



Next Generation Nepal

NGN Newsletter

Summer (June-August) 2007

Dear Friends of NGN,

This summer we celebrated a milestone: the one year anniversary of Next Generation Nepal! I spent two months in the US doing some much-needed fundraising while our great NGN team, led by Farid Ait-Mansour, kept up the great work in Nepal, even through the worst months of the monsoon season.

In this issue, we will talk about the superhuman efforts of our NGN friends in the US to throw a couple of amazing fundraisers, the 8 children we reunited with their families over the summer, and look back at what we have accomplished together in our first year of existence with a small staff, great dedication, a belief that we could make a difference, and, most importantly, the faith you have put in us by sending your donations to help Barke, Nisa, Kabita, and dozens of other young children who were taken from their parents during the long civil war in Nepal.

At the end of this newsletter you will find how you can help our work in Nepal. And as always, thank you to all of you who are supporting us with your donations – we cannot do this without you!

Sincerely,

Conor Grennan
Executive Director
Next Generation Nepal



Conor speaking at a fundraiser for NGN in New York City

Friends of NGN Throw Two Summer Fundraisers

Behind every rescue of a trafficked child, behind every search for a child's parents in the mountains of Nepal, behind every plate of rice and every school book we buy for a child, there is a donation from someone out there who has made it happen.



Fundraising is a critical part of our work: without it, our entire rescue operation is a car without an engine. It also requires a huge amount of our time, time that ideally would be spent reuniting children.

That is why the fundraisers in New York and Washington DC this summer, thrown by friends of NGN who decided they wanted to do something special to help the children, were the biggest gifts we could ever get. The impact they had was tremendous.

Meanwhile, back in Kathmandu, volunteers Bec and Jill kept the Dhaulagiri kids entertained over the summer.....



....while our little Mamita inspected Dave Hogan, another of our summer volunteers at Dhaulagiri. (He passed the test.)

In New York, NGN friends Molly and Joselin organized yet another fantastic event on June 21st. With the invaluable help of some bright and enthusiastic new

friends of NGN, they put together an amazing event, complete with a silent auction. When it was all said and done, we had brought in \$4000 from a generous crowd that braved the storm to support the children! And I got to meet a lot of wonderful people who want to make a positive impact for children from conflict zones in Nepal.

On June 22nd, we were in Washington DC for another event several weeks in the making, a “Nepalese-

Inspired Soiree,” put together by our friends Carrie, Katie, and Liz. It was, by all counts, the party of the summer in DC – a beautiful outdoor event that brought together a couple hundred friends to have a great evening and learn more about the crisis facing the children in Nepal. Like the New York event, I gave a short presentation during the evening, and our kids from Dhaulagiri were present in oversized photos all around the grounds. By the end of the night, people had opened their checkbooks and donated \$13,000!



At a Nepalese Hindu festival in July, children honor the most important teachers in their lives. At Dhaulagiri, the children chose Farid.

On behalf of the children and their families who we will now be able find through our Reunification Project, we want to say a HUGE thank you to everybody who gave their time or made a contribution to NGN – those donations are changing lives right before our eyes here in Nepal.



NGN reunites 8 children with their parents

NGN reunited eight more children with their families this summer!

The children we reunited were from all ages and backgrounds. One of the elder boys was a friend of all the volunteers, always ready to help out and practice his English. When we found his aunt living in Kathmandu, he was overjoyed to be reconnected with his family.



Two brothers get an auspicious farewell from the others in the children’s home after NGN reunited them with their parents.

Most importantly, he would be able to spend his time caring for his ailing mother, living in their village not far from his new home.

Each child had a different story. One little girl had been rescued just a few months ago, freed from dangerously destitute conditions. The Umbrella Foundation, our partner organization which has saved hundreds of children, found her when she was only 5 years old. Out of the blue, her mother simply appeared one day at the orphanage and asked if we had a little girl by her name. The little girl was thrilled, and the reunion was one of the most emotional that we have seen all year.



After a painful separation, a young mother is reunited with her five year old daughter.

For NGN, there was another especially emotional reunification – the reunification of two of the children of Dhaulagiri House, a brother and sister about 10 and 11 years old. The two had been with us since the beginning, but as with all children, they needed their family more than anything else in the world.

But this reunification, like many of them, was neither easy nor clear cut. The father had essentially abandoned his family, and the mother (whom I had found on a recent search for families) was afraid to take back her children: she believed she would not be able to care for them.

