he has always supported me. I'm always thankful.

Thank you,
Sarita



Sarita at college in Okinawa in 2024



Sarita at Papa's House in 2014

On July 5, 2024, I embarked on a significant journey from Nepal to the USA with my wife, Eliza Heerboth. Our story began in 2017 when Eliza volunteered in Nepal, and we formed a connection that grew stronger over the years. After dating for five years, we married in 2022 and applied for my visa, setting the stage for a new chapter in our lives.

Upon arriving in the USA, I was eager to explore and integrate into my new surroundings. I enjoyed sightseeing and meeting Eliza's relatives and friends, who warmly welcomed me. Currently, we are living with Eliza's parents, who have been incredibly supportive. Their hospitality has made the transition smoother as we search for our perfect home.

My love for animals drives my job search in the USA, although I am open to other opportunities. The diverse job market here presents numerous possibilities, and I am excited about finding a role that aligns with my passions.

Adjusting to life in America has been an enlightening experience. The differences in food, culture, and lifestyle have broadened my perspective and enriched my understanding of the world. While I miss the familiarity of Nepal, I am grateful for the opportunities to grow and learn in this new environment.

Throughout this journey, the support from Papa's House and Papa has been invaluable. Their guidance and dedication have been instrumental in my achievements and in making this transition possible. I am deeply thankful for their unwavering support.

In conclusion, my journey from Nepal to the USA with Eliza marks the beginning of a new and exciting chapter in our lives. It is a story of love, resilience, and adaptation, filled with hope and gratitude for the opportunities that lie ahead.



Saroj upon receipt of his visa and with Eliza



Saroj in Trisoli in February 2004



Rajan in Toronto in 2024



Rajan at Papa's House in 2006

Hello from Canada! I am Rajan Yadav, pursuing a diploma in computer programming at Seneca College. My experience here has been incredible, filled with new adventures, challenges, and growth. Balancing school and work keep my weekdays busy. On weekends, I enjoy playing basketball, visiting the ISKCON temple, and exploring new places to capture pictures. Initially, the transition was overwhelming, but I've adapted well.

When I arrived in Canada in April, the weather was warm, and I thought the cold reputation was a scam. However, experiencing my first winter and seeing snow was both beautiful and challenging. Living in Markham, one of Canada's safest cities, I've come to appreciate the politeness of Canadians. After a year and a half, I find myself saying "sorry" and "please" often. Canada's multicultural environment has allowed me to make friends from Bangladesh, China, and Nepal. I also have Toni sister here, with whom I can share my problems and achievements. This country has opened my eyes to new possibilities, and my dreams have expanded beyond what I imagined back in Nepal.

To my friends in Nepal dreaming of going abroad, my advice is simple: go for it! Embrace the unknown, face challenges head-on, and learn from every experience. Leaving home was tough, but the rewards have been immense. Adapting to a new country comes with challenges. Adjusting to a different education system, dealing with homesickness, and managing life independently were tough. However, these obstacles have made me stronger. I see myself returning to Nepal someday, perhaps for a visit. My time here has given me a new perspective and a renewed sense of purpose.

Looking ahead, I am confident about my future. The skills and experiences I've gained in Canada have equipped me to face many challenges. I am grateful for this journey and excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.

With love and excitement,
Rajan Yadav



Sabina (at right) with a friend



Sabina at Papa's House in 2006

This is me, Sabina, a young woman from Nepal, currently living in Germany. I came to Papa's House when I was seven years old. Growing up there, I had great times and made beautiful memories that I will forever cherish. Papa's House is home to me, a sanctuary that continues to bring me joy and comfort as I navigate the challenges of adult life. Although the thought of starting a new life in a foreign land seemed daunting, I was determined to carve my path and create a future that would make me proud.

Life in Germany as a Nepali student has been a rollercoaster ride. It was a significant challenge to adjust to a new place and the gloomy cold weather, and to learn a new language. The lifestyle and culture are vastly different from what I grew up with in Nepal, presenting new challenges every day. Despite this, I am proud of myself for navigating this new world on my own.

