



NGN Newsletter

November 2006

Dear Friends of NGN,

What an incredible first six weeks we have had here in Nepal!

In a country facing enormous challenges, we are living proof that a small, dedicated organization really can protect the lives of trafficked children from conflict zones in Nepal in a very concrete way. The aim of the **NGN newsletter** is to illustrate exactly *how* we are giving a future to children who have been taken from their families and abandoned by child traffickers.

Please take a few moments to read about what we have already accomplished in only a month and a half. So far it has been just one person (me) working with local partners – imagine the impact we can make with more resources.

If you feel this is a cause worth supporting, you can find more information **how you can help at the end of this newsletter** or on our website,

www.nextgenerationnepal.org. You can also always contact us directly at info@nextgenerationnepal.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Conor Grennan'.

Conor Grennan
Executive Director
Next Generation Nepal

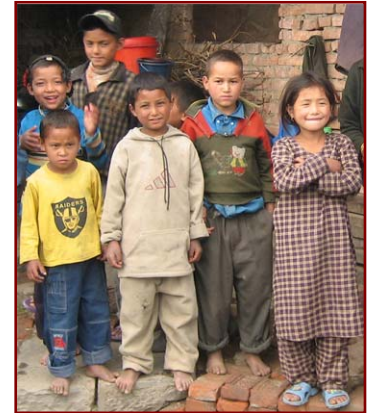


Conor with tikka during the
Nepali festival of Tihar

How we rescued six missing children from child traffickers

“Looking for them will be like trying to find a needle in a haystack.”

That’s how one NGO executive described the challenge before us: finding and rescuing seven missing trafficked children who disappeared last April. When we *first* found these children early this year, they were slowly starving. They had been trafficked from Humla, the most remote region of Nepal, then simply abandoned in the capital.



These seven children from Humla were abandoned in Kathmandu, Feb. 2006, and disappeared shortly thereafter.

After feeding them for two months (in Feb/March 2006) and then looking for a home for them, we were thrilled to discover the Umbrella Foundation – the only NGO willing and able to find space in their children’s homes to accommodate all seven.

But just days before they could be rescued, the children disappeared, moved again by child traffickers.

We didn’t give up. Finding these seven children became my top priority when I returned to Nepal in September 2006. With the help of the Nepal government’s Child Welfare Board (CWB) and the Umbrella Foundation, I searched horrific orphanages, sometimes even racing around on the back of the motorcycle through the maze-like back streets of Kathmandu in the middle of a monsoon, searching for leads. Through our sheer determination (and against all odds), we have located almost all of them.

We rescued Anga Debi, the only girl of the seven, from the small village of Thangkot in the far west of the Kathmandu Valley. When I found her, she was unwashed and hungry, on her way to find drinking



We found the first missing child, Anga Debi, in a village west of Kathmandu.

water using two old plastic bottles she found in the trash. Since NGN had not yet set up its own children's home (we will very soon), little Anga Debi was brought to one of The Umbrella Foundation's wonderful children's homes.

One week later, we rescued four more boys, who had been moved from village to village until they were found by Mr. Gyan Bahadur Lama of the Child Welfare Board and again brought to The Umbrella Foundation.



The five rescued children being properly fed for the first time in months thanks to NGN and the Umbrella Foundation.

Frighteningly, two of the four boys had been so systematically starved by child traffickers that we had to rush them to the hospital. I stayed with them overnight in the emergency room in sickening conditions, pouring saline water down their throats as the doctor told us they may not survive the night.

But these were tough kids, and after a few scary days, they were out of the hospital and on the mend. They were fed, given proper clothes, and slept in a safe place for the first time in almost a year, thanks to the Umbrella Foundation. They even went to school for the first time in their lives. And at long last, their smiles finally emerged!



All the rescued children have made a full recovery after being rushed to the hospital's malnutrition ward.

But our work was not over. Two weeks later, we found the sixth child, Keshap. He had been separated from the other children and sold as a domestic slave, working in Kathmandu, before we rescued him and reunited him with his friends.



We freed Keshap from domestic slavery and gave him a home at The Umbrella Foundation

Currently we are searching for the last boy, Barke. Thanks to an article in a weekly magazine in Kathmandu (in Nepalese) about this story of the seven children and child trafficking in Nepal – we provided the story to the journalist – we have received

some leads on where Barke may be. We are determined to rescue him as soon as possible.



The children who had disappeared six months ago are now safe (from left, Conor, Anga Debi, Egaraj, Dharma, and (Dharma's brother) Bijay).

