



"Shouldn't all of us on earth give the best we have to others and offer whatever is in our power?" - Hans Christian Andersen

Editor: Jen Kim

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NEWSLETTER

Lots of Laughs with Clowns Without Borders



When a troupe of clowns shows up at your school, it's definitely a laughing matter!

A troupe of 10 talented (and hilarious) clowns from Clowns Without Borders arrived at Skylark School, where they spent the day clowning around with about 600 students. Both adults and youth enjoyed the hour-long performance, showing their appreciation with lots of laughs and enthusiastic cheers. As you can see, the smiles in the photos easily tell the story.

Clowns Without Borders has travelled all over the world (50 countries in this past year alone) bringing delight and laughter to children living in dangerous conflict areas.

Special thanks to Bisharad Basnet, the Nepali representative from Clowns Without

Borders who offered to arrange this special performance for the NOH community.



New Volunteer Placements

By Michael Triozzi

We're always on the lookout for new placements where volunteers can both make a difference and enjoy a rich cultural experience. Check out our latest project placements below:



Sindhuli – Volunteers Simone O'Connor and Tyler Henderson spent three weeks in the Sindhuli District, where they worked in a remote government school with a 700-person student body. They taught much-needed English classes, helped repaint the school and befriended their wonderful host family.

The town is located along the northern edge of the Terai, where the flat southern plains meet the low hills of the north. We expect this placement to become a new favorite with volunteers for years to come.



Dhading – The Nalang Model Academy in the Dhading District is a rural school run by a dedicated staff eager to introduce innovative teaching and learning styles to their village. The community, too, is very kind and welcoming. Village leaders have planted pear trees and crops to raise funds for the school.

The village looks out over a pristine valley with the peaks of Monaslu and Ganesh Himal looming in the distance. Volunteers in this placement will be able to support this village in a variety of ways.



Hope Rising Home – After the earthquakes this spring, a team of young Nepali volunteers at Hope Rising Home transformed a failing orphanage in Lalitpur, at the southern edge of Kathmandu. In three short months, they were able to improve the health and hygiene of the children, set daily routines, improve meals, meet with the children's teachers, update necessary records and hire a new live-in didi.

The Hope Rising Home team is now seeking caring and compassionate volunteers from the Volunteer Nepal community to help support their efforts. We have no doubt that our extraordinary volunteers will make a real difference in these children's lives.



Bigu Nuns in the Big City – The Bigu Nunnery has been a favorite for many of our volunteers over the years. We were devastated when their home was destroyed by the earthquakes.

The nuns have temporarily moved to Kathmandu, and our volunteers continue to provide English lessons for them.

Volunteer Highlight: EDUC Dental Hygiene Program

By Eileen Witham



During the last three years, EDUC-Nepal, a small charity school for children of local street vendors and squatters, has been one of our most popular placements.

In recent months, the number of students has swelled from 40 to 65 because of the sudden increase in displaced families due to the earthquakes.

EDUC needs support now more than ever to continue their incredible work in providing education for Kathmandu's most vulnerable children.

One volunteer that answered this call is Renee Jarvie-Price, a nurse from Australia. While performing health checks on children, Renee identified teeth as her primary concern.

She teamed up with another volunteer, Marian Witham, to provide toothbrushes and toothpaste for all the children. They also worked with teachers to establish a daily hygiene routine, where the students brush their teeth after lunch.

Marian also accompanied children to the dentist, providing moral support and hugs. In total, 22 kids received 8 fillings, 48 tooth restorations, 12 extractions, 6 root canals and 2 scalings from a kind dentist who rewarded each child with a high five!

To ensure the children maintain their new healthy routine, Marian and Irish volunteer Cora Summerville purchased a large water tank and faucet so the children can wash their hands and brush their teeth at anytime.

The EDUC teachers have been delighted and grateful to see their students embrace the new dental hygiene program.

This is just one example of the extraordinary change that can occur when volunteers

work together. We have such deep gratitude for Renee, Marian, Cora and all of the other recent volunteers who continue to support EDUC.

Read below for a special message from our friends at EDUC:

"EDUC-Nepal is extremely happy with volunteers from Papa's House. Thank you so much. The children feel so comfortable with the volunteers now and they really miss the volunteers with all their lovely activities. We thank all the volunteers from the bottom of our heart."

Welcome Women's Literary Classes

By Michael Hess

In July, The Chelsea Education and Community Center began to offer literacy training to local residents, primarily mothers of Skylark School students. We had initially intended for just 15 students in our pilot class, but much to our delight (and surprise!) – 122 women signed up for the course.



Since then, we have hired three college graduates, along with several NOH college students to provide this free training. Our current schedule has eight classes between 11AM – 3PM, six days a week. (Class size is limited to 15 students.)

Attendance has been excellent, with some students even waiting 10-15 minutes before each class, eagerly anticipating their lesson.

On Teacher's Day, to show their appreciation to their teachers (Priyanka, Ashok and Kabita), all the students brought a small gift, such as a chocolate bar or thoughtful homemade gift. The women also danced, sang, and put a tika on each of their teachers to honor them.

As you can see, these hardworking, dedicated students, are all smiles (especially when a photographer is around!).

