

NCEF GYAN

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NEPALESE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

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HIGHLIGHTS

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FEATURE ARTICLE

Annual Fundraising and Public Relations Report for 2007

by Inku Subedi, Fundraising Officer

2008 NCEF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Communication difficulties in Palpa

We faced some difficulty receiving student visit reports from Palpa due to power cuts and poor Internet connection. One possible solution we are recommending is to use the Postal service. This is an example of the obstacle that our area coordinators and volunteers, who are operating our assistance programs to children in rural regions of Nepal, commonly face.

Sindhupalchok region will not be continued

On January 9th, the New Area Team recommended not to continue Sindhupalchok as an experimental area or as an established area for assistance. The decision came after a thorough assessment of the region's activity and its ability to abide by NCEF's goal of accountability and cooperation. The Team found it difficult to provide a positive recommendation due to the low quality of student applications in 2007 and student visit reports, and diminishing promptness of communication and cooperation. This is yet another example of challenges that we face in serving underprivileged children that need assistance the most, while maintaining accountability and reliability with our limited resources.

NCEF has received proposal for new areas of operation

The New Area Team is currently reviewing applications for three regions in Nepal. The proposed operation areas include Sankhua Sabha, Dolakha and Chitwan. The Team has been working to learn more about the applicants and assess the needs of the region to prepare a recommendation for potential new areas for the following academic year. To learn more about our New Area Selection program and criteria, please visit www.nepalchildren.org/newarea

Officers are writing annual report

NCEF officers are busy writing annual reports looking back at 2007 and their visions for 2008 and beyond in their respective committees. The reports will serve as a tool for all of us to work together in improving our work with the main goal of helping change the lives of the most needy children in Nepal.

In the January issue of our newsletter, NCEF CEO Mr. Omprakash Gnawali wrote an article reviewing the administrative work of NCEF. (Please [click here](#) to view the report).

In this issue, we present an article from our Fundraising Manager Ms. Inku Subedi, who reviews our efforts in fundraising and publicity. In future issues, we will present financial and other relevant reports.

KIDS GOT TALENT!

THE RIVER

By Laxmi Sunuwar

Age: 12
Grade: 6
School: Pragati Sikshya
Sadan Secondary School,
PATAN



Annual Fundraising and Public Relations Report for 2007

By Inku Subedi, NCEF Fundraising Officer

As we start 2008, we would like to thank our donors and volunteers who have made 2007 a successful year. We were able to raise a total amount of \$14,190, and the monthly breakdown is shown in the following table:

Donation in 2007	
January	533
February	1,825
March	155
April	150
May	100
June	135
July	820
August	100
September	220
October	2,120
November	58
December	7,973
Total	\$14,190

The majority of raised funds came from some very special donors and a memorial fund. The Memorial Donation Fund was set up in memory of Mira M. Michaud by her family and friends in 2006, and has contributed a total amount of \$6,550 to NCEF this year. Few of our benefactors contributed their wedding gifts to NCEF by encouraging guests to donate to NCEF in lieu of a wedding or birthday gifts. This year, NCEF received a \$1000 donation from wedding guests of François Guéritaud and Barbara Tumpach. NCEF also received a small but touching

gift from Matt and Kaylee Muniz who asked their birthday gift to be donated to children in Nepal.



Apart from donations, funds were raised through a variety of events and projects. Yale South Asian Society donated a portion of their proceedings (\$350) from their yearly event. The Recycle for Education project raised \$310 from bottle collection. A new fundraising project was initiated this year with a donation box installed at a Nepali restaurant, Kathmandu Spice in Boston. The project was very successful and collected \$105 within a month. We would like to thank member Hem Pokharel for initiating this project and successfully coordinating the Recycle for Education project. We are planning to expand this project to other Nepali restaurants in the United States. We are actively looking for volunteers to assist with this campaign and would love to hear from our tenacious, dedicated volunteers who want to help us expand our efforts nationwide.

