

Village Hope Partnership Newsletter

To: Friends of Village Hope Partnership
From: Don Gielow, President
Date: September 2024
Re: VHP Newsletter 23



Greetings from Village Hope Partnership! We hope you have enjoyed a beautiful summer and are looking ahead to the fall. VHP Projects have been going well in Nepal. In this newsletter, we include our fall plans, and reflections from both Frank VanderZwan and Shanti Giri.

November 2024 Visit to Nepal

We are happy to announce that Frank VanderZwan will be visiting VHP work in Nepal November 2-13. This will be a wonderful time of connecting with communities and traveling with Shanti to see some of the projects impacted by VHP. Please pray for Frank as he visits. ***We will be making a way for Frank to share some of his pictures as he travels, so stay tuned for how you can travel "vicariously" on this journey, we'll be in touch!***

Pre-Trip Reflections from Frank

A number of people have asked me why I am so interested in Nepal and why I have this incredible desire to help the people there. Not only is Nepal a beautiful country with a variety of terrain and a very diverse culture. The most beautiful part of the country is its people. They are incredibly resilient, having faced lots of challenges over the years from changes in their social systems to natural disasters such as monsoon season flooding and of course massive earthquakes. The level of poverty is serious and yet the people are resilient and incredibly joy filled. With just a little help, people have the initiative to surmount the huge problems. That has indeed proven correct over the past years as we have been able to help hundreds of folks in hundreds of villages all over the country. It seems that wherever we can inject a little help the people manage to expand that help for themselves, their families and their communities. Whether it's providing animals, sewing machines, literacy classes, outhouses, or helping with reforestation, the people are able to do some amazing things. I truly look forward to my visit this fall. --Frank



Reflections from Shanti, Fall 2024



I never thought that I would work at VHP. Ten years ago when Don and Frank came to stay at my house, I was just hosting for a warm and good stay. At that time, I was not aware about the mission, vision and purpose of the visit to Nepal. During conversation, Don offered that I could work at VHP in community development. Since my childhood, I have had a heart for the needy, orphans, older people, to help them in any way possible. As I came to understand that VHP is also working with the same vision, I accepted the offer. The next step was a field visit together with

Don and Frank. My journey with VHP began. With this, I then visited various parts of rural Nepal and then started supporting the needy through coordinating the giving of goats, pigs, out-houses, water pumps, sewing training, water buffalo, cows and emergency help, health services, etc. With small help in these ways, we can greatly improve the lives of families in the long run. Over the last ten years, we have seen this happen again and again. Here is an example:

The Impact of One Water Buffalo: One of our beneficiaries, Rajkumar, was in a very difficult financial condition. He and his wife have four children. He worked as a daily laborer, which was not enough to sustain his family and support education for his children. VHP provided one water buffalo, as the family did not have enough money even for this. The water buffalo gave birth to a calf and now he harvests 15 liters of milk and sells to the market, earning \$25 per day. This income source has been a great help, supporting the family and funding school for his children. Now their financial condition is improving. Not only is this milk an additional income source, the milk improves the health of their family, manure fertilizes their farming area which increases food productivity, and finally, the buffalo can be bred and calves sold to others for additional income, and additional good for other families. Ultimately one single water buffalo provided by VHP has changed their lives. He is very thankful. --*Shanti*



Closing Words from Frank:

It is intriguing to visit Nepal, to admire its spectacular mountains, incredible terraces on hillsides and vast areas of jungle. But the people of Nepal are its greatest treasure and it is a privilege to visit and witness the kind of resilience and initiative the people have. In rural Nepal, small amounts of money and support make such a huge difference. My hope is that with your help we can continue to serve the folks in Nepal and give them hope for a future that they will build for themselves. It requires ongoing interest, prayer and support. I trust that you will not forget the work that still can be done in Nepal through VHP. Thank you so much. --*Frank VanderZwan*



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