



Nepal Orphans Home Newsletter

“Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same.” – Flavia Weedn

Editor: Randi S. Miller

September 2009



AUGUST 10 UPDATE

It is all too easy to overlook the remarkableness of some people. Hari Nepali is a good illustration; he is one of those who in his quiet way keeps the roof of a small society from sagging by his constant cheerfulness and good energy. Hari spreads himself out well; he is always there in any group, a little on the periphery, watching and smiling. You don't always know he is there until your gaze is drawn to the emanation of joy from the little guy whose smile is contagious.



[Read more »](#)

(Our September update will be posted on our website soon)

NEWSLETTER

TREK FOR FREEDOM



On October 7, 2009, we will be running a very special event that will

combine a Gokyo Cho La Pass – Everest Base Camp Trek with supporting girls who have been enslaved through the kamlari system. In addition, we are now offering an exciting array of treks that can be arranged by individuals at any time. [Visit our new trek website »](#)



DADDY WARBUCKS COMES TO PAPA'S HOUSE



In our last newsletter, we reported that Jesse Bach, a member of our Board of Directors, returned to Nepal to spend the summer at Papa's House. When Jesse was a young child, his grandmother took him to see the movie *Annie* and it made a big impression on him. In his own words: "I loved the movie, the music, the action and most of all Daddy Warbucks. I was intrigued at his giant bald head and billionaire lifestyle (he had an autogyro, how cool is that). I loved that he was really tough, nobody ever questioned him, or messed with him; but at the same time he loved this little orphan girl named Annie and would leave his entire fortune and risk his life for her. In one of my most favorite scenes of the movie, Daddy Warbucks bought out a showing at a movie theater. I always thought that was one of the coolest things, this billionaire taking an orphan to the cinema, buying out the entire theater so that they could be alone as a family."

For his 31st birthday, Jesse decided to be Daddy Warbucks for a day: He bought out a showing of *ICE AGE 3* at a movie theater in Nepal, hired four buses to take the children and staff members there, and bought popcorn, candy, and soda for everyone. We aren't sure who enjoyed this event more, the children or Jesse. We dare you to try to stop smiling as you [watch the video!](#)

WILLIAM HINMAN FOUNDATION GRANT

We are pleased to announce that Nepal Orphans Home was honored with a \$5000 grant from the William Hinman Foundation. This grant is being used to cover tuition for **twenty-six** girls who were rescued from slavery and now live in Papa's Kalpana (Imagine) House. In addition, some of the money will be used to create a Saturday program through which we will advance the education of our children, most of whom have been raised in the Hindu tradition, by having them spend time with Buddhist children and possibly children of other faiths.

The William Hinman Foundation's primary mission is to preserve Tibetan Buddhism. Historically, the Foundation has awarded grants to be used specifically for the preservation of Tibetan culture and heritage, the restoration of historical Buddhist sites, the preservation of Tibetan Buddhism, and support of the Tibetan people. Recently, however, the trustees decided to also use their resources to provide some assistance to needy Nepalese children. We are extremely fortunate in that, upon hearing about their interest in helping Nepalese children, noted journalist, author, and photographer Mikel Dunham, who writes extensively about Nepal, brought them to Papa's House to meet our children. We are not surprised that the trustees of the William Hinman Foundation chose to give a grant to Nepal Orphans Home after meeting our amazing children, but we are honored by and grateful for their generosity.

VOLUNTEER REPORT

This summer, we were visited by many incredible volunteers who brought skills, donations, great energy, and warm spirits, for which we and our children are extremely appreciative. In return for all they brought to us, these volunteers had amazing experiences that enriched their lives.



Several volunteers had custom-tailored volunteer experiences. For example, the vast contacts across Nepal that Volunteer Nepal enjoys allowed for Hamish McKenzie and Stephanie Wang to take a unique journey into unspoiled grounds in their quest to collect oral histories. Hamish and Steph joined us from Hong Kong. Steph wanted to do something that contributed something meaningful to people's lives while experiencing another culture after four soul-less years of working in corporate law. Hamish wanted to volunteer because he wanted to travel with a purpose. He gets a kick not only out of seeing new parts of the world, but also out of having a deep engagement with people, and especially contributing to people who could use a little help. Nepal seemed a great place to do just that. Hamish, a journalist, subsequently wrote about their experience in an article published in Time Out Hong Kong:

Slice of life by Hamish McKenzie

Trading places

Our roaming columnist discovers that charity can begin far from home with a stint volunteering in a remote Nepalese village