Looking for innovative ways to expand our volunteer network and donor base, we have started a "support our cause" link on Facebook, one of the most widely trafficked social networking sites. Thus far, we have amassed 683 members and \$175 in donations. In addition to Facebook, NCEF has also registered with goodsearch.com such that every time anyone searches the Internet using this search engine, a penny will be donated to NCEF. Even by doing an average of ten searches a day, you can easily raise

The owner of Kathmandu Spice Restaurant in Boston posing with the newly installed NCEF donation box. In the first month alone, more than \$100 was collected in the box. This means a child is now able to go to school just from a month of donation collection!!!

Realizing the potential of this project in raising sufficient funds for more underprivileged children, we are currently in the process of starting the project in other cities. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** If you have a Nepali restaurant (or of anytype) in your city and are willing to give **5 hours per month for needy children**, you can volunteer as a Regional Coordinator for the project. For more information please see page 5 of this newsletter that contains a detailed description of the project and other volunteer opportunities available for 2008!



\$36 per year. Since the search engine GoodSearch uses Yahoo, the search results will be the same; the only difference you will see will be in the lives of underprivileged children in Nepal, just from your simple clicks! GoodShop is a shopping site provided by GoodSearch, where you can make online purchases (including Amazon, WalMart, BestBuy, Expedia and many more) and have such businesses donate 1-10 percent of your purchase amount to NCEF at no cost to you!

With our monthly newsletter *Gyan*, we have continued our efforts to keep donors, supporters and our fellow volunteers up to date with our operation. The newsletter in 2007 added many new features including drawings and pictures of our children, stories about how the children are doing, reports from our volunteers, biographies of our new and old students, and much more aside from the monthly highlights and relevant articles. We would like to thank our volunteer Cecilia Mo for her help with editing and providing comments and suggestions.

We were also successful in increasing our visibility in Nepal through interviews broadcasted in Hits FM, a popular radio channel. The broadcast resulted in an increase in our volunteer base in Nepal.

In the year ahead, we are looking forward to these goals:

We plan to fundraise a total amount of \$20,000 in the coming year. We are looking forward to continued support from our donors.

In addition, we are hoping to meet this goal via the restaurant donation box project. We are in the preliminary stages of planning an annual calendar/greeting card campaign featuring original works of arts of our budding artists. We are looking for volunteers and supporters with the time, experience, artistic talent to lend a hand in making the artistic visions of children come alive on calendars and greeting cards.

We have started fundraising this year with \$939 raised as of February 11. We are excited about the new projects and the prospects of a new year ahead, but, we have never been and never will be able to make the difference alone. We continue to need support of our donors and volunteers and look forward to working with you in this year.

I would like to thank Chhitij Basyal and Kripa Upadhyay for their help in the preparation of this report.



NCEF children riding boat for the first time in a local zoo. In July 2002, we were able to organize an outing to a zoo for eight students and their families with only \$18. [Read more](#)

SPONSOR AN EXTRA-CIRRICULAR EVENT!

The regular donations our donors make are directed entirely towards tuition and school-related expenses such as books and uniforms. However, we acknowledge the importance of exposing young minds to a variety of educational experiences and adventures. If you'd like to donate money earmarked for such an outing, we'd be more than happy to have our volunteers arrange and chaperone the event. Read more about this event. If you are interested in sponsoring an event like this, please let us know.

2008 FUNDRAISING METER

\$959.00

WHAT ARE CHILDREN DOING?

CHILDREN FROM NEPALGUNJ: WHAT THEY ARE UPTO LATELY?



Hira says she enjoyed the picnic arranged by NCEF and it was nice to meet NCEF members from America.

Sujal was happy that he passed his midterm exams.



Puja enjoyed participating in a painting competition.

Pooja says, "It feels good to be able to write correct answers in exams."



Rabisha enjoys playing computer games and answering questions in class.

2008 Volunteer Opportunities with NCEF

How does NCEF run without a single paid person?