Over time, I have adjusted and learned about the German way of life. Germany is a wonderful place for students, with free tuition fees. I am studying nursing and working as a practitioner at The Johanniter Hospital. With my final exams approaching, I am excited to complete my nursing course and soon work as a registered nurse. Some of my best moments have been exploring new places, making friends from all over the world, and successfully overcoming the challenges I have faced. These experiences have made me proud and confident in my abilities. I have made friends from various parts of the world—Germany, India, Vietnam, Kazakstan, Morocco, Russia, Albania—as well as my Nepali friends. Each friend has taught me something valuable, whether it's about their culture, their traditions, or different ways of thinking. These friendships have enriched my life and helped me understand the world better.

Although I am happy here, I often find myself missing Nepal. Sometimes I feel overwhelmed with thoughts of the people and the life I left behind. However, I remain determined to study and work hard to achieve my goals. With all the experiences I've had, I am growing stronger and wiser each day. Despite the challenges, I am grateful for the opportunity to live and study in a new country, and I know this experience will stay with me for a lifetime.

I do see myself returning to Nepal one day, both to visit and possibly to remain. I miss my homeland and the people there, and I want to contribute to my community with the skills and experiences I have gained.

Looking back at my time in Papa's House, I can confidently say that those days will forever hold a special place in my heart. I am thankful for Papa, the Papa's House family, every friend, and each person who crossed my path and helped me grow and understand life in different ways. Their support, encouragement, and guidance were instrumental in shaping me into the person I am today. This experience has not only helped me in personal development but also made me a better human being.



Roshan in London in 2024



Roshan at Papa's House in 2010



Dhiraj with Aanya in Sydney in 2024



Dhiraj with Papa's House in 2007

My name is Roshan Khatri, and I am presently enrolled at UCLAN (UK) as an undergraduate law student. I had a lot of wonderful ideas at first, but everywhere, including Nepal, is the same. In other words, places can be very different and cultures very different, but people all over are basically the same. I used to have different goals for my life, but now I have come to realize that living simply and striving to be a good man is enough for me.

Along with my two sisters, I grew up in Papa's House. My sisters were the first to be accepted and after a couple of years I was as well. My elder sister Deepa moved to the UK many years ago, and her presence was a great help to me in my adjustment and starting down a new path. I am feeling quite comfortable now; last year I celebrated my birthday and Dashain with over 20 new friends all at my house. This will be a favorite memory for a long time.

My aspiration is to start a small private practice after graduation, but we shall see what the future holds. I have a couple more years of law school and life has a way of placing unexpected things in your path. As to returning to Nepal, it seems unlikely if I had to say now; my family consists of my two sisters, and they do not look like they will be returning.

I have enjoyed the family of Papa's House, and all my brothers and sisters remain in my heart. Everything that I am now was influenced by them.

Thank you.

I have been living in Sydney for the past six years, and now I proudly call it home for me and my family. Since arriving here, many wonderful changes have taken place in my life. I married the love of my life, Khushbu, and established a fulfilling career as a Senior Computer Network Engineer. Last November, we welcomed our first child, Aanya, into the world.

Spending time with Aanya has become my greatest joy. Each day, I strive to be the best version of myself for her. Watching her grow so quickly has been an incredible journey. Her first smiles, steps, and words are moments I cherish deeply. They remind me of the beauty and innocence of childhood, and they inspire me to create a loving and nurturing environment for her.

Outside of my professional life and fatherhood, I enjoy taking walks on the beach. Sydney's beautiful coastlines provide the perfect backdrop for relaxation and reflection. Khushbu and I often go on these walks together, savoring the fresh sea breeze. Additionally, we share a passion for discovering the best momos around Sydney.