With Love, From Japan

Japan and Nepal are two countries that have suffered greatly due to natural disasters in recent years. After the Great East Japan earthquake in March 2011, Katariba, a non-profit organization, opened up after-school programs in the disaster areas to give students a space to study and hang out with friends.

To send their love and cheer from across the sea, Japanese high school students from the Tohoku program (many of whom had been deeply affected by the earthquake) wrote letters to our NOH community. Since they were writing in English, the letters took several weeks to complete, but each letter is heartfelt and full of hope.

Read them below.

Hello!!

I am Hitomi Sasaki and 18 years old.
I experienced the earthquake and tsunami four years ago.
I'm very sorry to hear about the disaster.
It was too sad for me to go through the catastrophe.
But, It has brought a notice,
That is "People don't know the time when we die."
Let's do what you want to do for your life".

This notice has made me take up more challenge for my life.
I am especially working for MY PROJECT,
which is high school students launch a project for their hometown.
I deeply hope my affected hometown gets to be an even more fascinating town than it used to be.
I will keep moving forward so that hopefully, you can also take a step forward.

From the bottom of my heart, I hope each of you
is going to have an amazing life filled with happiness and joy.

Love, Hitomi.



Dear my friends in Nepal...

Hello. My name is Sakurako. I'm currently a high school student of 18 years old. I live in Otsuchi-cho, which was hit by an earthquake and tsunami 4 years ago. I think you've had many hardships because of the environmental changes due to the disastrous earthquake. When I saw the news of this earthquake on TV, I looked back on the earthquake that hit my hometown, and I really wanted to help you. But there was nothing I could do because I was and still am a high school student. 4 years later, we still feel the aftereffects of the earthquake. My old hometown is still a vast expanse of mountains of dirt and construction workers and trucks. Yet looking back, I realize that a couple of months, a year after the earthquake was the hardest time for all of us. Sticking together with friends and family is crucial in these times. (I still vividly remember seeing out of the corner of my eye an unforgettable site. A classmate, someone I had barely talked to before, was sitting alone in a chair, looking out into the destruction. I later learned that his family had passed away.)

Keep hope alive.

With love Sakurako.



Dear my friend in Nepal

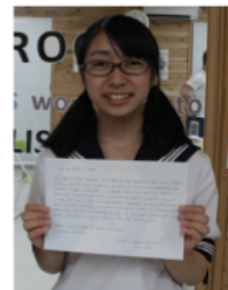
My name is Keiko Fujisawa. I'm 16 years old and second year high school student. I live in coast of Japan. 4 years ago, my house was broken by an earthquake and tsunami. I had a hard time. So I thought that I may share your feeling. 4 years ago, I was not sure what I should do and what I could do. I was just a child. But now, I have recovered although I remember the hard memory sometimes. Many encounters with many people have let me recover myself. So I want you to meet many people. Sometime the hard time will pass. You don't have to do your best for all things. Let's begin to move on little by little after taking a rest.

Finally, I never forget the Nepal earthquake.

I wish your happiness.

My heart is always with you.

From Keiko



Hello! My name is Fumika. I'm 16 years old.

I experienced an earthquake and Tsunami 4 years ago.
I was in an elementary school.

It was too disastrous to believe. I cannot forget the sadness of
losing my hometown. Probably you are going through the same feeling
right now.

So I'd like to tell you the importance of being with your friends.
There were many hardships which I would never be able to overcome on my own.
But I could overcome the hardships with my friends.

So asking your friends for help is quite important!!
I'm sure that there is definitely someone for you.

Although the earthquake took a lot of things from me,
it also gave me other precious things to me.

Someday, something that you think you will never get or
that you don't expect now at all will make you smile.

I wish for your smile, health, and HAPPINESS.

I'd like to go to Nepal. Please tell me Nepal's attractions that you
are proud of.

Japan has great attractions as well.

I hope you can visit my country someday.

See you in the future!! :)

Love, Fumika



Dear , my friends in Nepal

My name is Ami , I'm fifteen years old. Nice to meet you

It's my first time to write a letter to some one I've never met before.

So, I don't know what to say , but I'll write my honest feelings .

People can't live without friends. If you are feeling lonely now , please look at people around you.

Some body is absolutely there for you.

You might think "No, nobody is here for me".

Trust me !!

We are there for you ,

I'm not with you , but I'm in your heart .

So you're not alone ;



Let's walk together to our bright future
Ami ~

Hello ,

My name is Nanako . I'm 16 years old.

It is heartbreaking for me to know about the earthquake that hit Nepal in April. I also experienced a terrible earthquake four years ago.

I really want to do something I can do for you. But since I am just a high school student now , I don't know the appropriate way to do it.

I will definitely go visit Nepal in the future , so please wait for me until then.

I always wish for your happiness and hope that it remains.



All the best, Nanako

Many thanks to volunteer Erica Takahashi and Aya from Katariba for making these letters possible.

DONATE

Nepal Orphans Home receives no government support and relies on the contributions of individuals sharing our mission to provide for the welfare of children in Nepal who are rescued from slavery, orphaned, abandoned, or otherwise not supported by their parents.

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