

PAPA'S HOUSE MAGAZINE

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THEN AND NOW

PHOTOS: MICHAEL HESS

INTRODUCTION

We are excited to bring you updates from our now grown “children” who continue to live in Nepal—many of them still close by to Dhapasi, others in the greater Kathmandu area, and a few who live in areas farther away and keep in touch now and then.

Some of these authors offer a glimpse of their circumstances prior to living at Papa’s House and many recognize their own growing confidence as they march toward adulthood. Others reveal how they continue to piece together new possibilities for themselves, learning from each new experience how to navigate their world independently.

Many of these authors note their appreciation for the sense of family they experienced at Papa’s House and their stories project the deep spirit and resilience developed during their time in our homes. Their stories include their intent to help others and pursue other ways of improving the world around them, thereby passing along a legacy of spirit and determination for the betterment of others—then and now.

My name is Anu Basnet and I am 23 years old. I come from Sindhupalchowk, Nepal and I'm currently pursuing my Bachelor's degree in Social Work at Southwestern State College where I'm in my second year. In my free time I enjoy reading books, writing in journals, listening to music, and paper quilling. I also love spending time with different people, which helps me grow both personally and socially. At the moment, I work as an adult instructor at Chelsea Center, and I also tutor children aged 10 to 16.

When I was just 6 years old, I came to live at Papa's House, a place that shaped my life in so many ways. I was brought there by one of the staff members, Krishna Lama. Being so young, I didn't fully understand the opportunities I would have, but looking back, I realise how much this experience meant to me. Growing up in such a big, loving family taught me the value of care, support, and togetherness. The love I received there helped me understand what a true family feels like.

Papa's House gave me countless opportunities to grow. From attending various workshops and training sessions to experiencing the warmth of every moment there played a crucial role in shaping who I am today. I still miss our Saturday gatherings and the delicious lunches made by Papa. Those memories, filled with laughter and love, remain close to my heart.

Some of my fondest childhood memories revolve around the friendships and bonds I made at Papa's House. We supported each other through thick and thin, shared our joys and sorrows, and grew up together like siblings. That connection, that bond, will last forever.

I am deeply thankful for everything the Papa's House family has given me, especially to Papa, who has been a constant source of love and support. Words cannot express my gratitude for the life-changing experiences I've had because of them.

I want to express my deepest gratitude for everything you've given me throughout my life. Growing up in Papa's House has shaped me into the person I am today, filling my heart with love, support, and unforgettable memories. The lessons I've learned and the bonds I've made will stay with me forever. I am forever thankful for your guidance and care, and I carry a piece of Papa's House with me wherever I go.



My name is Anupa Gurung, and I am currently pursuing a Bachelor of Computer Science at the Institution of International Management Science, located in Putalisadak. I have always had a passion for technology, which led me to work as a Computer Instructor at Chelsea Center since 2022. Before that, I worked for two years as an Outreach Program Coordinator at Kanti Bal Hospital. Outside of academics and work, I like to do art and crafts, drawing and reading novels. I actively enjoy watching movies and dramas, and listening to music in my free time. These hobbies give me a balance between my professional and personal life, fueling both my creativity and technical skills.

I was born in Gorkha, located in the Western Development Region of Nepal. My life took a significant turn in 2012. At the age of 11, I came to Papa’s House with my father after the passing of my mother. Life was challenging and my father, overwhelmed with the responsibility of raising four children, was struggling financially and emotionally. It was likely through Dhankumari Mummy, who was from our village, that we connected with Papa’s House. She might have noticed our family’s hardship and extended a helping hand.

Adjusting to Papa’s House was not easy at first. I vividly remember crying every day due to the unfamiliar environment and people. Making new connections has always been hard for me, even now. However, within a month I began to feel the warmth and care of everyone around me, and I eventually found comfort and happiness. Papa’s House became more than just a home—it was a family that embraced me with love and support. My fondest memories are the Saturday gatherings, where members from different houses would come together in the main ground. We would sit together, chat, share snacks, and play games. These moments of laughter and togetherness still bring a smile to my face.

Looking back, I am deeply grateful to everyone at Papa’s House. Their care and kindness helped me grow into the person I am today, and they provided me with a sense of belonging that I cherish. Papa’s House wasn’t just a shelter; it was a place where I rediscovered happiness, strength, and the warmth of family. For that, I will always be thankful.



Name: David Chaudhary
Age: 15
Hobbies: Reading, drawing, playing indoor sports
Current Status: Studying science in Southwestern State College
Place of Origin: Dang, Nepal

My Experience at Papa’s House:
I was 4 years old when I first arrived at Papa’s House. I remember feeling a mix of sadness and uncertainty, but I was immediately comforted by the warm and welcoming staff.

My time at Papa’s House was incredibly nurturing. The caregivers provided not only for my physical needs but also for my emotional well-being. I especially miss the after-school activities and the support from my friends and mentors. The sense of belonging was something I had never felt before.

Papa was a father figure to me, always ready with a comforting word or piece of advice. One of my fondest memories is of Papa attending my school play and cheering everyone on from the front row. It meant so much to me to have that support.

Thank you Papa, NOH, and everyone at Papa’s House, for providing a loving and supportive environment during my formative years. Your care and guidance have greatly influenced who I am today. I am forever grateful for the family you gave me when I needed it most.



Braided with Love: My Experience Papa's House

My name is Bhumika Rana and I am 23 years old, from Dang in western Nepal. I am a first year student at St. Xavier's College with a major in psychology and social work. Since 2021 I have had a part-time job as the primary teacher at The Skylark English School, the same school where I completed my secondary education. During my leisure or holiday time, I love spending my time with friends and family and doing fun activities like going hiking and watching dramas.

I vividly remember my first day at Papa's House. At just nine years old, I was filled with hope for a better life, longing for the opportunities and facilities my siblings had missed. After the Dashain and Tihar holidays, I was brought to Papa's House from the girls hostel in Narti, marking the beginning of a new chapter in my life.

Living at Papa's House has been an incredible, life-changing experience. The support and care I received there have shaped me into who I am today, making it possible for me to build a better life. I treasure the memories, from Saturday gatherings to studying with friends and all the other special moments. Papa's House will always have a special place in my heart.