*NCEF is made up of a group of extremely dedicated VOLUNTEERS who share a common vision that despite our busy schedules, if we work cohesively we can put books in the hands of children in Nepal, who lack the opportunities and privilege that we have here. Although we helped change so many lives of disadvantaged children in Nepal in 2007, we are eager to extend these opportunities to more that are very deserving. We would, therefore, like to open our arms and welcome new volunteers to join the NCEF team. Even by contributing as little as 3-4 hours per month, you can help **build the future of future-builders of Nepal**. Please see the available opportunities below and contact the designated volunteer.*

Fundraising

1. Donation Box in Restaurant Project

NCEF is starting a new project that involves installing donation boxes in local Nepali Restaurants around the US. The pilot project was very successful and the project has a great potential for raising funds for children. If you live in a city which has a Nepali restaurant(s) or similar businesses, please consider coordinating a very low time commitment project in your area. Once a donation box is installed in the restaurant, your only responsibilities will be to collect donation and transfer to NCEF. We are also looking for a Main Coordinator, whose responsibility is to communicate with regional volunteers and help new regional volunteers get started with this awesome project.

A. Regional Coordinators

Duties: Volunteers will identify restaurant in his/her city, then install a donation box at the restaurant working closely with the restaurant owner. Once the box is installed, volunteers will visit the restaurant every month and collect donation and transfer to NCEF via Paypal or check.

Commitment: 5-6hrs/month (for each participating restaurant)

Comments: If you are a busy person, but would still like to help children in Nepal, this is a great opportunity for you. All you have to do is visit the restaurant (whether if you are already going there for a nice dinner, or the restaurant is on your way) only ONCE A MONTH for a few hours. Your few hours of contribution that month alone will send a Nepali kid to school for a whole year.

Contact: chhitij@nepalchildren.org

B. National Coordinator

Duties: Volunteer will have the opportunity to expand this amazing project and will be involved with communicating with Regional Coordinators, keeping track of donations and making a report of these donations. You will work with website manager to update website for new regions. This National Coordinator will be the main project manager of the project.

Commitment: 5-10hrs/month

Comments: This opportunity fits well for people who are interested in not only learning to manage a national level project, but also in planning, evaluating and making the most out of it for the good of children in Nepal. No prior experience is necessary since you will be trained and informed about your duties and will be working very closely with the Executive Committee.

Contact: chhitij@nepalchildren.org

2. Grants Management Team

NCEF plans to expand its work and assist more needy children in Nepal, the goal that requires large donations. One particular avenue we would like to explore is to seek for Foundation grants. If you have some experience with grant writing or would like to assist someone with grant writing and thus improving these skills which are essential in both academia and NGOs, this is a great way to do so.

Quick List

Fundraising

- Donation box in restaurant project
 - National Coordinator
 - Regional Coordinators
- Grant Management

Publicity

- Website development group
- NCEF Blog/Facebook administrator
- Newsletter team
- NCEF Video Design Team

Public Relation

- Donation database management team
- Gift donation management team

Administrative

- Translator
- Monthly report reviewer

MAKING DONATIONS

Online:

www.nepalchildren.org/donation.html

Checks:

Make checks payable to:

Nepalese Children Education Fund or NCEF

Mailing address:

Nepalese Children's Education Fund
P.O. Box 380061

Cambridge, MA 02238-0061

Questions?

contact@nepalchildren.org

Do you GoodShop?

NCEF will receive donation from your online shopping at no cost to you!

When you shop online through **GoodShop**, the retailers will make a donation to NCEF at no cost to you.

Many retailers, including WalMart, Target, Best Buy, Amazon are participating in this program. Click here to start:

www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=860619

ALSO, Now every time you search the Internet using **GoodSearch**, a penny will be donated to NCEF. Please check out the link above. You can help change the lives of needy children with a click of a mouse.

Duties: Identifying Foundations; Grant writing; Coordinating and corresponding to manage grant proposals.

