

Village Hope Partnership Newsletter



To: Friends of Village Hope Partnership
From: Don Gielow, President
Date: February 2023
Re: VHP Update 20

Greetings from Village Hope Partnership!

In November of 2022, Frank VanderZwan and I were able to travel to Nepal for a great visit. It is hard to believe that VHP is starting its 8th year and we have now worked in 294 villages, with a growing list of new villages interested in these services. As we traveled, we were very happy to see some of our earlier project villages continuing to thrive and now sharing training with other villages. This is our model and hope! We also visited new areas for future project expansions and had a warm welcome in all these places.



Now that most of the restrictions of Covid-19 are past in rural Nepal, we are excited to begin 2023 with our full array of activities. We will focus especially on expanding our community training

opportunities, such as sewing, literacy and community health classes.

We want to share an example of how these trainings are proving to be very impactful. On our trip, we visited a village where VHP had funded sewing lessons and sewing machines about four years ago. We were encouraged to see what has happened since that time! We asked Shanti to write up one of the sewing training participant's stories, to give you a sense of how this is making a difference. Here is what she shared:

For Madhuri Tharu, It was a Dream Come True

(from Shanti Giri)

Madhuri was born in a poor family. In her caste, daughters at a young age are sent by their parents to work as maids. She had studied up to standard eight, but was not able to continue school due to her family's limited finances. She got married 13 years ago and now has two daughters, 11 and 12 years old. Her husband works as a laborer, a position which does not earn enough to sustain the family's day to day life.

Madhuri had an interest in sewing from childhood but could not pursue training due to the cost. Approximately



four years ago she learned about VHP helping poor people, including providing sewing training. She was very excited to be involved, as she wanted to eventually run a small sewing business. When she learned that VHP provided the sewing training and sewing machine free of cost, she was overwhelmed. She said, "It felt like my childhood dream came true."



She has learned so much since joining the VHP tailoring classes. She started with very little knowledge and did not even know how to use a sewing machine. This training started with the basics and advanced into professional skills. Initially, it took her six days to move the paddle in the right momentum. Then she practiced using the machine on newspaper to gain control of the material to stitch in a straight line. Then she learned to stitch in circles and advanced through the training to learn clothing design. She is a confident seamstress now and can sustain herself with her tailoring skills. She can now tailor 25 different clothing items for mostly women and children. The

customers are very happy with her stitching and the dresses she designs. In villages it is hard to find good tailoring at minimum cost, which she is providing.

She opened a tailoring shop in her house and is earning NRs 10,000 to NRs 15,000 thousand a month, which is a good income. She is taking care of her household operations as well as tailoring and is proud that she is financially independent and can help support her husband for the family expenses. Her two daughters are happily going to school with no worries about paying school fees. She said "My life is totally changed because of VHP help. I am always thankful for VHP."



This is one story from many, capturing the way our initial small investments can have growing and life-changing impacts. Thank you so much for your interest, prayers and support for Village Hope Partnership's work in Nepal. We look forward to a wonderful 2023!



**Village Hope Partnership is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization
EIN# 47-2774879**

--Contributions will 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