One of the most cherished memories is the simple, yet meaningful, routine of getting ready for school. I vividly remember Papa patiently braiding my hair while we chatted about life, school, and everything in between. Those moments of connection with him made me feel truly cared for and understood.

The Papa's House family has been a constant source of love and support throughout my life. From the very first day I arrived, everyone welcomed me with open arms and made me feel at home. That sense of belonging and warmth continues to fill my heart, and I will always carry the love and memories of my time there with me, now and forever.





My name is Bimala Gurung and I am 21 years old. My hobbies are listening to music and playing basketball. I live in the Dhapasi area. I was born in Dang, in the western part of Nepal. It has been 16 or 17 years that I have been in Papa’s House. I was very, very happy to come, plus nervous too. I came here from the hostel in Narti with Anita sister and Papa.

When I first came to Kathmandu I used to live with Anita sister and Binod daddy. I experienced lots of things which I hadn’t done in my entire life. They were the first family members I had here in Papa’s House. Now I have sisters, brothers, and a mother and father. On Saturdays, I always liked how we gathered together at Harmony House to talk with sisters, brothers and others also.

My relationship with Papa was like my own father whom I will never forget in my entire life. I also have many memories with others when we used to gather a lot and have fun, play basketball and play with Papa also.

My name is Gita Chaudhary. I am currently studying in bachelor’s first year at St. Xaviers College. My major subjects are psychology and social work. I am also working as a teacher in the Skylark English School, where I teach lower grade students. In my free time I enjoy watching movies and dancing.

My birthplace is Dang, but I came to Kathmandu for a better future with the help of Papa. When I was six years I arrived at Papa’s House where I got to study and where all the necessary facilities were provided. This was beyond what I imagined for my life, and my life was bright because of the love, care and support I got in Papa’s House. I got to learn so many things in my life, build relationships with people and show love, care and kindness to people as Papa taught us to be respectful.

Papa’s love for us was unconditional; he used to always make sure that he tied our hair before going to school, and he would come to school again for lunch break to distribute lunch to us. After school was over, he used to come to pick us up, and when we said goodbye to him when we reached our house, we used to talk with him about how our day in school was. We used to celebrate all the festivals with love and joy, especially Christmas.

The NOH family has given me all the necessary facilities and the love which I will never forget in my life. The best thing in my life is spending time with this family. I am so thankful to God that I got Papa and such a beautiful family. Wherever I go I will remember my NOH family and Papa, and I will be always thankful for being given this wonderful family.



I'm Juna Nepali, 19 years old. I'm currently pursuing a bachelor's degree and living in Dhapasi, Kathmandu. Alongside my studies, I work at the Chelsea Education and Community Center. Originally, I come from the beautiful region of Dang, where I was born and spent the early years of my life.

The earliest memories I have of Papa's House date back to when I was (I've been told) about four years old. I remember that my sister Kamana, who had already been staying at Papa's House played a key role in bringing me there. I think it was her presence that made my transition to Papa's House smoother. Before arriving at Papa's House, my father worked as a tailor, and I remember accompanying him from home to home while he worked, often dancing around while he sewed. Although my memories of those days are faint, I miss the precious moments spent with my family.

At Papa's House, I found not only a home but also a father figure in Papa. He has been an incredible source of guidance and support throughout my life. Whether it was our first day of school checking our school uniforms or sharing meals during lunchtime, Papa was always there. I fondly remember the many moments he spent with us—watching us during school assemblies, clicking photos, and even helping us when we were sick. I especially recall one day when I fell from a bunk bed and hit my forehead on the edge. Though it was painful, Papa was there to console me. Even at school, when my injury started bleeding again, Papa rushed back to take care of me. His presence was always comforting, and I will never forget those moments of care and kindness. I also grew up surrounded by brothers, sisters, and friends at Papa's House, forming strong bonds with everyone. Those shared memories are dear to me, and I feel truly blessed to be part of such a loving family.

Dear Papa, NOH, and my Papa's House Family,

I am deeply grateful for everything you have given me. Papa, you've been an incredible father figure—always there in moments big and small, offering guidance, love, and support. From our first days at school to the shared meals and celebrations, your presence has always made us feel safe and loved. I admire your kindness and wisdom, which have taught me so much about life.



To the entire Papa's House family, the bonds we created and the memories we built together are priceless. I miss the laughter, the talks, and the way we all supported one another. Though time and distance may separate us, the connection we share is unbreakable. Every day with you was a blessing, and I hold those moments close to my heart. Looking back, I realize how much I have grown and how much of that growth is due to the love and support I found in Papa's House. I have learned about resilience, compassion, and the importance of family. Even as I move forward with my life, the lessons I've learned here will stay with me forever.

I hope that someday we can all gather together again, just like we used to—laughing, playing, and creating new memories. Until then, I carry each of you in my heart, and I pray that everyone is doing well. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for being such a vital part of my life. I am so blessed to have been part of this incredible family, and I will always be grateful for the time we spent together.

With love and gratitude,
Juna



My name is Junu Chaudhary. I am 18 years old and I study in grade 10. I live in Dhapasi, Kathmandu. My hobbies are playing guitar, traveling, sleeping, cooking food and reading Manga. I am from Dang.

I don't clearly remember my first day at Papa's House as I was feeling a mix of curiosity and nervousness. I was about five years old, and as I was very young I don't remember who brought me there. The only thing I do remember is that I came to Papa's House riding in the bus from Narti with others. When I finally arrived at Papa's House, it was a significant moment for me because, growing up with many sisters and brothers, I never really had the chance to call someone "Mummy" and "Papa" in the way most children do. I often felt like something was missing in that aspect of my life. But when I came to Papa's House I found both a mother and father here, and it meant a lot to me.

I often find myself missing the old hostel. It had a large, open ground where all of us children would run freely, play games, make circles and eat tiffin together. Those days were full of laughter, friendship, and the innocent joy of childhood. One of the things I miss the most is how Papa would lovingly tie my hair into two neat plaits before I went off to school.

