



"You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand..." - Woodrow Wilson

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NEWSLETTER

PAPA'S UPDATE

The other day some managers and older children sat together at lunch. I brought up having just heard from one of our older daughters who was now back in her village, married and with a child. I asked, somewhat rhetorically, "How many of our girls are now married and with children?" and we began listing them.

It did not take long for us to have 27 names on the list. These were all the girls who had decided the village life was what they preferred, most but not all are married, those who are not live with a sister or brother and most likely will soon be. Of the married ones, most now have one child. We are lucky in their keeping in touch with us and occasionally we get a visit as well. The last to visit is Binita... [Continue reading here](#)



Binita and Ritu helped make me see the extended value of NOH.

DIVERSITY DAY AT THE CHELSEA CENTER

By Hillary Bernhardt

On Friday, May 26, the Chelsea Education and Community Center celebrated Diversity Day with a delicious potluck. A total of 189 women brought various traditional dishes and meals.

For the event, the women (and the Chelsea Center teachers) dressed up in the traditional dress of their respective ethnic groups, making the event quite colorful! In between eating large quantities of tasty homemade food, the women danced together and snapped selfies in the workshop room of the new Chelsea Center building. Many also purchased books at the book sale and smiled for the cameras in our photo booth.



Proceeds from both the book sale and photo booth were donated to Our Children, a non-profit orphans' home supported by the Chelsea Center Women's Council. The funds were used to prepare a nutritious meal to a group of 20 children at the home on June 16.

We are so grateful to the Chelsea Center's Women's Council for making Diversity Day a success! From creating the program announcements and making decorations to assisting with set-up, the book sale stand, and clean-up, they were an instrumental part of the celebrations.

Workshops at the Chelsea Center

In addition to special celebrations like Diversity Day, the Chelsea Center has recently hosted an array of useful and engaging workshops for the children, women, and teachers in the community. Here are a few highlights:

On May 19, six young adults from NOH who passed the School Leaving Certificate (SLC) exam and have gained experience "adulting" joined a panel discussion called "Life After SLC" where they shared with the younger NOH children what it was like to move toward greater independence. They talked candidly about the transition from leaving the hostel to their new homes as well as their experiences with making money, paying rent, learning to cook (but not always doing it well), trying to get a job (and sometimes getting rejected), and enjoying their newfound independence. At the end of the talk, there was a Q&A session where the NOH kids were able to ask the panel their own questions.

On June 30, Kathmandu Fire Chief Kishor Kumar Bhattarai led the workshop "Fire Safety and Fire Extinguishing Methods" for the women of the Chelsea Center. The important workshop also included a demonstration of how to use a fire extinguisher in case of a fire.



To learn more about upcoming events and happenings at the Chelsea Center, [please click here.](#)



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: RAMECHHAP-DAL BHAT POWER 24 HOUR!

By Balthazar Wait

In the small village of Dumrikharka, perched up on a hill, not very much happens, and I feel this is the main attraction of the place. After leaving dirty, noisy and dusty Kathmandu, Ramechhap is literally a breath of fresh air.

After a lovely bus ride, offering all the comforts you could want (the rear of all buses advertises free Wifi, air conditioning and comfortable seats, all of which are blatant lies!) you arrive in the small town of Manthali from which you will start the 2 hour (or three depending on your level of form and the weight of your pack) hike up a very steep hill.

Once on top and trust me you will be happy to get there, you will be greeted by Ama and Buba, your host family, as well as Gita their daughter-in-law and her three lovely children. The view is gorgeous from the house, and on a clear day you can see in the distance some large mountains covered in snow.



Ramechhap living is rough to say the least: no running water and therefore no proper showers (there is a bucket, but please use the water sparingly as they have to carry it up the steep hill; you should be aiming for a shower a week max, bring wipes!), frequent power cuts, no internet (obviously), extremely hard beds and a family of rats that live in the ceiling and spend the night partying and procreating (if you have a choice, sleep in the first room; the ceiling is not a plastic tarp and you can hear them a lot less).