Come to think of it, it's hard to know how the people of Bigu survive. Perched 3,000 metres up the side of a mountain in remote northern Nepal – one day's walk and two frightening days' bus ride from Kathmandu – the village is home to nearly 2,000 souls, none of whom have ready access to electricity, showers, or the MTR. As you might guess, it's a pungent place with a reliance on candles and a complete ignorance of what it really means to "please stand back from the door". [Read more »](#)

Meet some of our other recent volunteers:

Sam Braithwaite



Sam joins us from South Africa, more recently Dubai. After recent travels in chaotic India she is grateful for the peace and serenity of Nepal. When her job in Dubai was credit-crunched earlier this year she decided to hit the road. She is enjoying not being your average tourist and experiencing the real deal in a fascinating and beautiful

country. Her most memorable memory of Nepal thus far has been attending evening prayer with Mother Theresa's Missionaries of Charity. Currently, Sam is volunteering at one of our more remote, high altitude placements, which is described on the Volunteer Nepal website as our May 2009 featured placement. When in Dhapasi, she provides much appreciated assistance with administrative matters.

Mariah Coley



Mariah Coley comes from southern Indiana, where she grew up and attended college at Indiana University. She has worked most recently with an elder care provider and a childrens museum, and loves working with those who need care or love to learn. She just graduated in May 2009 and decided to come to Nepal to join the efforts at Papa's House, mainly because she enjoys helping others and also because she knew nothing about the language, history, or culture of the Nepali people. Her most memorable moment so far is hearing one of the girls call out "I love you" as she left Papa's House after helping with homework one evening.

Veronica Regis



Veronica Regis is 21 years old and has been living in Switzerland for the past seven years. She completed her BA and decided it was time to seize the opportunity to volunteer; something that she had been wanting to do for a long time. So, following the precious advice of her brother and friends she finally chose Nepal! She describes it as an incredible experience. Her most unforgettable memory thus far was to

stare at a kite flying high in the sky, surrounded by ten little boys, and then look at the stars once the sun has set. "More to come, always!" she says.

Sarah Rhodes (left in photo)



Sarah Rhodes is a recent graduate of Davidson College and a native of Concord, North Carolina. She became interested in Nepal Orphans Home after running across the website; it was not until later that she realized the program's very close connections to Davidson College. Her discovery of Papa's House was quite serendipitous, and she feels that coming here was just 'meant to be.' Her first couple days exceeded expectations - she found that the children are incredibly loving, and Michael and the Nepali staff are unbelievably selfless individuals. Her most striking memory so far is probably meeting the girls for the first time — they all took turns running up to her, grabbing her hands, and giving huge hugs, in some cases just not letting go!

[Read about other volunteer experiences »](#)

VOLUNTEER MANUAL

We are excited to report that a volunteer manual will soon be available to all new volunteers. Many current and past volunteers shared their thoughts about information that they would like to have had before they arrived and what they thought would be useful to have for reference while they are with us. The result is a fabulous manual that will undoubtedly make the [Volunteer Nepal](#) experience even more incredible than it already is.

Thank you to all who contributed to this effort! We are deeply grateful that so many volunteers are finding new ways to support us, not only through donations of money and goods, but also by generously giving us their time and energy so that we can do more for our children and continue to improve our [volunteer program](#) for future volunteers.

SEPTEMBER 2009 FEATURED VOLUNTEER PLACEMENT

Volunteer Nepal offers a wide variety of volunteer experiences and we are constantly expanding our program. Sometimes new placements are custom designed to meet the needs of specific volunteers and other times new placements are created in order to meet needs of particular communities that come to our attention. Interestingly, specific needs often come to our attention at the very same time that we welcome new volunteers whose skills or interests happen to match those needs perfectly. It is all part of the magic of Papa's House.

This month our featured placement is in a village called Bastipur:



Located in the Terai, the jungle region along the border with India the village of Bastipur has seen many changes in the past few months. This is a very small and poor village of hard working but embattled folks; an area that always receives too much of everything, too much dryness to burn the crops, then too much rain that floods the village, and too much heat in the summer. The people here align their daily lives with their religion, are good natured, curious, laugh easily, and most appreciative of the efforts of Volunteer Nepal. [Read more »](#)

THANK YOU!!!

We are grateful to report that an individual has generously made a donation that will cover the purchase of warm blankets for each child residing in the three homes in Dhapasi. In addition, a sizable portion of the donation will be set aside to help pay for the expenses of a new home for rescued girls who are currently living in Narti, a small village in the Dang Valley. The new home will be in the vicinity of our other three homes in Dhapasi and we are thrilled that our children will soon all be living in the same area and attending the same school. Heartfelt thanks go out to this donor and our many other wonderful donors.

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](#). Alternatively, various gift packages and descriptions of current projects are available at [Universal Giving](#).

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.