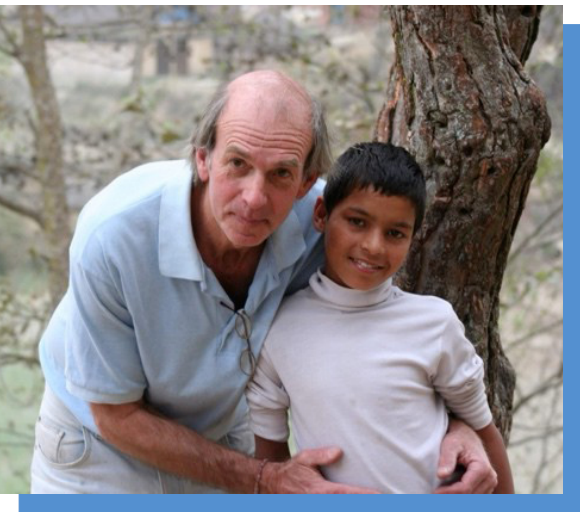
To Papa, I just want to thank you for everything you have done for me. Your love, support, and guidance mean so much, and I'm truly lucky to have you in my life. You inspire me every day, and I'm grateful for all the sacrifices you've made. Love you always!

Memories at Papa's House

Hello! I'm Lalit, a 24-year-old who loves traveling and reading. I currently work as an editor at a company near Bhatbhateni Naxal in Kathmandu. I'm originally from the mid-western part of Nepal, but now I live in Kathmandu. I came to Papa's House in 2008 when I was seven years old, along with nine other kids. I still clearly remember my first day there—I was a bit nervous but also excited. It was a new place, but being with the other children made me feel more comfortable. We were brought to Papa's House by Bishnu's uncle, who is a distant relative of mine and helped me start this new journey.

Looking back, my time at Papa's House was truly special, filled with warmth, love, and many wonderful memories. It wasn't just a place to stay; it became like a second home where everyone felt like family. One of my favorite memories is of our Saturdays, when we would play in the big grounds at Papa's House and then enjoy a special lunch cooked by Papa. Those meals and moments together are some of the most treasured times of my life.

Overall, my time at Papa's House was a beautiful experience filled with growth, happiness, and a strong sense of belonging. We shared so many wonderful moments together as a family, and I know that the bond we created will always keep us connected to Papa and the Papa's House family.





My name is Manisha Nepali. I am from Dang and I am 22 years old. In 2009 I came to Papa's House to stay. I like to read books, watch movies and travel to different places with friends. I am a second-year student in a bachelor's program, studying psychology in Padma Kanya Multiple Campus. I am also a teacher at the Chelsea Center. I am teaching English and Nepali subjects to the women aunties.

I was very happy to come to Papa's House on my first day. Vinod Mahato brought me from the Narti hostel. Now I am staying in Dhapasi with my friends. I miss Papa and my NOH family and friends. Thank you for being the best part of my life. This journey was definitely the best one for me—growing up with the NOH family and friends. Meeting new people and making new friends every year was a wonderful experience.

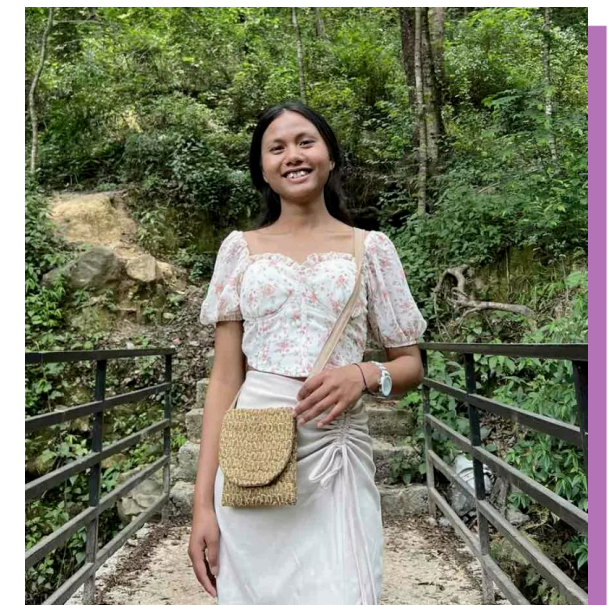
I have a heap of memories that are priceless and they will be kept permanently in my heart. I am holding back the tears today remembering those wonderful and precious years spent happily with you, Papa. I have so many best memories with Papa, but I especially remember every time that Papa came to the hostel to braid our hair in the morning. You took care of us so nicely.

I don't know how to express my love for you, Papa. I am just speechless remembering your contribution to our lives.

My name is Mankumari Bote. I am 19 years old and I'm from Dang. My hobbies include singing, dancing, having fun, and making memories with different people. I've been working at a clothing store for the past 4 months, and I'm really enjoying it. My coworkers are all very kind to me, and I feel comfortable working with them. The only downside is that we don't get any days off.

At the age of 5, I came to Papa's House through my big sister. It's been 15 years now that I have been a part of the Papa's House family. I have received a lot of love and care from my friends, sisters, brothers, and our beloved father, Papa. I especially miss celebrating occasions, playing games, and sitting in the big field with everyone.

Papa has always been one of the best fathers, always supporting me to do better in life, and I truly appreciate that. I miss Papa hugging us every morning with a big smile on his face, braiding our hair, and I wish I could go back to relive those moments again. I am grateful for everything that has been provided to me.



I am Kabita Mahato from Siraha, Lahan. I am 29 years old. My hobbies are to read books, travel to new places and hang out with friends. I passed my SEE in 2016 from Skylark English School. I have completed my bachelor's degree in social work from Herald International College, and currently I have completed my postgraduate degree in counseling psychology. Manisha Nepali and I work together as a pair to lead caregivers' meetings at the Chelsea Center, having completed training as ICDP (International Child Development Program) Facilitators.

I came to Papa's House in 2007 A.D in the month of Baishak (April 15). It has been 18 years since one of the volunteers named Keri and Vinod Mahato brought me to Papa's House when I was 12 years old.

On the first day I was at Papa's House, I went to school. Papa gave me a school uniform to wear to get ready for school (Papa's Trinity School). He tied my hair as well. When I joined the school, the teacher placed me in grade one and said, "If you get first position in your class, I will move you to grade two." But even though I came first in my class, they never moved me to second grade.

When I came to Papa's House this entire environment was new for me. I didn't even know how to speak Nepali language. I stayed with Anita and Sunita Mahato, sharing a room with them. They both cared for me like their own sister and gave me all their love and support. After one year I stayed in Harmony House with Papa and Dhankumari Mummy. They were very kind-hearted, supportive, loving and caring like I was their own daughter. Slowly I had the opportunity to be with volunteers from whom I got to learn the English language. At that time I was in grade 3.

