



*"If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito." Betty Reese*

Editor: Randi S. Miller

November 2010



## NOVEMBER UPDATE

Chham returned from his Dashain vacation this year repeating what has become his tradition of bringing me eggs from his elderly mother's chicken. Five years ago Chham returned from visiting his very remote Gorkha village and proudly presented me with four eggs that he had carried in his hands during a mountainous three-day hike back to Papa's House. I felt then in receipt of the most precious gift ever and it still touches me deeply.

*Faberge? No, but these eggs are more precious to Papa Michael.*

[Read More](#)

## NEWSLETTER

### HOLIDAY SEASON DONATIONS



**Jill with volunteers Blanca and Rima  
Just another silly day with the girls at Papa's House!**

### GOODSHOP AND GOODSEARCH

Please make every gift count this holiday season. More than 1,600 top stores including Amazon, Toys R Us, Best Buy, Apple, Gap, LL Bean and more will donate a percentage of virtually every sale to Nepal Orphans Home.

Just go to [GoodShop.com](http://GoodShop.com), designate Nepal Orphans Home or Papa's House as the cause you support and then click over to your favorite store. You pay nothing extra - and you can even save money as GoodShop lists thousands of money-saving coupons and free shipping offers.

Or, add the Goodsearch toolbar to your browser at <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar> — and your purchases will count even if you forget to go to GoodShop first! There's no easier way to support us this holiday season! Please spread the word.

Furthermore, you can easily donate money to NOH every time you conduct an internet search just by using the Goodsearch search engine at [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com): Go to "Who do you Goodsearch for?", type in either "Nepal Orphans Home" or "Papa's House", click "Verify", and start donating to NOH as you surf the net!

## **STOCK GIFTS**

We take this opportunity to remind you that Nepal Orphans Home can now receive gifts of stock shares. There may be significant tax advantages to donating stock directly to Nepal Orphans Home since donors may avoid paying capital gains tax on appreciated shares. Of course, NOH cannot provide tax advice and donors should seek advice from tax professionals in connection with their stock donations.

If you wish to donate stock to NOH, please contact Barbara Hess, Treasurer of NOH, Inc., to obtain the routing number of our account. Barbara can be reached via email at [bhessnc@aol.com](mailto:bhessnc@aol.com).

## **CHECKS**

Checks, payable to Nepal Orphans Home, can be mailed to us at P.O. Box 1254, Davidson, N.C. 28036. Of course, credit card donations are welcome and can be made [through our website](#).

---

## **JESSE'S BIRTHDAY OUTING**

NOH Adviser Jesse Bach celebrated his birthday this summer by taking everyone to a movie AND an amusement park. Jesse explains:

*My birthday is becoming an annual event with NOH. For years, I had empty celebrations during which I unwrapped presents that were quickly forgotten. I've decided that my birthday is better spent giving to the kids that I love so much. My favorite days with my mom surrounded 'mystery trips'. We would hop into her jeep and drive around, often times ending up at a movie and going to our local amusement park. They are the days I most remember. Many of the kids don't have moms to speak of. I'm hoping that they think back to their own mystery trips with their NOH family with as many fond memories as I do with my own mom.*

While in Dhapsi, Jesse also built a playground for the kids:

*The playground is the culmination of several generous donors in the Cleveland area, combined with my career in woodworking. Over the past several years I've seen that the children love their Saturday afternoons off, playing at Michael's house. I thought that they would very much enjoy a*

*small playground. I'll never forget the grand unveiling, the day I was leaving for the summer, it was a monsoon out and all the kids were wearing their rainjackets that make them look like large penguins. It took a month to construct, every step was an adventure. Special thanks to all the NOH volunteers who helped, Kendra, Falcor, Kaela, Kayla and Hillary. I can't wait to add to it this upcoming summer!*

[Enjoy the video](#) of Jesse's birthday outing and the grand unveiling of the playground.