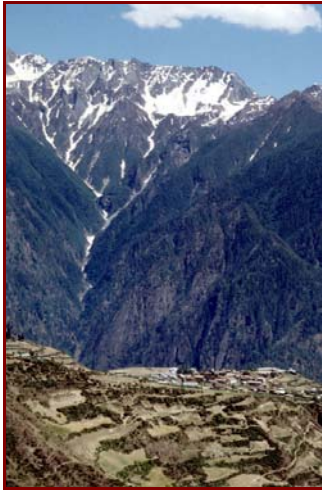


NGN launching mission to find families of trafficked children in remote area of Nepal

Just six weeks after starting our operations in Nepal, the NGN team is heading into one of the most remote areas in the world – north western Nepal – to search for the parents of some three dozen children who were trafficked from that region. This is the essential first step in working towards reunification of trafficked children with their families.

The Humla region, a rugged mountainous area in north western Nepal on the Tibetan border, has no roads, no

wheeled vehicles, no electricity, nor any means of communication. Villages in this area can be reached only by foot through the mountains. Poverty is so extreme that we will have to carry our own rice. Maoist rebels, who have controlled the area for a decade, have destroyed the bridges, forcing locals to cling to single ropes high above the rivers. Most of the region sits well above 10,000 feet. It is almost completely cut off from the world.



NGN will lead a small team into the remote, mountainous area of north western Nepal, accessible only by foot, to search for the parents of trafficked children.

Somewhere high in those mountains are the parents of these trafficked children. Weather permitting, I intend to spend up to four weeks going on foot through the mountains, walking from village to village with a small team of trusted locals who know the people and the area.

On this trip, I will focus on carrying out security and economic assessments of the villages. There is very little information available about this remote area; the first step in this process is discovering the local conditions for ourselves. Finding families will be an enormous challenge, but NGN is committed for the long term. If the parents of these children are still alive, we will find them. They deserve nothing less from us.



NGN will open a children's home by the end of this year

There are tens of thousands of conflict-displaced children in Kathmandu, many of them brought there and

abandoned by child traffickers, who must be rescued. They are in urgent need of a home and somebody to take proper care of them.

NGN, in cooperation L' Association Karya and the Umbrella Foundation, is working hard to open a home to protect and provide for these children by the end of 2006.

The story of Nepal's trafficked children begins in the remote Maoist-controlled regions of the country. Impoverished families, desperate to save their children from being abducted and forced to join the Maoist rebel army, pay vast sums of money (by local standards) to men who falsely promise to bring the children to the safety of the Kathmandu Valley and place them in top boarding schools. Instead, these child traffickers simply abandon them in destitute orphanages and cut off contact with the parents, who live in remote areas of Nepal.

These abandoned children *must* be rescued. With the six children mentioned earlier, we have seen how precarious life can be for them. The only way to properly care for them is to open our own home.



The proposed site for our new children's home

NGN will partner with two great organizations on this endeavor: L' Association Karya (a French NGO founded by fellow former volunteer at the Little Princes Children's Home in Godawari, Farid Ait-Mansour) and the Umbrella Foundation, which is already managing five excellent houses for over two hundred destitute children. With this outstanding and dedicated team, we can provide a wonderful home for approximately twenty needy displaced children in Kathmandu.



NGN joins the Umbrella Foundation on their *Gurje Village Project*

The Umbrella Foundation, in cooperation with the government of Nepal and the government's Child Welfare Board, has invited Next Generation Nepal to join its *Gurje Village Project*. This project will provide hundreds of orphaned, trafficked and conflict-displaced children with the education and vocational skills they need to be able to ultimately return to, repopulate, and rejuvenate their villages after ten years of civil war in Nepal.

Nepal is over 90% agricultural, making it crucial that the children both live and learn these skills *outside* the polluted and overpopulated urban setting of Kathmandu. The village of Gurje is situated just 20 km north of the city, yet still virtually undeveloped, making it an ideal environment in which to teach Nepal's post-conflict generation the vocational skills they need to revitalize – and in some cases save – their rural communities.

The project is beginning with a pilot project, already underway, to improve the local school to ensure the eighty children attending get the education they deserve, warm clothes, and a proper daily meal.



NGN is helping the Umbrella Foundation develop their *Gurje Village Project* – the pilot project is aimed at getting destitute school children the education they deserve.

We at NGN see the *Gurje Village Project* as a model for giving a future to hundreds of trafficked children, and as a positive first step towards eventual reintegration into their home villages. If all goes well, the children of our own children's home will one day have a home in Gurje as well, living and learning in a rural environment in preparation for one day returning to their own villages.

How you can help these kids...

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

We operate on a **shoestring 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): \$1000
- 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 info@nextgenerationnepal.org.

Thank you for your continued support