Commitment: depending on your availability

Comments: Any kind of help is appreciated. We already have some members with grant-writing experience willing to work in the project. So this will be a project that you can initiate and develop on your own and can be a good experience to be included in your resume.

Contact: chhitij@nepalchildren.org

Publicity

1. Website Development Group

Duties: Adding and updating content and new links

Commitment: 1-2 hrs/wk

Comments: This is a high priority job with very low time commitment. We are actively seeking volunteers for this group. You can work on various aspects of the website - regular updates on the website of documents, donors or occasional special projects such as special fundraising project publicity.

Contact: om_p@nepalchildren.org

2. NCEF Blog/Facebook Administrators

Duties: The group will be involved with maintaining and updating NCEF's social networks such as NCEF Blog, Facebook, Goodsearch. The group will also work to increase the activity and number of participants in these networks

Commitment: 3-4hrs/mnth

Comments: You will be involved with updating NCEF blog (starting discussion topics), Facebook Cause and other social networks with very little time commitment per week.

Contact: chhitij@nepalchildren.org

3. Newsletter Team

Duties: Writing short articles about children, NCEF volunteers and other relevant topics; editing articles; publishing newsletter

Commitment: 2-3hrs/mnth depending on task

Comments: You will have an opportunity to read fresh student reports, to interview volunteers about their work, NCEF students about their progress and donors and others about their thoughts. Team will discuss via email in the beginning of each month and team members will write articles, edit and publish newsletter. This is also a low-time commitment task recurring every month depending on the length of newsletter. **Contact:** chhitij@nepalchildren.org

4. NCEF Video Design team

Are you creative? Have experience with cameras, videos and video editing? Then you can help create publicity material and documentary about NCEF and Nepali children. Our volunteers have already taken videos and photographs of our children, parents, and area coordinators. If you would like to put them together into a nice, short description of NCEF, please let us know. This is a great avenue to experiment with your skills in video production.

Contact: chhitij@nepalchildren.org

Public Relations

1. Donation database management team

Duties: Adding and updating donation information; sending updates to donors at the end of the year

Commitment: 1-2 hrs/w k (more towards end of the year)

Comments: This is a priority job and will be done regularly but is not time-consuming. You will have the opportunity to learn excel and access which are good database to learn for anyone interested in development in NGOs. You can also help out with correspondence with donors which will be useful in correspondence/public relations in any kind of official work.

Contact: inku@nepalchildren.org

2. Gift donation management team

Often times NCEF receives gifts from generous donors from a wedding ceremony or funeral service or other social gatherings. NCEF publishes a web page dedicated to such donations. If a gift is given to NCEF by individual donors separately, NCEF works to keep track of donors and donations and if necessary contact them. The gift donation management team will be involved with overseeing this very important project. In 2006 alone a memorial donation contributed more than \$13,000 to children's education in Nepal!

Duties: When a gift is given to NCEF (such as memorial donation, wedding donation), you will be involved with managing the donors list and getting in touch with donors if needed.

Commitment: 3-4 hrs when gifts are received

Comments: Example: www.nepalchildren.org/memorial.html.

This job is occasional but is quite rewarding since this kind of fundraising is quite efficient and effective.

Contact: inku@nepalchildren.org

Administrative

1. Translator

Duties: Translate documents (student applications, letters, other documents) from Nepali to English and occasionally from English to Nepali

Commitment: You will be notified when such documents need to be translated. 2-3hrs 1-2 times a month

Comments: If you are proficient in Nepali and have a few hours to spare to read student applications first hand (with comments from volunteers, parents, teachers and students) and translate them to English, this is a great opportunity. This task requires very little time commitment and only a few times a year.

Contact: steven@nepalchildren.org

2. Monthly Report Reviewer

Duties: Review monthly student visit reports prepared by volunteers in Nepal and archive

Commitment: 3-4hrs hrs/month

Comments: Proficiency in Nepali NOT required

Contact: steven@nepalchildren.org