Ashok in Bristol



Ashok at Papa's House

LIFE IN THE UK: A JOURNEY OF GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY

My journey from Nepal to the UK has been a transformative experience, filled with challenges, growth, and opportunities. Growing up in Papa's House, I was nurtured with love, discipline, and a strong sense of community. This foundation has been pivotal in navigating the complexities of life abroad.

Initially, I was set on moving to Canada for further studies, but circumstances led me to the UK instead. The transition was swift, almost as if my fate had been pre-written. Upon arriving in the UK, I enrolled in a master's program and found myself sharing a small room with two other international students. This period was marked by a whirlwind of activities, from attending classes and making the most of university resources to securing a part-time job as a line chef at a Vietnamese restaurant.

Working 20 hours a week in a bustling kitchen taught me resilience and time management. Simultaneously, I spent countless hours in the university library, maximizing every opportunity to learn and grow. Despite the initial struggle, these experiences laid a solid foundation for my future endeavours.

For a while, I also worked as a supply teacher in a UK school. This role was both challenging and rewarding, giving me a chance to interact with students from diverse backgrounds and enhance my teaching skills. It was a unique experience that allowed me to contribute to the education system while adapting to a new cultural environment.

Seven months into my stay, I met Ramesh Yadav, a fellow Nepali and a PhD gold medallist who owns twelve pharmacies in Bristol. His achievements and humility deeply inspired me. Recognizing my potential, he offered me a job in his pharmacy chain. After two weeks of intensive training in one of his largest branches, I was promoted to manage a new branch in Shepton.

This role as a branch manager has been incredibly rewarding. It has allowed me to develop leadership skills, understand the intricacies of the business, and contribute to the community. Ramesh's mentorship has been invaluable, and I am grateful for his guidance and support.

Reflecting on my journey, I realize how far I've come since my days at Papa's House. The challenges I've faced and the lessons I've learned have shaped me into a more resilient and determined individual. Living in the UK has broadened my horizons, providing me with a taste of foreign life and opening doors to endless possibilities.

As I continue to build my career and integrate into this new culture, I remain deeply connected to my roots, carrying the values and memories of Papa's House with me. This experience has not only been a personal journey but also a testament to the power of perseverance and the importance of community.

My name is Puja, and I came to Australia for my bachelor's degree in Community Service. There were a lot of disruptions during Covid, so I still have one year ahead to finish the coursework.

I'm doing a casual job at a cafe, and I love making coffee and interacting with people. There is a community centre in front of the cafe where I work, and it offers the same services as the Chelsea Centre for the women's education program where I used to teach and is part of Nepal Orphans Home (Papa's House) where I grew up. Hopefully later this year I will be starting my internship in community service and most probably in the middle of next year I will be working as a case worker or counselor in Australia.

So far, I am enjoying every part that Australia has to offer me. I had never ever in my life imagined that I would come to a country like Australia and be able to live my life in an amazing way, all thanks to Papa for making me capable of where I am today. I thank NOH for making so many positive changes in my life and where I stand today with so much confidence and positive thoughts and energy. Living in Papa's House gave me a home with a beautiful family and taught me life skills. I knew what festivals were, but Papa taught me how to celebrate them. I can never thank Papa enough for being the best parent. I might not have had good years of my life before going to NOH, but I cannot complain for getting the best memories and experience that I now have from NOH.

Thank you,
Puja



Puja in Sydney in 2024



Puja in 2006 at Papa's House



Anil in Little Falls 2024



Anil at Papa's House in 2007

This is Anil writing from Little Falls, New York. Jumping over so many years, the end of the story is that I am Anil Subedi, MLS (ASCPi)cm, CLT (NYS).

From the beginning life has been challenging, but my single mom and my sister always provided me with love and confidence that I can achieve any dreams that I might have. I learned to believe it also.

I graduated from Skylark in 2011 and joined college to get an associate's degree. I graduated three years later still unsure of what I wanted to do, but in 2015 the earthquake happened and I volunteered at the hospital and found my direction.

I sat for the entrance exam in 2016 after a year of preparation. I was very nervous but learned after some time that I was the second highest scorer and was offered a scholarship to Nepal's first medical institute, the Institute of Medicine, Maharajgunj Medical Campus.

