

Autumn 2009 Update

A couple of weeks ago it was back to school following the Dashain and Tihar holidays which lasted (on and off) for about four weeks. Especial thanks go to donors who help make the work of RAN possible and to the volunteers who have given their time at the schools and the healthpost.

Healthpost

In August, medical students Kate and Clarie from Manchester University spent time at the healthpost; two more, Clare and Kim, spreading the word on handwashing. This proved a great success and health reps have been elected at the schools to continue monitoring for cleanliness. Since then, two more medical students, John and Sarah, have spent time at the healthpost, helping Dev Kumari, the nurse there. Even over the main Dashain holiday period in September-October the healthpost was able to remain open thanks to Sarah keeping the place going while Dev Kumari took a well-earned break.

Mike, a doctor from the UK is spending a month at the healthpost, with several medical students expressing interest in spending time there in the coming months. It is hoped maybe next year to be able to set up a healthcamp with a focus on health checks for the children as well as the village people. HexN (UK) www.hexn.org continue to supply the healthpost with a good variety of medicines that supplement the government's limited supply.

Deusa secondary school

As the weather has improved and flights now run to the area, some of the clothes that were donated have at last made it to the village, where they are being held for a few more weeks to be distributed in time for the colder weather to the most needy students. A big thank you to the many donors who have helped with this.

Garimudi secondary school



In August, Ram Kumar, science teacher who was teaching in Deusa transferred to Garimudi (the government has allocated another teacher to Deusa school). He is doing well here, helping relieve the heavy workload at this school that adding class 11 has involved.

With the new computers up and running, the new maths teacher is teaching computing. During Dashain, Val Law from Singapore kindly donated a netbook. More volunteers have expressed interest in spending time here in the coming months and will be taking the computer to add to the three that have been already set up. More books have been sent to the school thanks to Exodus UK. A donation of clothes and books from the Belgium Consulate have gone to the school in the last week. Penpal letters are being exchanged between schools in Arizona, USA and Scotland

Kanti Children's Hospital, Kathmandu

Whilst located in Kathmandu, Kanti Children's hospital is the only children's hospital in the country and takes poor children from all over the country, many for remote areas. It is a very poor government hospital, where most families find it very difficult to afford the cost of treatment. SAV (Social Action Volunteer) help some of the poorest families towards the costs of medicines and other expenses. The Kathmandu Chorale kindly donated 22,000Rs to SAV, half of which was used for an operation on a young child that had been abandoned at the hospital; the rest being spend on medicines and other expenses.

RAN is looking into how some of the very poor children with heart conditions can be helped, as whilst the government pays for surgery at the Shahid Gangala Heart Hospital up the road from

the children's hospital, there is no help for treating the patients with life-threatening infections who reach the children's hospital before they are referred on to the heart hospital. In addition, Kanti has no resources for the vital equipment like defibrulators or ECG machines needed for monitoring these vulnerable patients.

If you would like more information about Rural Assistance Nepal (RAN), please visit the website at www.pa-nepal.org/ran and www.pa-nepal.org/ran/kanti.

If you would like to make a donation, please send cheques made payable to Rural Assistance Nepal to

Mrs Christine Miller
8 Ravensmead,
Chalfont St Peter,
Gerrards Cross,
Buckinghamshire SL9 0NB
Great Britain

Alternatively, for payments made from outside the UK, please contact Marianne for details of alternative ways to pay¹.

For photos, have a look at:

Deusa: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?v=info&ref=ts&id=1062819629#/album.php?aid=16446&id=548882506>

Deusa healthpost: <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=43122&id=548882506>

Garimudi: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?v=info&ref=ts&id=1062819629#/album.php?aid=16443&id=548882506>

Kanti Hospital: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?v=info&ref=ts&id=1062819629#/album.php?aid=71218&id=548882506>

Facebook: <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/261169/6287200?m=6d54c0aa>

¹ RAN works in partnership with The Mountain Fund (www.mountainfund.org) and for US taxpayers, payment can made via The Mountain Fund.