



"Do what you can, where you are, with what you have..." - Teddy Roosevelt

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NEWSLETTER

In response to the catastrophic earthquake that hit Nepal on April 25th and the subsequent aftershocks that continue to disrupt daily life, Nepal Orphans Home has established the 'NOH Earthquake Relief Fund' to rebuild and support our extended family and friends impacted by the disaster. An outpouring of donations from around the world has made it possible to have a far-reaching effect on a number of locations with close ties to NOH especially by way of our Volunteer Nepal program.

THANK YOU so much to everyone who has offered support. We are proud to share an update of our relief efforts and the many ways NOH supporters have collected funds to provide relief and help to rebuild Nepal through various initiatives.

There is still so much to do as Nepal rebuilds, but we know that even the smallest efforts are helping those in desperate need, so Thank You.

UPDATE ON NEPAL ORPHANS HOME'S RELIEF EFFORTS

By Michael Hess

An article in The International New York Times today caught my attention. Concerning the earthquakes in Nepal I quote:

"Reliable sources said UNICEF Nepal has hired 104 International experts, WFP 200, IOM 200, UNDP 45 and WHO 100. There are about 2000UN/INGO staff operating as consultants. When operational and logistics cost are included, it comes to \$20 million in monthly expenses."

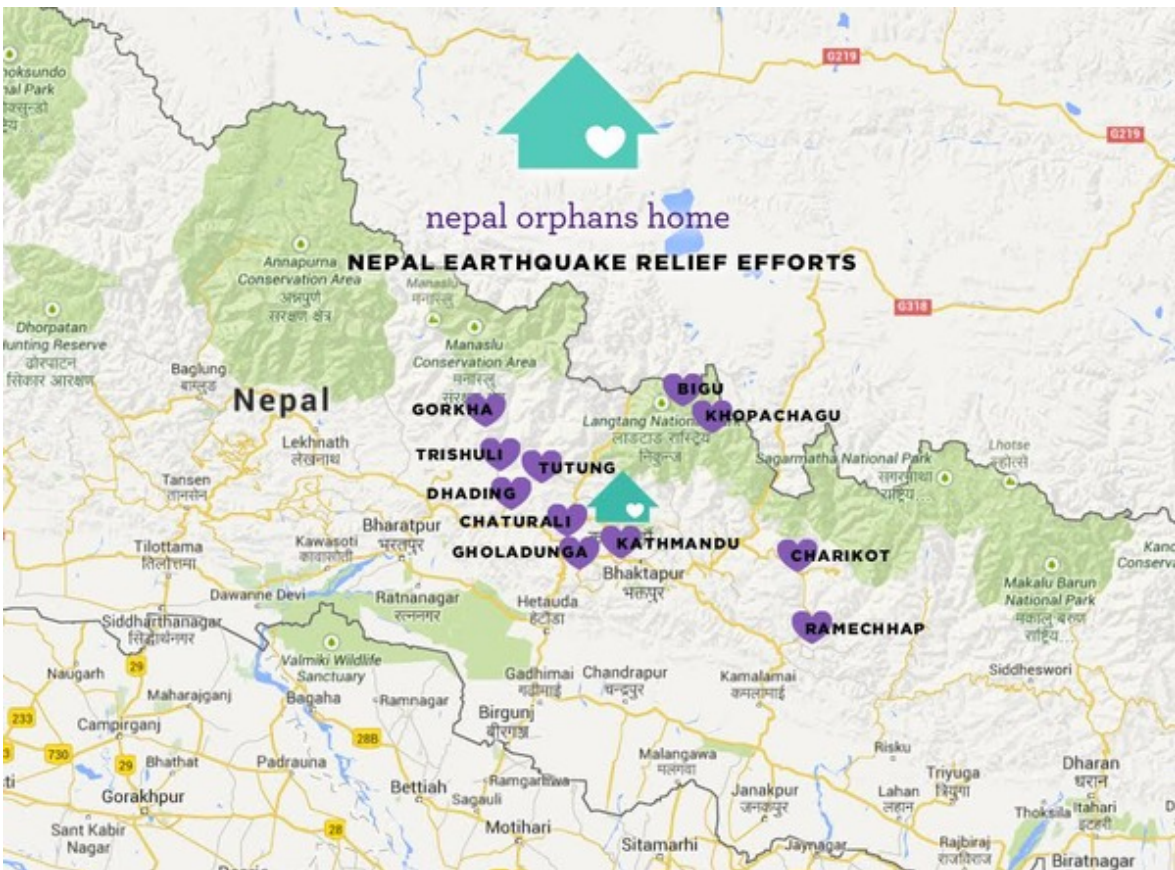
Nepal Orphans Home began relief efforts the day after the earthquake.

