



Next Generation Nepal

NGN Newsletter

April 2007

Dear Friends of NGN,

It is quite a thing to see the smiles of two mothers, single women who lost their husbands, welcoming home their sons for the first time in years.

This is NGN's Reunification Project in action – we are the only organization we know of succeeding in reuniting conflict-displaced “orphans” with their parents in this way. Check out the stories of Prabin and Bishal to learn more about how we are spending your donation, then give yourself a pat on the back.

There is another way that you can help the kids: if you live in the New York City area, we want you on our super cool party planning committee. It's a one-off, a big June party to raise money for the kids – I'm coming home for the event myself. Check out the last page of this newsletter for more information about it!

And as always, on behalf of all twenty six kids at Dhaulagiri House, thank you so much for your continued support. Please keep up that generous spirit and spread the word!

Sincerely,

Conor Grennan
Executive Director
Next Generation Nepal



Conor and Mamita, the
littlest girl in NGN's
Dhaulagiri House

NGN's Reunification Project reunites two children with their mothers

The Story of Prabin

Imagine the mother of a young boy, a mother who takes care of her family, who cooks rice over an open fire in her simple mud and brick hut, who looks after her son while her husband, a plumber, struggles to find work for a few rupees a day to feed his family.



Padma, Prabin's mother, could not afford to keep her own son.

Imagine her husband, tragically, dies suddenly at work, leaving her in a state of terrible grief and

suddenly, terrifyingly, unable to feed her own son. The boy has to be taken out of school.

They beg the neighbors for food. She finds work in a motorcycle factory, working twelve shifts for less than a dollar per day. Finally, desperately, she begs an orphanage to take her own son away from her, just to keep him alive.



Prabin was taken to the children's home of the Umbrella Foundation.

This is not a hypothetical case. We know the mother: her name is Padma. Her son, Prabin, 11, was taken in by a children's home run by our local partner, the Umbrella Foundation, just next to Dhaulagiri House.

At NGN, we believe it is enough to live in poverty without also having to give up your own child. Prabin became our first case of attempting to reunite a child with his mother even when the circumstances seemed close to impossible.

Reunifying children with families is a significant challenge. In some cases, parents find us. We do an in-depth interview with them, as well as with any others who might know the history of the child.

If the parent has not found us, we search for them, often, out of necessity, by foot. We find them, then assess the family's living conditions, including security of the



After searching for and finding the family of a displaced child, the NGN team assesses what the mother needs to be able to take back her child.

village, economic condition of the family, condition of the local school, and so on.

We study all the intangibles that go along with ensuring a child can be safe and healthy in the household. That's only the basis – then we start speaking to the parent about possible reunification.



Padma helping her son pack up his school books to bring home.

Still, Prabin's mother was concerned. She knew she could not afford to feed her son. Prabin was worried as well when we spoke to him about it; he remembered the days of having nothing to eat. He remembered his mother's desperation, the burden he put on her.

NGN puts these fears of the family to rest. We explain in practical terms exactly *how* we will help parents take back their children. Financially, our partners at the Umbrella Foundation help support the school fees and provide a monthly food budget tailored to their exact needs, as determined by NGN.

Our team then goes to monitor the family's situation personally – frequently at first, then eventually on a monthly basis. Our goal is to get them back on their feet, give them some breathing room so they can save some money to become financially independent within two years. And most importantly, to reunite the family.



A son arrived home for the first time in years to a proud mother.

Three weeks ago, Prabin's mother, filled with pride, came to pick him up at the children's home where he lived. She helped him carefully pack his things. Prabin seemed barely able to believe he was actually going to be able to live with his mother.



Prabin, his mother and sister, in their first family portrait in years.

And with that, a mother brought her son home.

The Story of Bishal

Reuniting Bishal, 12, with his family was harder – first we had to find them. NGN team members Farid and CN had clues as to where she might be, and simply went to the region on the far west of the valley and began asking villagers. At one point, they met a little girl on the path and asked her if she might know of the house of the mother of Bishal Tamang. She nodded excitedly. Bishal was her brother.

She led Farid and CN into a tiny village in the hills, where they met Bishal's mother. As with Prabin, Bishal's father had passed away, leaving the mother to care for her only son.



Bishal and his mother (in our office) wanted desperately to find some way to live together, but she was extremely poor.

In first speaking to the mother in our office about reuniting her with Bishal, she was as concerned as Prabin's mother. Could she actually support her

child? Thankfully, as in the case of Prabin, our organization's strong experience in working directly with parents paid off – we showed her that we were here to help, that we would not abandon her.

After a follow-up interview, we were able to make a detailed assessment of exactly what this single mother would need to be able to take back her son. We visited the local school and spoke with the principle. The village, near Kathmandu, was safe. Her modest house was intact and a great place for a child.