---

## **IN THEIR OWN WORDS**

We constantly talk about how wonderful our children are, but we have decided to give them an opportunity to actually speak for themselves. In this issue, we are pleased to introduce our readers to two beautiful girls: Anisha and Sarita.



First, Anisha shares her experience of the Dashain holiday at Papa's House. Many children visit their families during this holiday, but Anisha was one of the children who remained at home. She wrote this piece, in English, herself:

*This Dashain I was very very happy, there were many funny days. We went to the Botanical gardens and I saw so many things that I am so happy to see, flowers and trees and all the birds. I enjoyed it very much.*

*This holiday is special, Sirkka sister has given me wool and made me a skirt, she shows me how to make many things, she taught me how to work with wool and she listens to me and tells wonderful stories. Kylie sister has helped me with art and taught me to draw, she taught me to write letters on her computer, she is very fun sister. Sirkka took me and others to the zoo one day and we saw monkeys and deer, and elephants, after we went to Thamel for eating Pizza. I am very very happy to go to the Zoo and the Thamel.*

*I meet many volunteers, they talk with me and I talk with them. They help me to talk English, I am happy to see them. Sirkka sister has taught me how to take pictures, I am enjoying this very much. Thank you Papa for asking me to write this letter. I am Anisha Chaudhary.*



Second, Sarita shares her story below (translated from Nepali). The picture above fairly reflects the Sarita we know. She is always smiling. Her life before Nepal Orphans Home is a tragedy that sadly happens to many thousands of girls each year. Some stories are worse; some are better. We offer this story to you not to make you feel bad, but, to the contrary, to let you know what your support allows us to accomplish. Imagine a family of over 130 children all smiling like Sarita, all the time, and you would know our home.

*My Name is Sarita, I am the oldest of three sisters living in Imagine House. My mother died when I was ten and my father sold me to home owners. They did not work, I did it all. I would wake up at 4 am and start to work, and I would finish my work at 11 or 12 at night. The family never let me go and sleep, they would always give me more work to do; if they found me sleeping they would scold and then beat me.*

*My sister Sapana talked to Papa about where I was and what was happening to me. Papa sent Vinod to Narti hostel to bring more girls to Dhapasi and told him to go to the village where I was on their way back to Kathmandu and take me. When they got to me the family refused to let me go; one man in the house was always beating me and I was scared but Vinod and the others told the house owner I was going with them and took me.*

Asked about what being rescued meant to her Sarita replied:

*If not being rescued I would never escape the Kamlari system, I don't know what would have happened with not good food, little sleep, all the time work, all the time beaten what would happen to me.*

And asked what is your life now she responded:

*I am in school, it is an English school and I am learning many things, I have good food and clothes and love." And about the future, Sarita states "I want to be a nurse when I finish my studies, I want to help Kamlari girls and the poor.*

One of Sarita's younger sister's, Sapana, has also expressed a desire to help other Kamlari girls. The thoughtfulness and generous spirit of children who have experienced so much pain and hardship demonstrates that there is always hope.

[See photos of the children](#)

---

## SANCTUARY FOR KIDS FOUNDATION



Earlier this month, Papa's House welcomed Jill Bodie and her daughter Hannah to Dhapasi, and later they were joined by Amanda Tapping, star of TV shows *Stargate SG-1* and *Sanctuary*. Amanda and Jill are from Sanctuary for Kids ("SFK"), the Canadian foundation that has offered so much support of NOH and, in particular, our new Gumba ("Sanctuary") House, which was named in their honor. On Jill and Hannah's first day, they met the children in the afternoon at the Skylark School. In the meeting, which preceded a tour of all our homes and an art project initiated at Hannah's school and carried out at our Sanctuary House, a quick spark of a budding friendship could be seen between Hannah and Anisha, whose piece about her time at Papa's House during Dashain appears above. This friendship suggests to us that bringing children from diverse cultures together could be such a powerful and easy solution to the disharmony in the world.