The staff and I consulted with the children, asking, "Lots of people need help, what should we do?" and the children said, "Help them." "How should we do this?" we asked and they replied, "Get to them the things they need." And so we

asked, "What do people need in an emergency like this?" and the children said, "Tents and blankets, food, maybe medicine, maybe money." "How should we get it to them?" and the children said, "Hire jeeps and go there."

The consultations were over, and so we talked with others we knew and went there.

Our newest Volunteer Nepal staff member Robin KC has thus far made trips to the following places with relief aid:



Tutung:



Robin travelled to Tutung, the home of Volunteer Nepal's host family. The village preceding the path to the host family's home lay in ruins. The host family's home

was damaged enough to warrant moving out with further study needed to decide the next course of action.

NOH has provided them money for all necessary things, temporary shelter, food, and medicines. Presently we have a wonderful volunteer, Andrew, who is an EMT and the only source of medicinal aid there. He is staying outside with the host family, the father of which is a Shaman Priest. Andrew's journey there marks the third trip in the last seven weeks.

Charikot:



Robin has been to Charikot three times to provide support to the orphanage there, which houses 11 children, a didi and a house manager. Of the five small buildings which constitute the boys' home, two were severely damaged and the others have cracks through the walls and ceilings. After the second earthquake they have remained outside. On Robin's first visit he took money, and on his second and third visits he supplied food and tents.

Ramechhap:



The Shree Sham School at Ramechhap is a popular placement for Volunteer Nepal volunteers and was soundly thrashed by the first earthquake. While most of its external structure is still standing, the inside walls have crumbled. The school will have to be razed and a new one built. Robin provided money to go towards immediate relief via food, tarps, and blankets.

He was also there when the second earthquake finished off the school. Rebuilding the school will take place after the monsoon season has passed. For

many years, NOH has provided the school with a hot lunch program as well as teacher and student support for salaries and fees.

We have provided a second round of money and a third will be forthcoming this week. NOH will be doing its best to rebuild the school in what will hopefully be a model layout for safety and education.

Bigu:



Road to Bigu:



After the second earthquake, Robin made an intrepid hike over the ruins of villages and constant threat of landslide to Bigu, a Buddhist monastery housing around 70 nuns, only to find the monastery and bedroom buildings in ruin. NOH

has been working with the monastery for many years. It sits high in the mountains overlooking Tibet. Robin provided them with money to be spent on essential needs and go towards rebuilding.

Currently there are nuns still living in Bigu under tarpaulins; however, some have moved to Kathmandu for safety. NOH has also provided a second round of support for nuns searching for accommodation in Kathmandu in order to bring all the nuns to live near the Boudananth Stupa. NOH's support will be ongoing until the nuns are able to be on their own again.

Chaturali: With the help of Chaturali's school principal, Robin took three 2000L water tanks (bought in Dhapasi) in a van to the village after the first earthquake. The school at Chaturali was hit hard by the earthquake and many of the classrooms were damaged, but the medical center where many of our volunteers assist is okay. In addition NOH provided money for immediate needs of the locals.

Dhading: NOH has managed to send 450 blankets as well as tarpaulins to two small villages in Dhading district, one of the worst hit areas.

Gholadunga: This is a small home in the Kathmandu Valley that NOH has supported for a couple of years. There are presently 11 blind children living in the home. We found the home largely unaffected but have provided money to ensure their continued care.

Khopachagu: NOH delivered donations sent to us by former volunteers who had become close to the marvelous host family at the medical clinic. This is a robust little medical clinic near Bigu where both Tibetan and western medicine is practiced. The host family's home as well as the medical clinic have suffered severe damage.

