

Village Hope Partnership Newsletter

To: Friends of Village Hope Partnership
From: Don Gielow, President
Date: December 2017
Re: Newsletter 6, Update regarding work in Nepal



Greetings to you from Village Hope Partnership! At the close of 2017, we want to share with you an update on recent projects and experiences in Nepal. A month ago, in November, we returned from our fall trip where relationships with rural communities grew as we interacted with people in villages and orphan children.



After three and a half years of partnering with communities in Nepal, we now have a presence in over 60 rural villages and continue to receive requests from new village communities, inspired to pursue projects of their own. There continues to be a myriad of opportunities to help support, encourage and inspire people who are struggling with the basic needs in this region. We are currently focusing on projects impacting literacy and education, health and hygiene, jobs and economic stability, and proper shelter.

Over the last three years, even as we see inspiring progress with infrastructure and organizational projects, we also have needed to be responsive to a series of natural disasters-- large floods and earthquakes. We have found that these people, challenged in so many ways, bounce back, are hard-working, resourceful and they need so little to make a huge recovery from a disaster. In our last trip to several regions, we visited, listened and supported projects that addressed our regular array of initiatives as well as responded to disaster related needs. We are glad to share some highlights:

Growing Trees & Healthy Communities. At the very start of our work in Nepal, we partnered with Eden Reforestation, to help Nepal in its plans to reforest the country. About 70% of the regional forest had been cut down. Responding to this challenge, Eden has now planted over 2 million trees in just 3 years. We visited of the first replanted lands and were awed by what we saw. Trees that were planted as seeds at the start of 2015 were now 15 - 25 feet tall. In addition, the once barren ground is now lush with grass and undergrowth because of the



shade and increased water retention of the ground. Villagers can now cut and harvest grass for their livestock which results in more milk, healthier animals and more food. Planting trees also gives people jobs that support families and the village. There is so much progress we see in this area, where land, people and animals all benefit.

Flood Response. In Nepal, when excessive rains hit, rivers easily overflow their banks destroying homes, farm lands, livestock and often take absolutely everything that a family has. When this happens we first need to address immediate practical needs of food and shelter but later look at helping rebuild homes in more secure ways, and replacing livestock. We also give something else: hope, because someone cares.



Developing Relationships & Opportunities. We have had some very satisfying times sitting with villagers talking about what they see as the most important needs of their village. After discussion,

the village communities propose to us what they have determined will help the most. In general their requests are very modest and we can usually address most of their ideas. We often start slow, then add new opportunities as projects are completed. The trend for the last few visits is for outhouses (they do the building, we help with some tools and supplies), sewing classes (upon completion we provide sewing machines and some supplies to help them get started), and animals (that will reproduce and sustain).



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! If it wasn't for friends and donors, all this would not have been possible. We have now expended over \$215,000 helping people with defined projects. More than mere funding, these projects have given hope and opportunity. Thank you to the friends of Village Hope Partnership who made this possible.

For more information, visit our website at villagehopepartnership.org
Village Hope Partnership is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization,
EIN# 47-2774879 *Donations go 100% to programs for the poor. Administrative costs are paid from a special donation for that purpose. Donations can be sent to our office in San Mateo at 700 South Claremont Suite #223, San Mateo, CA 94402.*