We are pleased that Jill and Amanda were able to make the trip to Nepal to meet the children whose lives they have helped to change. We highly recommend reading Amanda's wonderful blog about her visit at <http://sanctuaryforkids.org/whats-happening/nepal-blog>



## **VOLUNTEER REPORT**

We continue to be impressed by the caliber of volunteers who visit us. For this issue, two volunteers have written their own reports.

### **JILL SCHNEIDER**

Jill shared with us not only her story, but also some of her wonderful photography:



**POTTY TRAINING AT A BABY ORPHANAGE — PRICELESS!**



### **NAPTIME AT A BABY ORPHANAGE**

*I was born and raised in San Francisco, California. I have always been a traveler and a storyteller and after college graduation in 2005, I decided to combine the two with photography. After completing a seven-month trip around the world, including my first visit to Nepal, I was hooked.*

*In 2005, I traveled to Nepal for 6 weeks, trekking to Annapurna Basecamp and volunteering in an orphanage through another non-profit organization. My good friend, Heather, was volunteering at an orphanage near mine. Everyday, when we met in Thamel to eat something other than rice, she would tell me stories about a man, also working at her orphanage, named Michael. For weeks, I heard of all the good things he was doing and all the ideas he had for the Nepali children. Heather told me he was an inspiration, but I never got the chance to meet him.*

*On my journey, I discovered places that were completely different from anything I had ever seen. These new experiences impacted me significantly, opened my eyes, and gave me a new perspective of the world, as well as my own life.*



### **A RIVER PROVIDES RESPITE FROM THE HEAT**



### **DAILY LIFE AT AN ELDERLY ASHRAM**

*My interest in photography began in high school; but it was not until after my time abroad that it became my passion. After I returned to the U.S., my photographs were displayed in various galleries and exhibitions. I started doing freelance event photography, as well as selling prints from my website. I quit my job in real estate and decided to go back to school to get a Masters degree in Photography.*

*As part of my Master's thesis project, I knew I wanted to make a social documentary piece, and return to the part of the world that had previously impacted me so greatly. With much planning, and apprehension, I decided to spend 9 months living, volunteering, traveling, and photographing beneath the 'Roof of the World', documenting Himalayan life in Nepal, Northern India, Kashmir, Bhutan and Tibet.*

*When I was researching what I wanted to do in Nepal, Volunteer Nepal came up on my Google search instantly. I loved the website and decided to contact them. I had no idea that Michael Hess was the same Michael I had heard so many great things about 5 years earlier. Once I found out what Michael had created, my decision was made; I too would join the Volunteer Nepal family.*

*This time I was in Nepal for 5 months. I worked with Volunteer Nepal at Papa's house, teaching English in 'squatters' school in Manohara, taking care of babies at Balmandir orphanage, and spending time with the freed Kamlaris in Narti.*



### **RESCUED KAMLARI GIRLS**

*Throughout my 9 months of traveling around Asia, Kathmandu was my home base, and having the support of Volunteer Nepal and my new found friends, made coming back feel like home.*

*The culmination of my thesis project is an exhibition/fundraiser 'Dharma Path'*

on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm to midnight, at Space Gallery, 1141 Polk St., San Francisco. From now until December 12<sup>th</sup>, photographic proceeds will go to Nepal Orphans Home. All photographs are available in various sizes. Please check out [www.jillhsphotography.com](http://www.jillhsphotography.com) and feel free to contact me at [jills82@gmail.com](mailto:jills82@gmail.com).