All the pieces were in place: it was time for Bishal to go home.



A taxi took us as far as it could, then we walked the rest of the way into Bishal's village.

When we arrived, his mother was waiting for us on the path leading to the village. She had been there for hours to welcome home her son, the boy she had been forced to give up long ago. Together, we walked up the path to the village where Bishal grew up.

Nepalis are typically reserved people, but neither of them could hold back overwhelmed smiles. We settled Bishal back into the simple mud and brick house that he'd left long ago, and left mother, son, and assorted cousins chatting excitedly. It must have been a thrilling day for them. They didn't even notice us leaving.

The NGN Reunification Project strategy has developed over the last few months – we have now successfully implemented these first two cases. Moreover, it actually costs *less* to support a child with the family than in a children's home, ensuring the project is sustainable.



Bishal's mother happily welcomes her son home...

NGN focuses on concrete results. Our mission is simple: protect the children in our care, and reunite displaced children with their parents. We believe this is the right of every child, even those who have endured poverty and civil war.

Your donations brought Prabin and Bishal home.

There are many others like them – we play with them, we tutor them, we feed them. One by one, we are bringing these children back to their parents. Please be generous: help us bring more children home!



...then welcomed us into her house and made us tea. Bishal never left her side.



Our children of Dhaulagiri get house parents

As happy as they are, it is easy to forget that our wonderful children of Dhaulagiri House have not seen their parents in years. Every single one of them needs

the kind of parental affection that so many children take for granted.

We need to make sure that our 26 kids have a stable presence in their lives, a strong Nepali parental figure to whom they can turn any time of day or night.



Ganesh and Devaka, our new house parents of Dhaulagiri.

In early April, we hired Ganesh and Devaka, a young but experienced husband and wife with a six year old boy, to take responsibility for the children, living in the house with them, caring for them, helping them with their homework, keeping them out of trouble, establishing rules and boundaries, and filling the role of loving parents for our children.

With the addition of Ganesh and his wife Devaka as managers of our children's home, we have a great, loving local staff in place to provide excellent



Devaka helps the kids with their homework every day.

care for the children: CN is our live-in tutor; Moti, who grew up in the neighborhood, cooks for the children; Krishna Maya, whom you met in the February newsletter, a mother to whom we offered a job so that she could be with her children, helps clean the house. Everybody helps care for the children – they love it.

And of course, there is always Farid and me. We still spend several hours each day with the children, monitoring the house closely, but also just enjoying running around with them or seeing how many of them we can carry at one time.

It is, and will always be, the best part of this job.



NGN's Summer Benefit in New York City needs your help!

Not only do we save trafficked children here at Next Generation Nepal, but we're also pretty cool people. And we want more cool people to join us.

On Thursday, June 21st (save the date!) we're gonna have a big old party in New York City to raise money for the kiddies. I'm coming back from Nepal for the event. We have our uber fun and capable party coordinators, Molly and Joselin, working on it – but we need your help on the Party Committee. If you live in the NYC area and don't hate orphans, we want to talk to you. Please drop us an email at nextgenerationnepal@gmail.com to learn more about this event and how you can help out.

A few words of thanks....

You can now find all the NGN newsletters on our website: www.nextgenerationnepal.org, thanks to Dean Bedford at PLANet Systems Group (www.planetsg.com). The site has been updated well as learning more about NGN and how to make a donation on our constantly improving website:

Another special thanks goes out to some wonderful folks who, led by Liz Flanagan, bought *hundreds of pounds* of clothes for our kids! Our kids are now all sorted for clothes for at least a year or more thanks to Valerie at Nickelodeon, Jennifer at The Gap, Janee, Kathryn, Polly, Megan, Krystal, Pam, and so many other great friends!

As always, thank you to all of you who have donated to NGN this month. I hope you've seen what we can do together for the kids!



Anita and Anga Debi think they're pretty cool.

How you can help the kids...

NGN relies solely on donations from the public to support our operations.

We operate on a **tight budget**, but we hope you have seen that a little can go a long way!

Some sample costs:

- Basic **food** for one child for one month: \$20
- Basic **medicine** and hospital check-ups for one month for ten children: \$150
- The **full yearly cost** of supporting a child (including all food, school fees, school books, clothes, medicine, local staff, etc): \$750
- A **four-week mission to find parents** of trafficked children, including airfare to remote regions and local staffing costs: \$2500

There is no minimum or maximum donation – every dollar helps!

Donating is easy and tax-deductible:

Online: Donate securely using your credit card via Paypal by visiting www.nextgenerationnepal.org.

By check: Please make your check payable to “Next Generation Nepal” and mail to:
1 Wing Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Please visit www.nextgenerationnepal.org to learn more about our organization and sample costs, or contact us directly at nextgenerationnepal@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support!