

Village Hope Partnership Newsletter



To: Friends of Village Hope Partnership
From: Don Gielow, President
Date: April 19, 2016
Re: Update regarding work in Nepal

You are reading our second newsletter from Village Hope Partnership. A lot has happened in the last two years and many people have been blessed. The needs in Nepal can easily seem overwhelming but taking a village, family or individual one at a time, a huge difference can be achieved over and over again. In the newsletter you will see a little more of what we do, helping people become more self-sufficient, able to provide for themselves, their children and to initiate projects which give hope for their future. The following are descriptions of recent work accomplished in our partnerships with villages and organizations in Nepal.



Two new homes established for children who lost their parents during the 2015 earthquake. We had the opportunity to provide the funds to establish two orphan homes for 13 children who lost their parents in the devastating earthquake of last spring. Eight children are settled in one home, and five in the second. These new family homes will allow the children to grow up with parents to care for them. Children will stay in the home through high school and possibly longer. One of our agency partners is Child Hope, an organization that trains prospective parents and supervises and oversees 23 orphan homes in Nepal. We have worked with Child Hope in the past and are very impressed with the quality of these homes. The children will be attending private school in Nepal which will give them a quality education.

Outhouse to help with hygiene (and more). The sanitation in many villages is often marginal or non-existent. This reality probably accounts for some of the short life expectancy in the country. We are starting to help villages build outhouse facilities. Where appropriate we are also offering an innovative outhouse design that converts the refuse into gas for cooking as a byproduct of the decomposition of waste.



In one village we experimented with such a unit and it works well. So far we have helped in funding 15 outhouses being constructed by villagers. The picture to the right shows the woman who now has cooking fuel, due to the innovative design described above. We visited her in March, and she is thrilled to have this resource.



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Planting trees, jobs and hope. One of the opportunities Village Hope Partnership looks for is to find projects which provide jobs that add stability to a village area or region. We have invested \$25,000 to help one of our partner organizations, Eden Reforestation, to come to Nepal to assist the country in reforestation—a huge need in many areas in Nepal. The first spring they planted 400,000 trees and this spring they will plant another 800,000 trees. Our interest is that the plant nurseries hire about five people per nursery full time and hundreds of part-time workers during the planting season giving people reliable jobs. This year there will be six nurseries, therefore 30 full time workers plus hundreds of part-time workers. This program is expanding quickly each year. Eden reforestation is able to plant trees for about ten cents a tree. The people win, the country wins, the environment wins.

Two years of progress. It has been two years now that Village Hope Partnership has been present in Nepal. It has truly been an exciting time and a lot has been done. In addition to the projects already described in this newsletter, below is summary of many of the ways we have expended funds toward strategic projects with lasting impact:

- \$5,080 given providing animals (sets of chickens, goats, piglets) to individual families to improve their diet, to raise and breed animals that they can sell for cash for needed items. We've also funded \$1,000 toward fish ponds with similar impact. 108 families have been helped so far and the program is growing. Where possible we expect there will be some repayment so other poor people can participate in the program in the village.
- **Earthquake & Flood Relief:** \$10,000 has been provided in direct relief after the earthquake last year, mainly in the form of food and necessities; \$21,600 was given for tin roofing material for families that lost their homes in the earthquake, \$5,400 was given for helping families in flood areas in the west and southwest to relocate and rebuild their homes after a major flood. \$9,000 was given to repair an irrigation holding tank that 5 villages use for irrigation during the dry season. The pond was still there after the earthquake but it no longer could hold water. It is an expensive repair but a lot of people will benefit for years to come.
- \$1,500.00 was given in microloans to allow villagers to start businesses, and \$3,000 in debt assistance for some villagers that were caught in high interest arrangements.
- \$6,000 was given to purchase two block machines where several families will work together starting a construction business.
- \$1,760 given for sewing machines which will provide income as the women are trained to sew.
- \$2,480 given for irrigation and drinking pumps for several villages.
- \$1,100 At times we come across needs that do not fit any expense category, so we describe these as compassion. Several people needed medical help including surgeries. Nepal prices are much less than US.
- \$5,680 for health and education expenses. This investment covers school fees so children can attend school. It also covers a variety of other supports such as hiring a teacher to assist in a particular community, and funding a roof on a school where there had been insufficient funds to complete the project.



THANK YOU! Over \$100,000 has been given toward the development of communities in Nepal in two years, inspiring hope in these regions that change is possible. Thank you to each one of you who has made this possible through your contributions and prayer support.

Contribution Information: All donations go 100% to programs for the poor. All 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.

For more information, visit our website at villagehopepartnership.org
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