Trishuli: The place where I first volunteered in 2004 was hit very hard. At the request of former volunteers and with the help of my Nepali daughter Sangeeta, we have been able to offer temporary support to her family who like so many there are now homeless. We are awaiting the local government's permission to construct more permanent shelter.

Gorkha: This area is very remote and extremely susceptible to landslides. To date many villages have been completely wiped out due to the earthquakes. People are sleeping under tarps and live in fear of the next landslide. Schools are now rubble. Occasionally helicopters drop rice and other food items but due to the remoteness of this area, no boots are on the ground. Dawn Kumari, our faithful / first didi and Chham, one of our first children have families there and NOH will be helping to support their villages to rebuild.

Dhapasi: NOH has been active in its own neighborhood helping people who have suffered the loss of both homes and family and will continue to be there for them until they are again firmly on their feet.

These efforts have all been made possible by the donations of many people who have become a part of the NOH family through volunteering or visiting our homes. Our work has only begun -- as rebuilding in many places will begin after the monsoon ends. It will be a rewarding time of renewed spirit.

~Michael Hess

NOH supporters around the world have found many creative ways to generate donations. Read some below:

- At their wedding this month, **Emma Brakes** (who volunteered with us in 2009) **and her partner Kevin** asked guests to donate to NOH in place of traditional wedding gifts.
- Greenwich Academy (CT, USA) Colleagues of **Hilary Brodhun** (who volunteered with us in 2010) honored her 15-year commitment to teaching and volunteer work by raising money to donate to NOH and the earthquake relief funds.
- **Tamara Chant** rallied the American Women's Group in Paris to send donations to cover the Papa's House basketball court reconstruction.
- **Janice Cogger** visited the Shaker Square/NOH International Marketplace (see details below) and was so impressed with the event and so eager to let us know about her own experiences in Nepal, particularly at the Amrit School in Kathmandu, she decided to organize her own version two weeks later. Since Janice lives on Hessler Road in Cleveland, the upcoming Hessler Street Fair (begun at the height of hippie-dom as a neighborhood block party; the annual street fair attracts a huge crowd) was the perfect venue. Selling clothes from her overstocked attic, Janice happily traded her goods for donations to NOH and to Amrit School.
- **Laurie Levine** hosted a Wellness Day in Wyong, Australia, collecting donations for earthquake relief. The event featured massage, reiki, acupuncture, hypnotherapy, facials and even -- psychic readers. Participants scheduled whichever treatment they wanted for a half-hour session, with all funds raised going directly to the Nepal relief fund. There was also a raffle with prizes including a Nepalese singing bowl.
- Long-time volunteer **Sigrid Lightfoot and her staff** in North Vancouver, Canada organized the Little Rascals garage sale to raise funds for disaster relief.
- **Elodie Lionnet**, a long-time volunteer who lives outside of Paris and works in a nursing home, created posters at work to collect donations from co-workers.
- **Emma McDonald**, former and current volunteer writes, "A few weeks ago

I spoke to the grade five and six students at Fyans Park Primary School in Geelong, Australia, about the Nepal earthquake and the impact that it has had on schools. My mum works there as the school's Psychologist/Chaplain. Under their own steam, the students organised a casual dress day fundraiser and raised over \$500AUD to go towards rebuilding the school Nepal Orphans Home supports in Ramechhap, that was flattened by the quakes. What extraordinary kids!"