I hope you love rice and vegetables because you will be eating nothing but... (I asked my host mother if she would consider making something else one evening and she looked at me as if I had gone insane) there is no store in the village, so I suggest you stock up on snacks for you (and the family's children) to break the dhal bat routine. I had not done this my first week and would wake up at night dreaming about food, my mouth drooling... I never spent so long brushing my teeth; toothpaste was my dessert every night.

I know this sounds hard, and I had a similar reaction when I read other volunteers' reports, but it is WORTH IT! So much that I decided to go twice during my stay, two weeks at a time... [Continue reading here](#)

OUR GROWING FAMILY OF VOLUNTEERS

By Shreya Upadhyay

What a wonderful start to the year 2017!

2017 certainly started with wonderful smiles as we welcomed a new group of volunteers, an amazing addition to the Volunteer Nepal family. The enthusiastic group of 19 students represented Evergreen State University on their study abroad program called "Movements and Migrations." The group added a whole new element to our organization, bringing new perspectives and opportunities for intercultural learning and understanding.



The Evergreen State University Volunteer Group

From the very first day of orientation to their final days in the placement, their learning was experiential. During their placement, students spent their time providing teaching assistance at schools in a remote village across the country.

They facilitated an intensive educational experience helping primary school students catch up to their grade level, learn to read and write, practice English and improve basic math skills. They also served as extra hands for a number of activities, including: providing care to infants at a baby orphanage in Kathmandu, helping elderly people get through their daily chores, harvesting the crops in the field of their host families, providing after school assistance to the kids in Bhaktapur, writing grant proposals for NGOs working for a good cause, serving food to hungry and homeless people through "Curry without Worry" and organizing a health awareness program in a remote village in Dolakha district.

Each student had a different experience but when asked what they had to say about their four weeks, they all had beaming smiles on their faces and the same answer: "Memorable and Influential."



Volunteers reflect on their experience

The study abroad program was a complete success with volunteers working at 16 different placements during the month. All the volunteers, now very good friends, shared that they had a wonderful experience working with Volunteer Nepal, offering both positive feedback and exclamations of appreciation.

The Volunteer Nepal team was exhausted, but elated at the end of it all, delighted for the moments of connection, service, and support and the promise of changing more lives in the months to come. We are excited about what lies ahead and hope that we'll meet more likeminded individuals trying to make a difference in the world.

If you are considering volunteering with us, and are wondering how to get started, check out our website [here](#). If you're exploring options for group volunteering, we'd love to host your group. We've worked with groups of all sizes from universities and organizations from all over the world. We do everything we can to ensure that you receive the best experience and return home knowing that you have made a difference in the lives of many others.

FUNDRAISING EVENT: ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BALLROOM!



It was a spectacular evening filled with dinner, dancing, and a cameo from the King, himself! On May 27, Gary and Stonnie Jefferies hosted a rock 'n roll carnival fundraiser in their festive ballroom in Mt. Evelyn, Australia, to start a "seed fund" to support the future entrepreneurs of NOH.

The night commenced with a presentation about NOH and our work in Nepal and then culminated with dancing, carnival games, raffles, and of course, a live set from Elvis and the Frock Tops!

Thank you, thank you very much to Gary and Stonnie, the volunteers who assisted in

set up and decorations, and their generous sponsors who donated raffle prizes, goodie bags, and other carnival games. All in all, it was a rockin' good time!



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.

Please help support our amazing kids by [making a donation](#) in any amount at [our website](#). Get an inside look at Nepal Orphans Home for [donation ideas](#). Alternatively, various gift packages and descriptions of current projects are available at [Universal Giving](#).

If you would like to make a donation of stock, please contact Barbara Hess, Treasurer of NOH, Inc., at bhessnc@aol.com to obtain the routing number for our account.

Contribute just by conducting internet searches using the Goodsearch search engine at www.goodsearch.com and designating Nepal Orphans Home as the recipient of the funds raised by your searches. Goodshop, an affiliate of Goodsearch, can also be used for online shopping, through which leading companies donate a portion of the sales to Papa's House.

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