



"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant."

-- Robert Louis Stevenson

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September 2012



UPDATE

The latest update from Papa's House is out. New children have joined our homes, several of our girls have started college (a first for NOH!), and "new Anita" has come on board to manage Harmony House. Papa also gives a tour of Dhapasi, our neighborhood home for the past five years, a photographic glimpse into life for our children in Nepal.

[Click here to read the update.](#)

NEWSLETTER

Papa's Inaugural Egg Hunt



Routine and predictability offer security to our children, but new ideas and activities spark the imagination and tickle one's sense of fun. This summer Papa introduced egg hunts to the children. While at first puzzled by the concept, the kids readily jumped in, and were quickly squealing at their discovery of these somewhat oddly decorated prizes. There were variations at each house in order of their occurrence: At Michael's house the eggs had no color (oops, you need to

add vinegar to the dye), at Anita's and Sunita's houses the eggs were darkened to the point of not being able to decorate them with anything but black marker (maybe we shouldn't leave them in the coloring for several hours), Gita took glee at hiding eggs in the water jugs, where the kids didn't dream of looking, and of course Pratap outdid the others by having the boys hunt INSIDE the house first, knowing that all of the eggs were actually hidden OUTSIDE.



Dhapasi Clean Up Day



The children of Papa's House have decided to keep the streets of upper Dhapasi clean. Early morning on May 19, the children met at 6am at the temple across from Skylark school and worked their way up to our main home and grounds, collecting along the way enough garbage and debris to fill 46 50-liter trash bags! The children stacked the bags in the back yard of Papa's House where a team of girls sorted through it all and burned what could be. The recyclables will be sold.

The children suggested this be a regular event before their morning tea on Saturdays. We devote one Saturday a month to the street cleaning, and every other Saturday for cutting the grass on our grounds. Each time the children intend a different route for garbage collection. The children are hoping that their fellow residents will appreciate the clean streets and help keep them that way.



Vinod and Alecia in America

If you know of Nepal Orphans Home, you most definitely know of Vinod Kumar Mahato. Vinod has been with Papa since nearly the beginning, working in every manner imaginable for NOH, including house manager and volunteer coordinator. Several years ago, Alecia Westphalen came to Nepal to volunteer. Alecia and Vinod quickly fell in love and spent years working towards Vinod one day joining Alecia in the U.S. That finally happened earlier this year. Vinod and Alecia write of their experience below.

Vinod: "When we landed in the US my heart was beating so fast. I ran to get my suitcase and put it on the roller and then I ran. All of the people were looking at me, I thought, "Oh my God, they might stop me," because I was running like something was wrong. I was very excited to see everyone's face, especially my wife's. When I finally saw Alecia I felt so relieved, that my dream finally came true, I couldn't believe that I was actually here, in the US. I was very excited to meet all of Alecia's family, her parents and her sisters."

Alecia: "Vinod arrived in the US on April 4th at the DC port of entry. I wouldn't let anyone talk to me, as I was afraid to take my eyes off of the door in which he was supposed to come through. When he finally arrived, I thought that I would literally fall to the ground, as the kids would say, it was "mind blowing". Vinod, in the US, was something I had always thought would happen, but it didn't really hit me until I actually saw him, wearing his UNC-Chapel Hill t-shirt, running toward me. It was quite possibly, one of the happiest, best moments of my life.



Vinod and Alecia reunited in Washington DC

While I spent the summer doing an internship, Vinod was learning about trading stocks from my father, and planting a small garden in our backyard. He would spend hours on end, watering it and pruning it. At nighttime we enjoyed campfires outside with s'mores, and our weekends were spent going to our local lake, or touring museums in downtown Raleigh. When I returned to UNC, I was asked what my "favorite view" was this summer. I didn't even have to think, but immediately replied; "When Vinod saw the ocean for the first time." We had headed out to Wrightsville Beach and as we were walking towards the beach, Vinod's father called. When Vinod saw the ocean for the first time, his eyes lit up, he was yelling into his phone and telling his father, "Yes, Bhooba I am at the ocean! It is so big, I cannot see the other side!" He was trying to describe the sand and the color of the water, and his father was just laughing and laughing, unable to imagine something he had probably never even seen a picture of.



Vinod enjoying the garden

Now that we are back in Chapel Hill, I am completing my senior year at UNC and Vinod is working full time at a coffee shop/restaurant. Everyday he comes home asking me, "Why is American food so complicated?" He is learning from scratch, but works so very hard. Being in our own apartment is very different for us. Often times we feel strange, because of the silence. Both of us are used to being together with all of the children and our family members around. But we enjoy our evenings by alternating cooking American and Nepali cuisine, and we look forward to being back in Nepal to visit as soon as we can!"