The girls from the Dang region arrived later and we moved to another house called Imagine House, where Anita Mahato was the manager. Everyone was unknown to me at first, but they soon became like family. All the time I spent with the NOH family was special and memorable to me. Every Saturday gathering and sharing our laughter with each other was joyful and a special lunch made by Papa was just wow! Having a large family has blessed me with love, kindness, and courage.



Every morning at school, Papa would give me a warm hug and a kiss on the forehead and wave goodbye. He was always there to encourage and support me and I want to take a moment to express how much you (Papa) mean to me. Your wisdom, kindness, and love have influenced my life in several positive ways. You're not just an amazing father, but also a fantastic friend and role model. I am sincerely grateful for all the experiences we've had and the lessons you've taught me. You never let me down; you were always there when I needed you. Thank you for being such an awesome person and always being present with a smile and a helpful hand. I love you more than words can express!

I would especially like to thank Vinod Mahato and Keri for bringing me here, as well as the Papa's House staff and house management who have raised me, supported me, and given me laughter, joy, happiness, love, care, and the courage to live. Without their love and support, I would not be who I am today.

Finally, I want to thank the Papa's House family for making my life beautiful and filling it with so many colorful memories shared with those I've grown up with. I am here today because of your love, support, and tireless efforts. I feel truly lucky to have you all. Papa's House has been a special part of my life and will always hold a special place in my heart.

Thank you!

My name is Muskan Nepali, and I am 21 years old. I enjoy listening to music, cooking, and spending quality time with people I know. I am currently in my third year (fifth semester) of a bachelor's degree in health care management at Imperial Business College. I live in Dhapasi, sharing a room with my hostel mate, but I am originally from Dang. I also work at Kanti Children's Hospital.

Papa's house has always been the safest and most comforting place for me. It feels like the perfect definition of home. I don't clearly remember how I got the opportunity to be part of the Papa's House family, but I do remember being brought to Narti, and it was Binod Daddy who brought me to Kathmandu. I cried when I first came to Kathmandu, but who would have thought that this one chance would completely change my life in the most beautiful way?

Now, when I think about my time at Papa's house, I am filled with different emotions. I wish I could go back in time and relive all the wonderful moments with the Papa's House family. I will never forget our special Fridays and movie nights. These days, we meet occasionally, but I truly miss our Saturday gatherings when everyone would come together. I remember how the Papa's House grounds used to be full of children running around, and how Papa taught me how to write letters on that very ground. There are countless memories of Papa's House that still live in me.

I met so many wonderful people with beautiful souls from around the world, as well as friends, brothers, and sisters from different parts of Nepal. I feel blessed to have them in my life. We shared a deep bond then, and we still do now.

Papa has always been a special person to me. Even though I may have seemed uninterested at times, I have always admired him and will forever be grateful for the bond we share. He is a blessing in my life. I aspire to embody all the beautiful qualities Papa has shown me (his kindness, his love, his unending care) and be just like him, always there for others, as he has been for me. The amount of love and care I received from him is beyond what I could ever imagine or understand.

Papa and the Papa's House family will always be a part of me. They are the foundation of who I am today, and for that, I am incredibly grateful. I hope that my relationship with the Papa's House family grows even stronger in the future. I also hope that one day I can give back the same support and love that I have received from them.



Muskan on the right



My name is Pushpa Chaudhary. I am 19 years old. My hobbies are dancing, reading novels and exploring new places. Recently, I’ve completed my +2 and have been admitted to Imperial College. I chose to study Health Care Management during my bachelor coursework. Currently, I am working as a teacher in Chelsea Education and Community Center. I teach the students of Tilingatar and Dhapasi Secondary School. They come to CECC after their school to learn English.

I was born in Dang, a region renowned for its natural beauty and cultural richness. Dang is located in the southwestern part of Nepal. At first, I was brought to the Narti hostel which is in Lamahi by my mother, and later on Binod Daddy brought us to Papa’s House.

At first, I was nervous to see all the new faces and couldn’t speak a word, but when I saw my sister in the same hostel, I became more relaxed in the new family. I fondly remember the days spent with Papa where we played together in the big ground laughing together. I even look at those pictures which Papa gifted me on my birthday. I still remember the first day when Papa took us to Bhatbhateni for shopping and told us to click a photo with Mickey Mouse. Those moments were filled with warmth and joy. Each of those days spent with him was a cherished part of my life, contributing to the bond we shared and the valuable lessons he imparted I got from many brothers and sisters after coming to Papa’s house.

Papa is the best father in the world and living at Papa’s House is the best part of my life. I really miss you Papa, and I miss the occasions we used to celebrate together and laugh together. I will always cherish the love and care that Papa has provided. All those memories still flash in my mind.



I am Sandip Magar, a dynamic 15-year-old from Dhapasi with a passion for dancing and traveling! I originate from the beautiful region of Nuwakot. My journey with NOH care began when I was just a few months old, too young to fully understand the world around me. I remember feeling a mix of confusion and curiosity. The new faces, the different surroundings all felt overwhelming, but there was warmth in the care and kindness of those around me that made it easier. As time went by, I adapted to the routines, made friends, and found comfort in this new environment. However, there has always been a part of me that longs for the family I left behind. What I miss the most about my family is the feeling of connection and familiarity, the little things that make a home, like the warmth of a hug or the sound of my family’s laughter. It’s the unspoken bond that I sometimes desire, even in moments when I feel content in the care and support of NOH.

My relationship with Papa and the NOH family has always been a special bond that goes beyond just care and support. Papa has been like a guiding light, offering wisdom, strength, and love when I needed it most. His steady presence always made me feel safe, as though no matter what challenges life threw my way, I had someone who believed in me. A memory that I hold dear took place many times at Papa’s House—one of those evenings when everyone was gathered together, laughing and sharing stories from our day.

Dear Papa, thank you for always being there for me, guiding me with love and wisdom. Your support means the world to me, and I’m so grateful for everything you do. You’ve been my strength, and I carry your lessons with me every day.

To my NOH family: thank you for filling my life with love, laughter, and endless support. You’ve made every day brighter and have given me a place to truly call home. I’m grateful to be a part of this amazing family.