In 2019, the Covid pandemic broke; it even hampered my bachelor's degree. They added six months for the missed time due to the pandemic and I was awarded my degree in 2021.

In that missed time, the college organized many interactive webinar sessions which let me decide what I would be doing after my degree. We had exposure to many

Nepalese fellows, doctorates, and renowned people in America. They gave insight as to how things work in the United States, and the options available to me for trying to get a job there.

After I graduated, it was hard to navigate the process and apply with the required documents which were minimum and mandatory documents for applying for a job as a medical laboratory technologist. I am thankful to Jitendra Chaudhary, the person who filed my job request for Bassett Health Care Network in upstate New York, where I was hired.

I was full time blood bank lead medical technologist in the Nepal largest tertiary care Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital. This was the institute where I did my internship and laboratory training. This is the premium place to work for all medical personnel and I was listed among five principal candidates to receive a job. And it was the proud moment for me and my family as well.

Life has changed so much. My sister and I are each married; she is living in Australia with her husband, and I am here with my wife in Little Falls, NY. I am proud to be an American Society for Clinical pathology (ASCP) certified and New York State Licensed Medical Laboratory Technologist.

Last but not least, I am happy to be here in this place that is green and feels fresh and is beautiful. I had never experienced snowfall in my life and was excited to see it for the first time. I live within a five-minute walk of the hospital. My work colleagues are good and friendly. I am the youngest person to work in the lab as of now.

One thing life has taught me is that you cannot expect anything unless you do the hard work, and hard work eventually pays off. I am thankful to my mom; she never let me fall down mentally or physically. I am a proud son of my single mother.

If someone asks me "Does God exist?" I will say, "Yes, it exists in being a good man, having faith, working hard, dedication to kindness, and to loving life no matter the situation."

Now I am serving an American population here. And life is moving on....

Thank you.



Lalita in 2024



Lalita at Papa's House in 2007

MY JOURNEY: FROM NEPAL TO THE USA

My name is Lalita Satgaunwa, and I'm 28 years old from the beautiful country called Nepal. I am currently studying Business Administration at Green Valley College in San Jose, USA, while working in childcare after my classes and on weekends. My first year in the USA has been incredible—I've been amazed by the clean environment, well-managed towns, and impressive skyscrapers. The security and well-lit streets at night have really stood out to me, along with the good transportation facilities and the availability of clean drinking water.

Adjusting to life here has been challenging. Adapting to a new culture, understanding English in class, and managing living and study costs has been tough. I miss my family and sometimes feel lonely. Making new friends is difficult due to cultural differences. Additionally, navigating new rules and regulations and accessing the market for daily needs have also been part of the learning curve. Despite these challenges, I am determined to succeed and am finding ways to adapt.

To the current members of Papa's House, where I studied before, I want to share some advice: Life abroad is not easy and requires hard work and resilience. Be ready to seize every opportunity, manage your emotions, and face challenges independently. Even though being away from family is hard, life abroad can be rewarding once you adjust.

Some of my best moments here have included exploring famous places, enjoying local events, and achieving goals in my studies and career. I look forward to discovering more of the USA and making the most of every opportunity that comes my way. Although I plan to return to Nepal in the future, I am dedicated to working hard and achieving my dreams while I am here. I also hope to stay connected with my roots by visiting Nepal during my vacations. My journey is one of perseverance and hope, and I aim to face every challenge with optimism. I am fully confident in my life and the path I am on.

And finally, dear Papa, I hope you're doing well. I just wanted to say a big thank you for everything you've done for me. You provided me with a safe place to stay, food to eat, and most importantly, a great education. Your guidance and the roadmap you gave me for the future have made a huge difference in my life. They have helped me grow and set me on the path to a better future. I truly appreciate all your kindness and support. Thank you so much for everything! A lot of love from your loving daughter, Lalita. I will be so grateful to meet you soon.

