

Village Hope Partnership Newsletter



To: Friends of Village Hope Partnership
From: Don Gielow, President
Date: November 2019
Re: How does VHP Make a Difference?

Greetings, friends of VHP! In past newsletters we've shared many statistics and stories of the impact that VHP is having in Nepal. Our project coordinator, Shanti Giri, recently described for us in writing the model she uses in engaging with villages. The overall positive effects of this model and approach cannot be easily captured in statistics or even in individual stories, so we want to share here Shanti's description of the process and how it facilitates community-building and spiritual development, village by village.

HOW VHP WORKS AND ITS IMPACT ON VILLAGERS & COMMUNITIES (from Shanti Giri)

Our organization helps to uplift the livelihood of people and increase harmony in communities. How do we do this? First, through word of mouth, people get information about our organization. They know what our organization is doing in nearby villages. A new village representative approaches our organization. At this point, the following steps take place:



Engagement & Organization in a Community

- Once we get request from any village, we go through the village profile: is it in a remote area? Who are the people who really need help and could benefit from this program?
- Once it is confirmed that there are people who really need this program, we select one of the active leaders of that village. That leader will help us to manage a field visit.
- On a field visit, we briefly have a village tour. The leader then calls the people of that village for a meeting. We introduce VHP--what we do, why we are doing it and how it can impact villager livelihood. Then we listen to what the people share, what they think could make a difference for them. From there, we get list of people and their needs and requests.
- After this, we develop a committee with 6 to 7 people representative of the village society. We are not familiar with the real situations of each village and people, so the committee helps us to decide if the family is really poor, and if they need the support or not. This committee will then have home visits to the selected list, considering if they really need help and if their life will improve if we provide them their request. The committee is responsible for the selected family.
- The committee verifies the list requests and provides this to VHP for approval. Once this occurs, we then fulfill the requests and proposals.

Committee Leadership, Accountability, Passing Support Forward

- Once a family receives their initial request, the committee members have regular field visits to their home to make sure there is proper care taken for the support we provided.
- We always convey the message that we don't need anything as a payback. We teach, however, that what they received from VHP they should share with their neighbors. For example, if someone gets a goat, they have to share one once it gives birth to other baby goats. It is the same with other animals. The people will then submit one baby goat to the committee. The committee decides to whom it is to be shared, making sure that only the needy people receive it. In this way we are teaching people to share what they have with others.
- This process helps the community to unify, work together and be helpful to each other.

Building Respect, Trust, Harmony

In selecting people for support, we consider all the people who are in need rather than asking if they are Christian or not. This helps people understand that they are not selected on the basis of religion and they have respect for our organization. Before this experience, they believe Christians only help Christian people. But with our program in the village, they understand Christian people help non-believers too and want to spread love, care and harmony in the village. In this way, village by village, we are able to change the mindset of people in society about Christianity. In this way, we are sharing the Gospel. All the people want to be involved in our programs. Those people will share information of our organization to other people and get connected with VHP. Finally, it is the village committees themselves who monitor how our program is working and helping to uplift the livelihood of all people, how it is changing their economic condition and improving their social relations with each other increasing cooperation, love and care for each other.



Our vision: We have been able to achieve our goal, our vision to help the needy ones, uplift their economic condition and help them to have reason to share with their neighbors. Though VHP, many people have received help and they are cooperative, excited, and happy to get support from VHP. The villagers happily welcome us to their villages. As a result, we are getting lots of requests from many villages who want to build their communities in these ways. We look forward to continuing to achieve the vision of VHP for the future.



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 It is also now possible to transfer stock to VHP.