With love,
Sandip



My Journey from Kalikot to Papa's House

My name is Khemraj Shahi, and I am 27 years old. I come from a remote district called Kalikot, nestled in the mid-western hills of the country, a place of stunning natural beauty but also immense hardship. I grew up in a village where there were no vehicles and little access to the outside world. The name “Kathmandu” was something I had only heard in passing, like a distant dream. Life was simple, but opportunities were scarce. The idea of education, travel, or even decent healthcare felt far beyond reach.

Today, I run a non-governmental organization called No Limits Nepal, based in my hometown. Through it, I serve my community by providing support and opportunities that I once wished for as a child. I just want to give them opportunities the same way I got them at Papa's House. But this journey from a boy in Kalikot to a community leader was made possible by something extraordinary: the love, care, and support I received at Papa's House.

A Life-Changing Journey

In 2008, at just seven years old, I traveled to Kathmandu with nine other boys from my municipality. We were guided by kind-hearted villagers who acted as our guardians. Before reaching Papa's House, we stayed briefly in Lalitpur District. That experience, however, was difficult; the food was limited, and school felt like a mountain I couldn't climb. I still remember my first day vividly: everything was new, overwhelming, and especially hard because I had never heard English spoken before.

Then came a turning point. Someone, whose name I may never know, but whose impact I will never forget, arranged for me to join Papa's House. From the moment I arrived, my life began to transform. I found comfort, proper meals, and most importantly, a deep sense of belonging. It was more than just a safe space—it was home. Sometimes I feel like going back to Papa's House, staying there, and reliving the moments I cherished during my childhood.

Finding Family, Finding Myself

Looking back, my time at Papa's House was the foundation of everything I've become. If I hadn't been brought here, I might never have learned to speak English or discovered the confidence to lead. Many children from my village didn't get this chance. I know just how fortunate I am.



At Papa's House, I gained much more than an education. I learned discipline, the value of hard work, and the true meaning of family. I have countless cherished memories and late-night conversations with my brothers, celebrations full of laughter, and even learning to do different things during the holidays.

I will always remember when Papa gave his warm morning hugs before school. It was such a sweet and loving gesture like a blessing to start the day. Another unforgettable part of my time at Papa's House was the deep bond I shared with all my brothers and sisters. Even though we weren't from the same mothers, we felt like true family. That spirit of unity and love is something I will always carry with me.

Papa has been so much more than a caretaker; he has been a true father figure. His words, always kind and strong, pushed me to dream bigger. He believed in me when I didn't yet believe in myself. At Papa's House, I found more than shelter. I found a family filled with love, care, and support.

A Message from My Heart

To Papa, NOH, and my entire Papa's House family: Papa, I know how much you've sacrificed to brighten my future and provide me with opportunities I could never have imagined. I felt your love and support then, and I think about it even more deeply now. Your tireless devotion and faith in me have shaped the person I am today.

You are, and always will be, my greatest inspiration. The memories you've given me are treasures I will carry for the rest of my life. I don't know how you see yourself, Papa, but you are a true hero to me. I salute you for every sacrifice you made, every comfort you gave up, and every act of kindness you showed to me and my brothers and sisters at Papa's House.

Thank you, NOH, for believing in me and giving me the tools to grow through education, love, and opportunity. And to my Papa's House family, you will always be in my heart, no matter where life takes me. I love you all deeply.

With all my gratitude,
Khemraj Shahi



My name is Saraswati Thapa. I am 21 years old. My hobbies are watching movies, visiting places and listening to music. I am currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree in social work at Kadambari Memorial College of Science and Management, Buddhanagar. My mother happened to get married to another man and I had nobody to take care of me. Then I was brought to Papa’s House by my eldest brother in 2011, at the age of 8. As a young child, it was quite uneasy for me to stay in an unfamiliar environment. Those early nights I always dreamt of going back to my village and staying with my relatives.

As days passed, I got attached to the NOH family. I enjoyed staying and spending time with my new family more than going back to village during vacation. Growing up in such an incredible environment made me realize the sacrifices that Papa, volunteers and other care takers have made for the sake of all the children of Papa’s House. Staying here gave me an opportunity to feel what exactly is “being loved.” All these years I am thankful that I have learnt to be kind to others. As I think back, I begin to realize that even our biological parents couldn’t afford to fulfill all our wishes that NOH family has. I experienced the warmth at my lowest times. I regard myself as a lucky child to grow up in a home where over a hundred family members support and love each other. Talking about the past, I miss everyone gathering during the festivals, enjoying moments together and creating memories.

Papa is the best dad in the world, without whom meeting Papa’s House family members wouldn’t have been possible. I still miss the times Papa put me at ease whenever I went through emotional breakdowns. It always felt like I had found a best friend and father in the same person. His suggestions, love and warmth will forever be my favorite.



My name is Seema Chaudhary and I am 25 years old. My hobbies are reading novels, hanging out with my friends and traveling different places. Among the books I like the most are adventure stories. I live in Dhapasi with my friends. I have completed my +2 from Southern College. These days I have not been working. Currently I am learning the German language.

My first day at Papa’s House brought so much happiness. I met my little sister Anisha who had been apart from me for a whole year. I came to Papa’s House because of my sister and Papa. I am very grateful for Papa because he made my life very bright.

I have so many good memories of my sisters and friends at Papa’s House. Spending time with my Papa’s House family was unforgettable. Papa gave me a beautiful life. I am always going to miss Papa and his love. No matter where he is, I thank him!



Life Before Papa's House

I am from one of the most underdeveloped places in the midwestern part of Nepal. I was born in 1995 as the fourth son in my family and fifth child of my parents. My father is a farmer and used to go to India to earn a living and be able to fulfill our needs, and my mother is a housewife and used to handle all of the housework, which included taking care of us during our childhood. As there was no good soil to produce good food, my parents used to work in the field with an empty stomach because there was not enough for eight family members. There was no proper food to eat and no big place to sleep. We had 8 members stay in one room, and our father was the only one who used to earn for all of the family members. All of the brothers were too small to help.

We were threatened by the Maoist civil wars for many years in the country. One of my older brothers was taken by the Maoists and after 7 months he was killed in the war. We lost one of the most energetic and hopeful family members. Sadness occurred in the family and my mother fainted for many days and was hurt the most at that time. It was a terrible time for us.