My name is Himal Shahi and I currently live in a small town in Queensland, Australia called Sunshine Coast. I finished my diploma in 2023 in Commercial Cookery and am working as a full-time chef now. Besides working long hours in the kitchen I manage to play cricket, basketball, and explore new places such as going to the beach.

When I came here to visit a group of volunteers who had come to Nepal, I was surprised by how clean the city was and how the big highways had numerous vehicles on the roads. But when I came back to study it was with a totally different mindset as I was busy looking for work. And then Covid happened which was tough for me for a while. The most shocking thing was that how supermarkets were empty of goods and people were fighting over a roll of toilet paper which seemed hilarious. The greatest challenges for me were to adapt both socially and mentally. The food and the cultural differences were also big challenges.

I still remember when we were in the boys' hostel; we had a big colour paper with our photos posted on the wall by the stairs where we had written our dreams. Someone wanted to be truck driver and some a doctor. Now I think life has its own plan as time passes and the opportunities come. And, just like many of my friends, my dreams and goals changed when I moved to Australia. I wanted to study I.T. but started going to cooking school instead, which has turned out great for me. Now I am hoping to study more once I get my citizenship here.

To be honest, I do not have any plan to return home. Working in the hospitality industry, I would like to open my own cafeteria or restaurant one day and spend some time in this country travelling around.



Chef Himal in Queensland in 2024



Dreamer Himal at Papa's House in 2008



Sapana with Gustavo in Porto in 2024



Sapana at Papa's House in 2007

Hello everyone, it's me, Sapana Chaudhary, and right now I am in Portugal. God is great, but more than that are the blessings from Papa that have kept me alive till now with good health. The day I stepped into Papa's House, I completely got Heaven for my life. The pure and unconditional love from each and every one of you in the house made me feel like I had arrived in Heaven already. My whole life changed in a beautiful way.

The journey I started from Papa's House to Portugal was absolutely amazing. Currently in Portugal I am taking care of one child (Gustavo) who needs special care. Working with him has made me a child myself all over again. He has become my best friend here. Around him I find myself happily satisfied with what I am doing. I like living here in such a perfectly peaceful environment, so in the future I am planning to settle here. To everyone who would like to move to different countries to explore or to achieve the best dream ever, I suggest it will be a positive experience. Please explore and see the best version of yourself in the world.

Everyone dreams to be in different country, either for experience or to achieve the goals that they have been dreaming from childhood. My suggestion will be: You must explore the world and see the best version of yourself.

Although I have received the best that I could ever have imagined, I still somehow miss the days in the Papa's House. The days and the moments that we created will always be remembered like an evergreen forest no matter where I go in the world.

I would like to thank Papa (and all of you who have offered supportive hands for Papa's House) from the bottom of my heart. Thank you as well for taking care of me and raising me as a kind daughter and making me strong enough to live in a different country like Portugal. I am glad that I am a daughter of Papa's House.

I'm Chham Gurung, and I stayed and spent my most of the lifetime at Nepal Orphans Home. Currently I am sharing these words from Australia. It's been almost two years since I left Nepal and now I am in Australia as an international student. This is not my first entry in Australia, but it's my second arrival here. I was already much familiar with my Australian friends and they have been really kind and helpful to me and all my Nepalese friends. At the moment, I'm completing my certificate IV in Kitchen Management (Cookery).

Currently I work two days a week in the restaurant with my college friends at Australian Venue Company. It's one the best and biggest venues in Australia. Also I work in the meat section as a butcher in a Nepali grocery shop three days a week. First when I saw the machine I had to use, I wasn't ready to do this job. But later I came to know few people do this butcher job. The owner trained me an easy way to use the machine. I got well trained and am happily working this butcher job too. I just need to be very careful with my hands.

I would like to say thank you to all my loving people for your support, care and love. Today I stopped and took a look behind myself in life. My life has been so blessed.