- Long time friend and volunteer **Tori Poynton** of TORI XO generously donated proceeds collected through the sale of hand made jewelry including an NOH pendant that she designed and crafted.
- **Friends and community members in Eileen Witham's** hometown of Paekakariki, New Zealand, organized a concert and art auction to raise money for Nepal.
- Long before the earthquake, a second annual **International Marketplace** to benefit NOH was scheduled to take place at Shaker Square in Cleveland, OH (USA) for early May. As it turned out, the event took place over a four-day period, less than a week after the earthquake. Quite a few of last year's supporters returned, while many others were drawn in by the Nepali flags waving outside the door, eager to provide aid to Nepal.
- There is a sizable community of **Nepali-speaking Bhutanese refugees in Cleveland Heights, OH** (USA). Having lived many years in refugee camps in Nepal, this community was devastated by news of the earthquake. Children of these families increased their fellow classmates' awareness of the earthquake's impact and simultaneously raised funds at **Cleveland Heights High School** to send to NOH. **Noble Elementary School**, also in Cleveland Heights, raised funds for NOH through sales of wristbands which were printed with words like "courage" and "strength."
- Eighteen students and two faculty members at **John Carroll University** in University Heights, OH (USA) were scheduled for a two-week "Immersion Experience" in Nepal, starting May 17, combining sightseeing with service learning, which would have included a trip to Papa's House. After long deliberation in the days following the earthquake, they decided to postpone the trip until next January. The participants, however, were determined to offer assistance from abroad and organized an on-campus event, which raised money for several organizations offering relief funds, including NOH.
- **Old Trail School** in Bath, OH, (USA) organized three fundraisers to benefit NOH. The first was the student council's annual walkathon. Next was the intermediate school's annual craft fair and bake sale, where the third through fifth graders learn about entrepreneurship by creating and selling products to their fellow students. To balance the lessons in free enterprise, the students also practice altruism by donating the proceeds to charity. The final event was an all-school rummage sale. Families made generous

donations of no-longer-wanted items that were sold at bargain prices to members of the wider community.

- Many new and old **Canadian Volunteers** continue to offer their support along with new and old friends of **Possible Worlds Foundation**. During the annual "Inspirational Steps" marathon in Toronto, our friends at **GGSCF** (a foundation run by children for children) generously collected funds to help rebuild Nepal.

And finally, a particularly poignant letter we received:

I will be turning eight years old on Friday. I am very excited to share my celebration with my family and friends this coming weekend. I feel lucky to have so many people around me that love and support me. I feel that that is the best gift anyone could ask for. This year I have chosen to not make a birthday list. In fact, I couldn't think of anything that I wanted or needed. So when my parents asked what it was I wanted to do instead of gifts, I thought of giving to others in need.

I don't follow the news like adults do, by watching TV. My parents listen to NPR in the mornings on the way to school. That's how I found out about the terrible earthquake in Nepal. I have never been there, but I found it on the map I have hanging at home. It's very far away from where I live in California. I asked my mom if there was a place where children needed help in Nepal. We went online together and found you, the Nepal Orphans Home. That's when I decided that I would copy and paste your donation link to the birthday party invite my mom was going to send to my friends and family, asking them that instead of buying me a gift to please donate to your cause by going to the link or by bringing a cash donation to put in the collection jar at the party.

I don't know what you all have been through, but I do know that children can get scared when bad things happen. I am lucky to have both my parents to help me through scary times. I wish I could do more for the Nepal Orphans Home - I hope the birthday money I send, will bring them what they need to feel better. My mom has taught me to say my prayers, and I keep you all in them.

~Zaiah

Did we miss YOUR fundraising event?

Please let us know since it's always great to hear about the creative forms fundraising can take. In addition to the events noted above, generous donations came from many, many of our loyal supporters, among them former volunteers and their friends.

Numerous new donors, eager to help and looking for a reliable organization working "on the ground", found us through internet searches or news publications.

NOH now has a large number of new friends around the world -- our family has grown and may be more spread out -- yet somehow we all seem just a little bit closer. Thank you so much.



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](#). A [wish list](#) is available for those who wish to make contributions for specific purposes. Alternatively, various gift packages and descriptions of current projects are available at [Universal Giving](#) when you type in "Nepal Orphans Home" in the "Search by" box.

If you would like to make a donation of stock shares, please contact Barbara Hess, Treasurer of NOH, Inc., at bhessnc@aol.com for instructions.

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. Goodsearch can also be used for online shopping, through which leading companies donate a portion of the sales to Papa's House.

CHECKS

Checks, payable to Nepal Orphans Home, can be mailed to Nepal Orphans Home, P.O. Box 1254, Davidson, N.C. 28036. Of course, credit card donations are welcome and can be made through our website. www.NepalOrphansHome.org

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