Vinod and Alecia visiting with Peter and Boo Hess (Michael Hess' brother and sister-in-law)

Volunteer Nepal does "Curry Without Worry"



Some of our incredible volunteers headed out to participate in Curry Without Worry, a community event that provides food to around 300 hungry souls every Tuesday in the historic Durbar Square district of Kathmandu. In just 6 weeks since sending the first group of volunteers, Volunteer Nepal has sent 27 volunteers to help prepare and serve food. NOH supporter, Tamara Saltzman, tells us all about that first group of volunteers, which also included Carola, Devon, Clara, Kate, Reid, and Sally:

"What a great volunteer day we had, all day and night at Curry Without Worry. It was really a complete experience for all--a long day, Nepali style--working in the Durbar Square orphanage, cooking, cutting, rolling roti breads, even riding through the streets in a truck with tons of food that we made. We helped feed those living on the streets, local orphans, and more.

As we rolled up to set up the serving table, we saw that there was already a line around the square waiting to eat. Clara turned to me and said, 'This is the real thing.' Kate just beamed. Reid and I held up the back, cameras in hand, full of moral support. What an eye-ful.

The organizers thanked us a thousand times. We got to use the Nepali we had learned in our Volunteer Nepal orientation class, and Carola and I managed to sneak in a few photos of both of us careening through the streets standing in the back of a truck, tippytoes holding the lid on a pot of 300 Chapatti breads we had helped make.

Good times were had by all, and many were fed - 300 out in the street, everyone at the orphanage, the staff, and ourselves!"



OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEER NEPAL COORDINATOR

We're excited to welcome our newest Volunteer Coordinator to our family, Maya Thapa. Maya lives right down the street from our homes in Dhapasi, and came upon her position at VN after applying to teach the home school group at Papa's house. While the position had already been filled, we knew we couldn't let a gem like Maya go. She then interviewed for Volunteer Nepal and started the next day!



Maya (left) with medical volunteer, Jenny Liu

Maya just finished leading a group of high school students on a 10-day volunteer itinerary that took them to the KAT Center, NOH, Curry without Worry, and the Children's Hospital in Banepa. And all of that was on top of seeing Kathmandu's most important cultural heritage sites. We are so lucky to have someone who has so much energy and passion for her work with our volunteers.

Saying Goodbye to Sam



A staple of the NOH/VN family over the past several years has been Sam Tamang Isherwood. Sam first came to Nepal as a volunteer but quickly realized he wanted to do more. Sam soon returned to work as a Volunteer Coordinator, basketball coach, handyman, and all-around big brother to our children. Sam could be found every morning and afternoon walking the children to and from school, caring for our volunteers in between, on Saturdays playing ball with the older kids, tag with the younger ones, or just sitting and chatting with others in cool corners of shade on the grounds of Papa's House. He provided quick laughs and took the many names the children came up with (always in good fun) in stride. Mostly he's been a steady support of love and companionship for our kids.



After a year-and-a-half, Sam walked to Papa's one last time where everyone gathered to wish him farewell. He's recently returned to his home state of Washington to spend time with his family and his many nieces and nephews. He's also planning his return to Nepal as quickly as possible.

THANK YOU!



Lily McCadden, Alyssa McCadden, and Sadie Hershfield-Cohen help set up for the fundraiser in Marin

On June 20th, sisters Liz Early and Anne McCadden (with the help of friends and family, including Liz's daughter Elizabeth Early) held simultaneous, bi-coastal fundraisers for NOH. Liz's event in Madison, Connecticut, took place in a local tea shop with Nepali tea and Himalayan music, while Anne's event was held at her family home in Marin County, California - with margaritas and a taco bar. Their friends and family in attendance generously donated funds to NOH.

Anne and Liz are cousins of Michael Hess and first joined Volunteer Nepal a year ago (Anne returned to NOH in July). Having seen first-hand how the support of private donors are improving the lives of children in Nepal, Anne and Liz wanted to raise additional awareness and funds to support the efforts of NOH. They timed the event to the Summer Solstice, lending a festive spirit to their joint fundraiser.



Elizabeth Early and Liz Early review their speeches before the Connecticut fundraiser

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Kelly and Sherri Green. Not only did they give their time and hearts volunteering with us, but they also dedicated their trek to Everest Base Camp to fundraising for Nepal Orphans Home. Kelly writes of their experience:

"Sherri and I have always wanted to explore Nepal and volunteer but

unfortunately timing was always a problem as we both lived in different cities/ countries. Then this year it just so happened we were finally in the same city! We stumbled across Volunteer Nepal's page and just loved Michael's story, we knew straight away that's where we wanted to volunteer.

We also decided to sign up for a trek to Everest Base Camp, even though we had never trekked, or even worn hiking boots before. We knew we needed all the support we could get, but then thought we could do more. Why not trek for NOH and raise money? We created a fundraising poster, a Facebook page, and sent it around to our friends and family. The response was remarkable! It's truly incredible when you have a passion and a drive for something, what you can achieve.

After the trek I volunteered for a week and got to meet all the amazing/inspiring children. Truly a life changing experience. It was such a pleasure to see the incredible work Michael and his team have done. To be able to do our little bit was well worth it."



Kelly (left) and Sherri (right) with some of our girls

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 that would like to make contributions for specific purposes.

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

Contribute just by conducting internet searches using the Goodsearch search engine at www.goodsearch.com and designating Nepal Orphans Home as the recipient of the funds raised by your searches. [GoodShop](#) can be used for online shopping, by designating NOH as the recipient leading companies will donate a portion of the sales to Papa's House.