Chham at work as a butcher and a cook in Australia in 2024



Chham at Papa's House in 2006

Coming to the States in 2021 as an international student feels like just yesterday. It's hard to believe I am already preparing for my final year at Davidson College. These three years have been the best years of my life so far. As someone with diverse academic and personal interests, I feel fortunate to have been offered a liberal arts education. My double major in Economics and Studio Arts, and exposure to several other fields have allowed me to combine my academic passions and personal interests, an opportunity I might not have found elsewhere.

Living full-time on campus as an international student has provided me with a close-knit, supportive community. Such has helped me in making meaningful connections and immersing myself in diverse cultural experiences with individuals from diverse backgrounds worldwide. Moreover, it has fostered my independence and helped me improve essential personal skills such as communication, punctuality, and adaptability. Lastly, the values, experiences, and resources I gained from Papa's House have been very helpful in easing my transition to this new community at Davidson.

More importantly, the scholarship offered by the school has alleviated financial concerns, allowing me to focus on my studies and personal interests fully. This support has significantly enhanced my overall experience. The resources I've received from Davidson are remarkable. Receiving a grant to start my own business, traveling to countries like Italy, South Africa, and the Philippines for personal and academic interests, securing multiple internships, and volunteering abroad have provided me with invaluable experiences and opportunities for growth.

I recently returned from a two-week trip to the Philippines, where I volunteered at the Gentle Hands Orphanage, fully funded by Davidson. At the moment, I am excited about preparing for my final year and life after Davidson. Overall, my time in the USA has been transformative. The education, opportunities, and experiences at Davidson College have profoundly shaped me, making this journey truly unforgettable.



Bimal in South Africa in 2024



Bimal at Papa's House in 2014

LIFE IN GERMANY: MY JOURNEY FROM NEPAL

Hello everyone. I am Kaushila. I grew up at Nepal Orphans Home, where I had a wonderful time living with many friends. Life at Papa's House gave me a strong sense of community and support. Back then, I was childish, but now I feel like a grown-up woman who has learned to take on many responsibilities.

Three and half years ago, I moved to Germany for new opportunities. At first, I found it very different from Nepal. Everything seemed new and unfamiliar. It was very hard to adjust. I had to learn a new language, manage work, adjust in a new environment and deal with visa issues, which was very stressful. But now, I have learned how to handle these challenges better.

I am currently doing an apprenticeship to become a medical nurse in Frankfurt. This has been a rewarding experience, and I am getting good results in school, which motivates me to improve more and more every day. I have made many friends here from different countries like Turkey, India, Philippines, Indonesia, Germany and some Nepali friends too. These friendships have taught me a lot about different cultures and the importance of diversity. My weekdays are busy with classes and training in school and healthcare facilities. On weekends, I study and spend most of the time with friends.

To my brothers and sisters at Papa's House, I want to say that living in another country can be challenging, but it is also very rewarding. Be ready for some hard times at first, but stay strong and open to new experiences. One of my biggest challenges was adapting to the cold weather and dealing with paperwork. But my best moments have been exploring new places and feeling proud of overcoming difficulties.

Living in Germany has helped me grow in many ways. While I miss Nepal, I appreciate the opportunities and experiences I have here. I haven't thought yet about my future—whether to stay here or go back to Nepal. I will think about it when I start working as a nurse. My goal now is to focus on my nursing coursework.

I am very grateful to Papa and Papa's House for teaching me to be strong and positive, which helps me every day.



Kaushila finishing nursing school



Kaushila at Papa's House in 2008



In Helsinki in 2024



In our Narti, Dang district home in 2007

My name is Urmila Chaudhary. My journey began in 2008 at Nepal Orphans Home, and now, almost seventeen years later, I have learned, experienced, and achieved many things thanks to the love and support from NOH and Papa. I am always seeking better opportunities for the future. I am a registered dental hygienist, and to broaden my knowledge in the business sector, I am pursuing a bachelor's degree in international business at Arcada University of applied sciences in Finland.