## **SIRRKA TURKKI**



For three years now we have had a truly remarkable person share herself with us. What Einstein has done for physics she has done for teaching people how, by quiet example, to live. In our opinion she has perfected life. Sirkka is a much in demand lecturer, poet, author, artist, dramatist and university professor; and in her summer residence on the water outside of Helsinki she has created an environmental garden that attracts thousands of visitors each summer. There she works in and eats from her garden and she fishes; each activity with exuberance and joy. She creates a new drawing everyday, writes a journal which might include a poem or short story, everyday. Sirkka has lived a life Hemingway made his mark writing about; she has driven an ambulance in Africa during a genocide and performed minor surgery there when a patient was in trouble and no one knew what to do. Her paintings hang in numerous galleries and she is often called upon to perform on stage. Yet, when she is here for a month each fall, she speaks nothing of her life. She eats rice twice a day with the children and asks for nothing more. For all appearances, she is simply a lovely grandmother hosting a room full of children each day, teaching them knitting and other crafts while listening to them with a radiant smile and twinkling eyes. She is a once in a lifetime person to meet and she has elevated us all by her presence. And by the way, when she left Finland to come here she did not even bother to lock her door.

Sirkka wrote about her volunteer experience this fall and we are pleased to share her piece with you, but first we wanted you to know something about how special she is.



*Two years ago, I went to Papa's House for the first time. I stayed at the Lawajuni home in Narti for eight weeks. At that time, there were forty-two ex-kamalari girls living at Lawajuni. We washed ourselves and our laundry either at the well or at the river, cooked our rice over an open fire, played, sang, and did homework. In those days, the girls called me Auntie.*

*One year ago, I stayed in Kathmandu for six weeks. While I was there, I sewed skirts for the girls and played with them. I also gave some lectures at the university. I love open markets, so I visited the market in Jamal often. There I bought knitting wool, material for the skirts, and a lot of clothes. In those days, I was mostly called sister.*

*In October 2010, I was at Papa's house for the third time. This time, I could only stay for four weeks. The first week flew by and because of the festivals at that time of year, most of the children left Kathmandu and travelled to their villages. However, twenty children remained at Papa's House.*

*I had my door open for the children from six o'clock in the morning until dinnertime. I sewed thirty-two skirts, like the girls wanted, made sixteen needlepoint pillows, and sewed simple bags for girls' handicrafts.*

*In addition, I took small groups for visits to a monastery and to the zoo. After the zoo, we went to a restaurant. When little Kamana said: "Mamu, this is the happiest day in my life!" I was touched. One of the girls told me that she remembered me from Narti: "You had a big plastic bag full of apples!". One girl said at the tourist area: "Mamu I have never seen so many volunteers!". I tried to explain to her the difference between a tourist and a volunteer!*

*A child needs so little! We all need love! They mostly called me mamu this time (granny).*

*We also had a wonderful night on the roof looking at the stars. My mattress was near a little boy's mattress. Before laying down, he kissed his three dolls (Penguin, elg, and doll) on both cheeks and their foreheads, and then he said to them, one by one: "Good night my son!", just as Papa Michael had said and done, a moment before. Nobody saw my tears.*

*Leaving the kids was the most difficult part of whole trip.*

*As before I also visited my friend at Mother Teresa's old people's home and other places.*

*Sirkka Turkki (soon 65 years old)*

[www.sirkkaturkki.fi](http://www.sirkkaturkki.fi)

[sirkka.turkki@gmail.com](mailto:sirkka.turkki@gmail.com) (Sirkka generously requested that we include her email

address in case anyone wishes to ask her questions.)

## **[READ ABOUT MORE VOLUNTEERS](#)**

---

### **FEATURED PLACEMENTS**

#### **BIGU**

[Watch the video \*Looking for Buddha in Bigu\*](#)

Volunteer Nepal establishes incredible volunteer placements in areas of great need, intoxicating beauty, and a fair amount of magic. One of these places is a Tibetan monastery high in the mountains with a clear view of their homeland, Tibet. This monastery is home to 56 young Buddhist nuns and a handful of Monks and has become a second home for the past two years to numerous volunteers ready to make a two-three day trek to reach it.