After the settlement of the Maoist civil war, there were some people from my village that they really wanted to help those families who had very low financial status and my family was listed among them. Also, we were most hurt from the civil war in the village, as my eldest brother had been killed. So they planned to do something good for us. We (13 of us from the different villages near each other) were brought to Kathmandu with the hope that they would provide everything for us like food, clothing, education and basic needs, but they failed to complete their promises. We were there in



Lalitpur for more than 2 weeks (in one small hall without proper food and bedding for 13 of us) and the organization where we were supposed to stay said that it couldn't help us and we were supposed to return to our hometown. All the relatives struggled to find a new place for us and finally we got the new house on 6th of July 2008. That was Papa's House, where we felt like it would be a real home. We were new to the place, but Papa came near us and said, "Mero name Michael ma Papa ho" and we have known him as our Papa since.

The main things that I have learned at Papa's House are about caring, loving and protecting along with life-changing skills and getting a proper education. Papa is the real superhero for more than 300 families who are financially weak and want an education. I was among them, and I got an education and full support up to my bachelor's degree.

My relationship with Papa is like father and son, and I feel that I am one of the luckiest boys to get a chance to be part of a happy family and get the biggest inspiration of my lifetime. One of my best memories with Papa was when there was huge earthquake in Nepal and he came to the boys' house within a few seconds



to check on us while the earthquake was still shaking. I thought, "He is a true man with heart and soul; the earth was shaking and he came to see whether we are safe or not!" This memory always motivates me to do better for others.

I miss the dinners and lunches during holidays cooked by Papa at Papa's House, where hundreds of us would be sitting and eating in the field, different games would be being played with volunteers and Papa, and where we celebrated my first birthday. I miss each and everything that we did in my almost ten years inside the house.

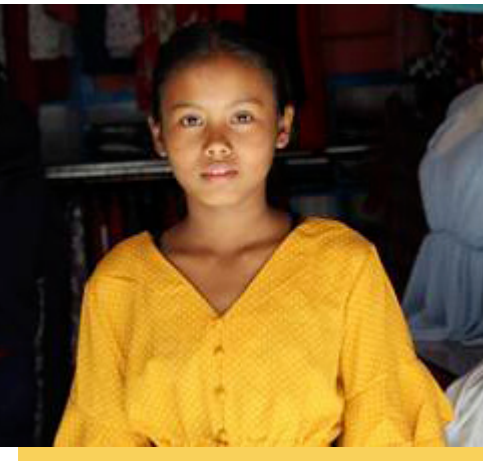
I also wanted to thank Anne McCadden and Elizabeth Early for their regular support and motivation of the children of Goldhunga. These two amazing ladies offered me a job at a blind house in 2016 as part of NOH Outreach, and I am involved with this group of challenged people. I have learned a lot with and from these talented children. I learned to focus, and that nothing is impossible if we have passion and dedication. Some experiences cannot be explained in words but we can feel, realize

and get motivated within ourselves. I am very grateful for all the supporters around the world who donate to help Papa's House children.

My Message to Papa and the NOH Family

You all are god to me and from the day we met to the day we are here, you have always been special to me and motivating, encouraging, caring, and loving. Growing up with you, you told me I could do anything I put my mind to. During my moments of self-doubt, you helped me see that my qualities were not weaknesses but strengths. You told me I was special and worthy and taught me always to put my best foot forward. A dream of thousands of children comes true with your support. I wish this Papa's House will run forever and help many children for the next thousands of years!

Thank you for always being there, accepting me as part of the family members, as your son, as an employee, and many more. Thank you for changing my life from darkness to brightness. I am always grateful for what you did in my life. I always pray to god to keep you healthy and happy. Thank you for changing thousands of people's lives. I always pray for your good health and prosperity. I love you and miss you all every day!



My name is Renuka Chaudhary. I am a young girl of fifteen years old. I am fond of doing art, listening to music, singing, reading story books, and watching movies. I live in Dhapasi, Kathmandu. I am a student and study in grade nine at The Skylark English School. I am originally from Dang, but I have been living in Papa's House since 2018.

At first, when I came to Papa's House I was very excited. As I entered the house I met many people. Everyone was happy to see us. I was a bit nervous as well as excited. It was a little hard to adjust at first, but as the days passed I felt comfortable. When I came to Papa's House I was nine years old and my brother was also with me. I came here with the help of Anita sister, who realized that our family condition was not good. My mother came to leave us at Papa's House.



I have been a great student after living in Papa's House which has provided me everything that I needed. From the first day I was focused in my studies. I got to do many things and the new journey of my life started when I came to this house.

As I grew older and we moved from the large Papa's House, I missed many things where we used to live before. Playing in the large grounds, going for walks, doing things with sisters and friends, gathering in the grounds are things that I miss the most. From the first day, Papa has been the source of guidance and he has been like a father for me. He made me happy by doing every little thing. He gave me the courage to do things and supported me in every situation of my life. From combing our hair to sending us to school, and making lunch for us, he has always been there.

I will not forget the love, care and life that Papa's House gave me. Meeting all of the NOH family during special occasions will be the best memories of my life.

To Papa: Thank you for being there for me in every situation of my life. Your kindness and guidance mean a lot to me.

To the NOH Family: I am lucky to have supporters like you. I want to say thank you for all the support and care that the NOH family gave to me.



My name is Selina Tamang. This year, I turned 19. I am originally from Ramechhap, but I currently live in Basundhara, Kathmandu. My hobbies include reading books and dancing. I finished my +2 this year and joined a bachelor's program in Health Care Management at Imperial Business College. I presently work at Kanti Hospital.

I was just 7 years old when I first arrived at Papa's House. My uncle was the one who brought me there, and as I walked through the gate, a mix of nervousness and sadness swirled inside me. Everything felt so new and uncertain. Papa welcomed me with a warm smile and took my picture, a moment I'll never forget. I cried a lot, longing for the familiar warmth of home. But as the days passed, I started to feel the love and care surrounding me. The sadness began to fade, replaced by a deep sense of belonging and love that I'll carry with me forever.

I miss Papa and I still recall those peaceful morning walks and the tender way he braided our hair, always with that warm smile. I still remember how he would drop us off at school every morning, making sure everything was perfect, and then be there waiting for us after school, eager to hear about our day.