Finland is a beautiful country. Summers here feature long hours of daylight, making it the best time of the year. People enjoy the sunshine in parks, on beaches, in outdoor cafes, and through activities like trekking, boating, and vacationing. Summer feels like a festival, with people constantly drinking and partying. However, Finland also has a long, harsh winter, with no sun for many months, early darkness, and constant snow. I was homesick for a couple of months, but I am grateful to Sirkka Turkki (a frequent volunteer at Papa's House over several years) for always being there for me and helping with all the legal work, and of course Papa for checking in via video calls, as well as the support from friends and family.

Moving to a completely different country is challenging due to the need to adapt to a new environment, culture, system, and food, but with time, it becomes manageable. I really enjoy learning about Finnish culture. Studying in a multicultural environment with people of various nationalities has been an enriching experience. I have friends from Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, and Estonia, some of whom have 10-15 years of experience in the business sector. Being around them, I learn something new every day. Salama from Nigeria has been a constant friend, always there for me.

We have a summer vacation from June to August, and I usually have lectures on campus from Monday to Friday. I work part-time as an office cleaner early in the morning and evening and attend lectures during the day. Currently, I am also working as an assistant waitress during the summer holiday. On weekends, I typically go out with friends to the beaches, go trekking, and cook dishes. The main challenges I have faced here include the language barrier and the extreme cold and long winter with no sun for months. Right now, I am enjoying the best time of the year, with greenery everywhere and sunshine until late at night. Although I haven't thought much about returning to Nepal, I know I will eventually for visit. I would recommend my younger brothers and sister come to Finland, but only after learning the language, as it significantly impacts life here.



Anumaya with her friend at work



Anumaya when she came to Papa's House

I'm Anumaya Gurung. I'm 25 years old now, but I was 8 years old when I came to Papa's House. Right now I'm in Portugal for 5 years in the city of Porto. I work in a restaurant called Alma do Cachorro which is a pretty famous dish in the area. I work from 12 noon to 11 pm or 12 am depending how many clients we have. I have my holidays every week on Sunday. I go to a Nepali church in the morning and visit friends. After church we go to picnic or shopping for sure. Yes, it's a day only for me.

As I remember, I came to Portugal in 2019, maybe in the month of December. Here the Portuguese language was a must to get a job and me with zero Portuguese language! First it was a very difficult phase for me. It was difficult to deal with the restaurant owners as they speak less English and more Portuguese at my first work and my co-worker with no English, but I continued and learned from them. I got a lot of shouting too, but of course it is life and it goes on no matter what happens so there was no turning back. Sometimes I even felt that I needed to return home to Nepal, but the owner used to make me feel comfortable, safe and strong.

It's okay if you make mistakes; it's okay if you feel low or fail. Life has further to go, more things to explore, and more exciting things to experience. There is no end to life until you give it full stop. Never turn back. Never give up.

As I'm an introverted person and it was my first experience with international travel, when I entered Portugal I was super excited as well as nervous and scared. When meeting new people I wondered "What if they don't like me?" This was the only thought that was running inside me, but time passed and people here are friendly, sweet and helpful. Now I have a new friend at my work. She is Portuguese, older than I am, and very helpful and kind. She has helped me a lot and taught me everything that I needed to know in the restaurant. It is easy to work with her.

When you get to know their language, it's so much fun to get involved with the people here. It's more fun when you understand their language. That has been my favorite part of Portugal and yes, of course getting my first and second citizenship cards were my best memories.

In December it will be five complete years since I came here to Portugal. I will have my third citizenship card done soon and will be applying for a passport. I will finish my language class in August which I must attend and then present my completion certificate when applying for a passport here in Portugal so that in the future I can go to any country I want. I've not yet planned to go Nepal right now. Yes, of course I'll go for a visit, but I'm not sure when. Right now I'm thinking of studying more Portuguese language to be more fluent. That's my goal for now. I'm happy with my work; it's easy and comfortable to me as when I was young my interest was always serving people. All thanks to Papa and brother Rui for believing in me.