We did not rush the reunification in this case. Instead, we met with the mother every week, visiting her at her home, and letting her visit our home to spend time with her two children who she had not seen in a very long time. Slowly but surely we built up a relationship with her; in turn, she was able to build up a relationship with her own children. In the end, it was a wonderful reunion. The children were so happy to be



A brother and sister from Dhaulagiri House are reunited with their mother.

back together with their mother, and the mother was overcome with emotion. The NGN team has visited them several times over the last three weeks, and the mother and children are happier than we have ever seen them!

It is difficult for us to say goodbye to the children from our own Dhaulagiri House, the NGN children's home. But when we see children back with their real families, with their mothers and fathers, it is easy to see where these children belong, and why NGN's work is so critical.



Looking back 1 year later: How seven lost children inspired the creation of NGN

This summer marks one year since we've been around – the time has flown past. We thought we would take a look back to see how NGN was born:



In February 2006, we discovered seven trafficked children abandoned in a shack in Kathmandu. They disappeared shortly after this photo was taken.

As part of a year-long round-the-world in 2004-05, I volunteered in Nepal. For three months, I worked in an orphanage in a small village. I loved the

work so much that I returned a year later.

It was just then, in February of 2006, that my colleague at the orphanage, Farid Ait-Mansour, and I discovered young seven abandoned children in Kathmandu. They had been trafficked from villages in the mountains, then dumped in a one-room windowless shack. They were slowly starving to death, they were sick, they were dressed in rags. They were not going to school. They needed help.

To keep them alive, Farid and I began bringing them as much food as we could carry and taking them to the hospital to get emergency medical attention. We eventually found a children's home who would take all seven together: The Umbrella Foundation. They

arranged to pick them up just a few days later. Satisfied our work was finished, I left Nepal in April 2006, the day before the People's Revolution which would ultimately end the civil war, and arrived back in the US ready to start a new job.



The first child of the seven we found was the little girl, abandoned in a village. When we found her she was searching for water.

But something went wrong. When Umbrella went to rescue them, the children had

disappeared. They had been trafficked again. It was devastating news – we were told that looking for the seven anonymous children in Kathmandu, would be like looking for a needle in a haystack.



Farid with the rescued children. By November, we had found 6 of 7 children and had opened this children's home for them.

Thousands of children in Nepal vanish each year from trafficking. We were determined that would not be the fate of these seven, no

matter what it took. We knew there was only one way to find them – Farid and I abandoned our

plans to start jobs in our respective countries, and instead poured our efforts into starting an organization that would allow us not only to return to Nepal and search for the children, but also open a children's home so that we could protect them. And most importantly, with the war in ceasefire, we would try something that everybody had



By the end of December 2006, we had rescued 19 more children from child traffickers.

told us would be impossible: we were going to venture into the Maoist-controlled mountain villages and search for their parents ourselves.

Next Generation Nepal was officially launched the summer of 2006. I flew back to Nepal and spent the next few months searching for the children – in the back alleys of Kathmandu and illegal children’s homes. And one by one, over the course of several months,



Ten months after he first disappeared, and after endless searching, we rescued the last of the seven children.

we found all seven. Some had been abandoned, some were working as domestic slaves. The youngest, a six year old boy, was washing dishes in a hotel. Three of them were so sick we had to rush them to the malnutrition ward of the hospital.



The NGN team traveled into the remote mountains of Nepal to search for the parents of trafficked children. We found 24 out of 24 families.

Thankfully, they all made a full recovery. We soon opened a children’s home and rescued an additional 19 trafficked children from similarly horrific situations. We began the search

for parents. It took weeks difficult trekking, but we found the parents

of over 50 children. We began our reunification process, which reunites children with families whenever possible. To date, we have reunited just under 20 trafficked children with their families; we continue to support them and their education.



Thanks to your donations, the kids are out of danger, healthy, going to school, and have a bright future.

Next Generation Nepal was just an idea. We knew the children needed us to survive, but we had no financial resources to rescue them. All we could do was beg for donations and tell the children’s story.

And so many of you responded! We are able to give a safe home to 26 children and put them in school for the first time. We are able to travel to remote villages to find parents. We are able to reunite children with their families. It is because you chose to help these children.

The children in the photos in these pages owe their lives to your choice. Thank you from them and from all of us at NGN.

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

Every dollar helps!

Donating is easy and tax-deductible:

Online: Donate securely using your credit card via Paypal or JustGive 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!