I am deeply grateful for everything the NOH family and Papa have given us. Without their support, care and love, I wouldn't be where I am today. I feel so incredibly fortunate to be a part of this family.

I am Sita Timilsina from Sindhupalchok and was brought up in Papa's House. I am 24 years old now but was 9 years old when I came to Papa's House. I completed secondary school in 2020. Currently I am pursuing my bachelor's degree at Sirjan Collage of Fine Art. My hobbies are playing with colors, reading books and listening to music. I have been living with three of my sisters in the NOH family (Kabita, Amrita and Asha). They have been true supporting sisters in my life. We cooperate with each other and have been living together since 2022.

I came to Papa's House through my neighborhood sister (Sita Pyakurel). I have four siblings in my family. My father was the only person who used to earn money for our livelihood. It was challenging for him to provide an education for us. One of our neighboring sisters used to live in Kathmandu near our organization. My father used to work as labour in her house. So she spoke to Papa about my family condition and he agreed to have me go there. My father went to the village to meet me. I was full of joy to hear that I would be able to see the Kathmandu Valley and meet my new family.

My father was worried that I might find it difficult to live without my siblings, so he asked me several times whether I was sure I wanted to go. He dropped me off at our old school named Papa's Trinity School. I had lots of lice in my hair. In order to control lice off my head, mom shaved it. So I was a girl who was very small, shy and quiet in the jovial racket, blushing with a pretty smile entered the school. Since my hair was shaved, most of the other kids were confused about whether I was a boy or a girl. After school I joined the single file procession home. Papa gave me a T- shirt (which was pink in color and had a picture of a strawberry on it) and blue pants.



Gita Auntie (the house manager) gave me a shower and dressed me with new clothes which were given by Papa. I found myself in a new home where the environment was new to me. Dhan Kumari Mom (the cook in the house) was my second mom who gave me a mother's love. Slowly over time, I had the opportunity to meet and talk with new volunteers and learn English.

All the time I spent with the NOH family was special to me. Every Saturday we would gather together sharing our laughter with each other. Having a big family is a blessing to me and groomed me with love, kindness and courage.

Our morning school used to start with Papa's warm hug in a single file-procession. He was always there for me in order to encourage me. As we had a big family, I lived in Sanctuary House with others. One time when I was in grade 9 and we were walking to school, I gave Papa a painting I had created the previous night for lamination. He was astonished to see my painting because I didn't attend art classes on Saturday. After seeing that painting, he suggested that I join the weekly art class led by Mr. Indra Khatri.

Gradually I started to learn the techniques of painting and drawing and Papa enjoyed seeing my new paintings every weekend.

Papa and Indra sir were two people who knew that I was good at painting. Indra Sir suggested to me that I join a fine art college after I passed my higher secondary school. So currently I have been pursuing my bachelor's degree at a fine art college.

All the moments I spent with Papa were precious to me. His wisdom, kindness and love have shaped my life in so many wonderful ways. He is not just a remarkable father, but also an incredible friend and role model. He never let me fall down but was always there whenever I was in need. I am truly grateful for all the moments we've shared. Thank you for being the amazing person you are and for always being there with a smile and a helping hand. I love you more than words can say!

I want to give special thanks to Sita Pyakurel (through whom I came to Papa's House), Dhan Kumari Gurung (the cook who gave me a mother's love) Susmita Thapa (director) and to all the board members who have been working together to lead our NOH family. All the members of NOH family are special to me and I will not forget the memories of my family. NOH has been a part of my life and always will be in my heart.



My name is Tilak Magar, a 24-year-old civil engineering graduate from Himalayan Whitehouse International College, affiliated with Purbanchal University. Originally from Solukhumbu, I currently reside in Paiyutar, Kathmandu with my sister and brother. I am presently working as a site engineer with Geoce Groundwater Development Company on a pipeline installation project in Naagdhunga. In addition to my engineering work, I also serve as a computer instructor at the Blind Protection Society (BPS), where I teach twice a week, contributing to the empowerment of visually impaired students.

My Journey at Papa’s House

In 2007, at just seven years old, I arrived at Papa’s House, a place that would soon become much more than just a shelter—it would become my home. Before that, I lived in another hostel with twelve other children. It was through Vinod Dai, who used to take us for morning exercises, that we were introduced to Papa’s House, where my life took a remarkable turn.

I still vividly remember my first day at Papa’s House—playing cricket with new friends in the spacious playground and sharing a delicious lunch. From that moment on, I knew this was a place of warmth and friendship. Over the course of eleven years, Papa’s House became a nurturing home that shaped me into the person I am today.

At Papa’s House, I learned valuable life lessons, such as discipline and kindness. Through structured routines, we learned the importance of responsibility and hard work, always with the belief that our efforts would lead to a better future. But more than that, we were taught the power of compassion and the importance of lifting each other up. It was a community bound by love, where every child could dream of a brighter tomorrow.



Papa, as we affectionately called him, wasn’t just a provider of food, shelter, and education—he was a father figure to all of us. He raised us with unconditional love, care, and guidance, helping us rebuild our lives and instilling in us the values of determination and gratitude. Even though we weren’t connected by blood, our bond was as deep as any family could have. He gave us the tools to not just survive but to thrive. As I reflect on my time at Papa’s House, my heart swells with gratitude. The love and support I received shaped my entire upbringing. The memories I carry, the lessons I’ve learned, and the relationships I’ve formed are truly priceless. Papa and all my brothers and sisters in the NOH family will always hold a special place in my heart.

Thank you, Papa, for everything. You’ve given me more than I could ever ask for, and I will forever cherish the love, guidance, and beautiful memories we’ve shared. You will always be my family.

My name is Sita Chaudhary and I am now 23 years old. My hobby is to dance. I live in Dhapasi with my friends and I tutor students in their homes there. I am earning my Bachelor's degree in rural development at the Padmakanya Multiple Campus. I used to live in Narti, but Papa brought me from Narti to Kathmandu to give me a higher education and to make my future bright.

