

# FRIENDS OF HIMALAYAN CHILDREN



## From the President...

When I reflect back on my time in Nepal, I'm amazed and very happy and excited by all that has been achieved. When I left Cairns, I had set goals for my time there and it feels great to know that with your support and encouragement we have completed two major projects and have started work on other projects.

Since founding the charity, I feel blessed to have met some of the most incredible people in the world.

On the 12th of August, I will giving a talk at the library on the child labour situation in Nepal, I feel this talk is very important as it is the reason why I founded the charity. I was a child labourer in Kathmandu so I understand the feeling of helplessness and sadness that millions of children are going through everyday. Everybody can do something to make a difference in this world. FHC's focus is on educating the children in Nepal but it is also important to create awareness.

Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday you will find me and Susan at Rusty's selling handicrafts from Nepal, we are doing this to raise money to return to Nepal soon, it has also been a wonderful place to talk to people about the charity. Many people have expressed an interest in volunteering in the villages to teach English so we are hoping to be able to take a group to the village in December.

I hope to catch up with you on Wednesday at the library.

Many, many thanks for your ongoing support.

Som



Som with the builders in the village

**Projects:**

The school building has been completed. It was an amazing team effort to have it finished before the monsoon season. Everybody in the village are incredibly proud of this achievement. This school still needs resources such as tables, chairs, blackboards and books etc. We will be fundraising to have the school adequately resourced.



(Building)



(New School)

(Village and school from a distance)

**Volunteer House**

The house has been completed and looks beautiful, we are very excited to have such a lovely place for volunteers, visitors and friends to stay when they come to Batase village. We plan to use the house as a community gathering place for meetings and also a safe place for orphans in Batase and surrounding villages to live. Currently, my Mother looks after 4 orphans and space is very limited in their tiny home.



Working on the house)



(Working on the house)  
House close to completion

(Working on the house)  
(House close to completion)

House close to completion

Letter from the Secretary...

Hello Everybody,

We have been back a few weeks now, it took me a couple of weeks to adjust to life here. I didn't think I would miss the chaos of Kathmandu but I do! I also miss the tranquility and beauty of Som's village. Som's family and the villagers were so beautiful, kind and welcoming to me during my time there. I cannot wait to return again.

Five of the surrounding villages are in desperate need of extensions of two classrooms to their schools, the schools are currently unable to accommodate the children in the villages. We also want FHC to fund libraries for schools in Batase Village and surrounding villages, this is a very important project that will require a large amount of money and also donations of books.

We hope to return to Nepal with a group of volunteers on our next trip, we would like to be there for the first trip but for subsequent trips, the villagers will be ready and able to support the volunteers as they settle into life in the village. If you are seriously interested in spending time as a volunteer please contact Som on 0439 782563.

FHC has a new logo! We love the children holding hands (unity), mountains (Nepal), and colours (Prayer flags, symbolizing spirituality). Graphic designer Charles Delvalel did a great job. We want to raise the profile of FHC and for people to remember us, having a logo is vital for this to happen.

We have very exciting news about the website. Julius, who has been a massive support to FHC has purchased at a very high cost the domain name [www.helpchildren.com](http://www.helpchildren.com) for FHC. Julius is also going to be working on developing the website and in his own words:

"I believe the domain name will be worth the investment. Personally I think you should start thinking about the scalability of our donation processes. Maybe we can easily handle 50 sponsored children at the moment, but what will happen if there are 500 or more? What structure do we want to set up? How many children can we get into our database for the start? And will we focus more on child sponsorship or causes like the school in the beginning?"

As you can imagine, there are many things that we need to decide and we look forward to having these discussions in our monthly FHC meetings. We are working very closely with Julius as the website is going to be of huge importance for receiving donations and we believe that the child sponsorship program will make a huge difference in the lives of many children and their families.

Currently there are 18 young people (ages 12-18) living in the hostel having all of their educational and living needs supported by Som. We have one sponsor for a student but for the past 2 years Som has funded everything. There are more and more young people requesting to live at the hostel so in the future, FHC would like to purchase a larger hostel. This will also be a focus during our fundraising efforts.

Thank you to everyone for all of your support and interest.

Nepal is truly a special place, the people are the nicest I've ever met and I hope that you get to go there one day.

Susan



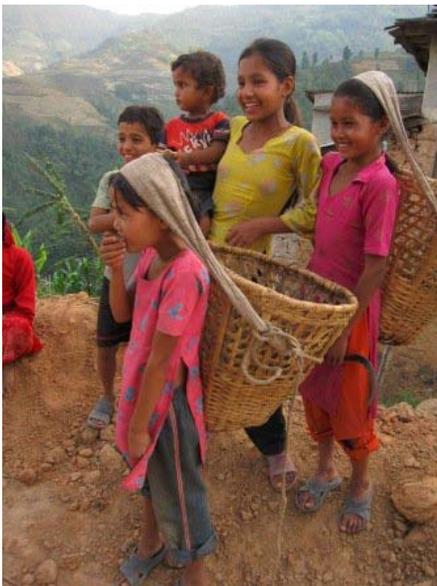
Som and Susan in front of the volunteers hosue

## **What we are currently doing:**

- Preparing talk at Cairns City Library on Wednesday 12th of August at 6.30pm on Child Labour in Nepal.
- Informing people about the charities work through contact at Rusty's market on the weekends
- Sending out flyers which outlines the charities vision and goals and also information on how to donate
- Working on a constitution for the charity.
- Preparing powerpoint presentation for Som to deliver at local primary and high schools and local businesses

## **Plans:**

- Car wash at Autobarn on Saturday 3rd of October
- Monthly FHC meetings
- Fundraisers which will be planned at FHC monthly meetings
- Continuing work on website
- Maintain strong links with children in need of support in Nepal



Beautiful village children

## Thank yous...

Thank you again to Julius for believing in FHC and all that can be achieved. You have been an inspiration to us.

With Julius outside Som's family home



Thank you so much to Linda and Nevon Alexander who are currently sponsors to Samjana, a student at the hostel. Linda and Nevon also raise money through their own personal fundraisers and through their business Smedleys at Tafe. Currently \$1.00 from every USB sold goes to FHC so please buy your USB's from Linda at Smedleys.

Thank you to Christian and Margit for sponsoring three orphan girls from Kakani village. We feel so grateful to have your support and friendship. The Dolphin team from Austria and Australia!!

With Christian and Margit trekking to Batase village.

This photo was taken at a holy place.

We shared many thoughts, ideas, plans, feelings on this journey



Thank you to Deni Tonkin for donating toys and other gifts. The children loved them

The children having fun with a donated football



Thank you to all of the Kathmandu volunteers who came to Batase village to see the work that was being completed. We are grateful to have made these close friendships and we hope to see you in Batase again!



Thank you to all of our supporters all around the world.

Finally, a huge thank you to the fantastic team in the village. You are wonderful, amazing people, thank you for all of your hard work.