This fall Volunteer Nepal arranged for a group of ten friends to spend a week in Bigu after completing a build for Habitat for Humanity Nepal. Val Toomey and friends made a beautiful video of their trek there and the work they did while in Bigu. This well edited, but all too brief film has since inspired everyone to whom Val has shown it. Consequently, Val will be returning with two new groups of ten volunteers wanting to experience this idyllic placement for themselves.

Nepal Orphans Home has begun to offer financial support for a small Tibetan school in the same village. This is the only all-Tibetan school in the area -- the school meets the needs of the Tibetan people to further the history and language of their culture which is not allowed in the small government school. Nepal Orphans Home is proud to be able to assist Namgyal, the Monk who started the school devoted to securing the future identity of his people.

Please contact [www.volunteernepal.com](http://www.volunteernepal.com) and let us help to change your life while you serve others in this beautiful country.

#### **MARTYRS HOSPITAL**



**Ariana Arulampalam, Shruti Sethi, Amy Nokaes, and Mikhaila Nicholls**

Ariana Arulampalam, Shruti Sethi, Amy Nokaes, Mikhaila Nicholls are four passionate young women who arrived at our volunteer house in early October. They are all 3rd year medical students at the University of Newcastle in Australia, currently volunteering at the Martyrs Memorial Hospital in Kalanki (Kathmandu). Their supervisor, Dr. Deepak Shrestha (Medical Director), is a Consultant

Orthopedics Surgeon who has been guiding them with their daily activities at the hospital. Though the MMH is a small hospital, the four medical students have expressed great satisfaction and gratitude about this incredible opportunity:

*Placement at Martyrs Memorial Hospital has been an amazing experience for all four of us. We have been learning things through observation, and have been able to do practical things such as taking blood pressure, giving injections, applying dressings and assisting with some surgeries. Due to the festival time the hospital was quite slow for a lot of the placement so we haven't been able to see and do as much as we were hoping. We found language to be a bit of a barrier as expected, but the doctors and some of the nurses speak good English and have been friendly and helpful. Since the hospital is small we have been able to learn the stories of most of the patients and follow up on their care throughout different departments. Apart from having a great medical experience, we also enjoy being completely immersed in Nepali culture. The patients are very excited to meet us and often mistake us for doctors. It's a good thing we learnt early on how to say "Ma doctor hoi na!"*

### [READ MORE ABOUT OUR SPECIAL PLACEMENTS](#)

---

### THANK YOU!



**Nadia, Alyssa, Lily, and Caitlin with Local Firemen**

Just down the road from Jill Schneider's photo exhibition, two young sisters and two of their friends held a bake sale to raise money for the children at Papa's House. These big hearted girls held the sale on October 10 and set up a stand in a location that took advantage of the throngs of people heading to Fisherman's Wharf for the annual air show by the Blue Angels during "Fleet Week". A dozen of their parents' friends baked numerous treats for them to sell and the tasty delights attracted the attention of many supportive passersby. The girls worked for three hours and had a blast. When sales were slow, they hid under the table and yelled "Bake sale for charity!" so loudly that they could be heard a block away. Moments before the Blue Angels were about to perform and it was time to pack up, some local fireman pulled up in a truck, gave a \$20 donation, and devoured the remaining goodies. The girls were very excited to have sold everything and raised \$300 for NOH. We are ecstatic to have received this donation, which will cover the cost of school supplies for five children — proving that no donation is too small and everyone can make a difference. Thank you Alyssa, Lily, Caitlin, and Nadia for having big hearts and giving your time to help other children.

---

## 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 want to make contributions for specific purposes. Alternatively, various gift packages and descriptions of current projects are available at [Universal Giving](#).

If you would like to make a stock donation, please contact Barbara Hess, Treasurer of NOH, Inc., at [bhessnc@aol.com](mailto: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](http://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. We have also been informed that it is possible to donate money while you browse the web on a new, free, Firefox-based browser called [GlobalMojo](#).