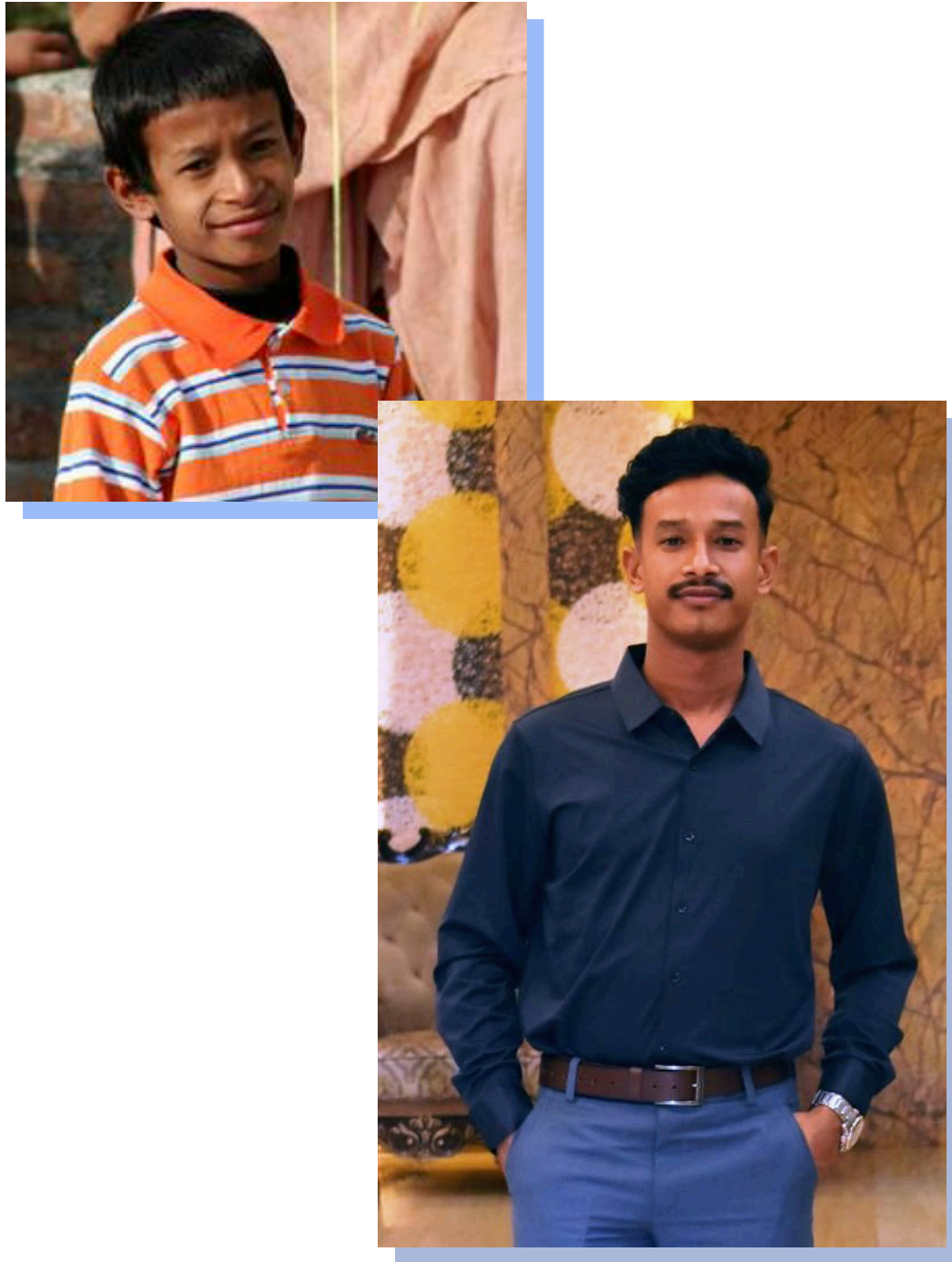
I was truly happy when I first came to Papa's House. I deeply miss those days when I felt like I was in a real family. Those days always stood out as being filled with emotion, connection and a sense of belonging that I've never experienced anywhere else.

Eventually, I transitioned to living independently with friends. At first, it was difficult. We had to figure out how to manage everything on our own, from cooking and cleaning to budgeting and supporting each other emotionally; it was a steep learning curve. During those early days, I often found myself thinking back to my time living in Papa's House and the comfort it brought, especially compared to the challenges of hostel life. I have countless beautiful memories at Papa's House. It was not just a place to stay; it was home. The guidance, care and friendships I gained there continue to shape who I am today and even now those moments remain close to my heart.

Every time I think of Papa quietly stepping into our room, checking on us with gentle eyes and wishing us good night, my heart swells with love. Those small moments stay with me and were more than just routine; they were comfort, safety and home.

Papa, I am endlessly thankful for the love you've poured into our lives, the care that never wavered and the support that held us steady through every storm. You've made our world softer, kinder and more beautiful. Because of you, life feels like a warm hug I never want to let go of.





Hello everyone, I'm Ishwor Shrestha, originally from Ramechhap district. I am 25 years old. Currently I am living in Kathmandu, Nepal. I completed my bachelor's degree in Medical Laboratory Technology from Tribhuvan University in 2023. Recently I have been working as a Medical Lab Technician in Civil Service Hospital of Nepal Minbhawan, Kathmandu.

In 2007, I came to Papa's House along with my father, some volunteers and Bipana Thapa, and that soon became a home for me along with other brothers and sisters. Coming to Papa's House was a turning point in my life, a place that provided all the facilities, including love, care and support. I still remember playing basketball with my brothers and sisters and sharing a delicious meal. Over the course of eleven years, Papa's House became a nurturing home that shaped me into the man that I am today.

As I completed my degree, I started working in a clinical pathology lab. Along the way I was preparing for the PSC exam which is the only gateway to get a job in a government institution. Then I got an opportunity to work in the largest tertiary hospital of Nepal, Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH), as a Head Technical Assistant in Pathology on a contract basis. I was listed in the top six over many candidates for that position.

But I worked for only about 10 months. During that time, I sat for the Public Service Commission (PSC) exam several times. PSC exams are widely considered the toughest for securing government jobs in Nepal. Recently, I succeeded in passing all the phases of the exam and got an opportunity for a posting in the Civil Service Hospital of Nepal which is the only hospital for civil servants in Nepal as well as for the public. One thing life has taught me is that you cannot expect anything unless you do the hard work, but the hard work eventually pays you back.

Last but not least, I am very happy and thankful for Papa and Papa's House members for the great support because, without them, I could not have achieved the big dream that I had wished for and now has come. I am serving my own country Nepal and am hopeful for the better future ahead.

