



Shenpen

Shenpen Newsletter

Helping the Poor and Disadvantaged in Nepal

Winter 2009 – Issue 4

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New Learning Centre for Street Children!

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NAMASTE!

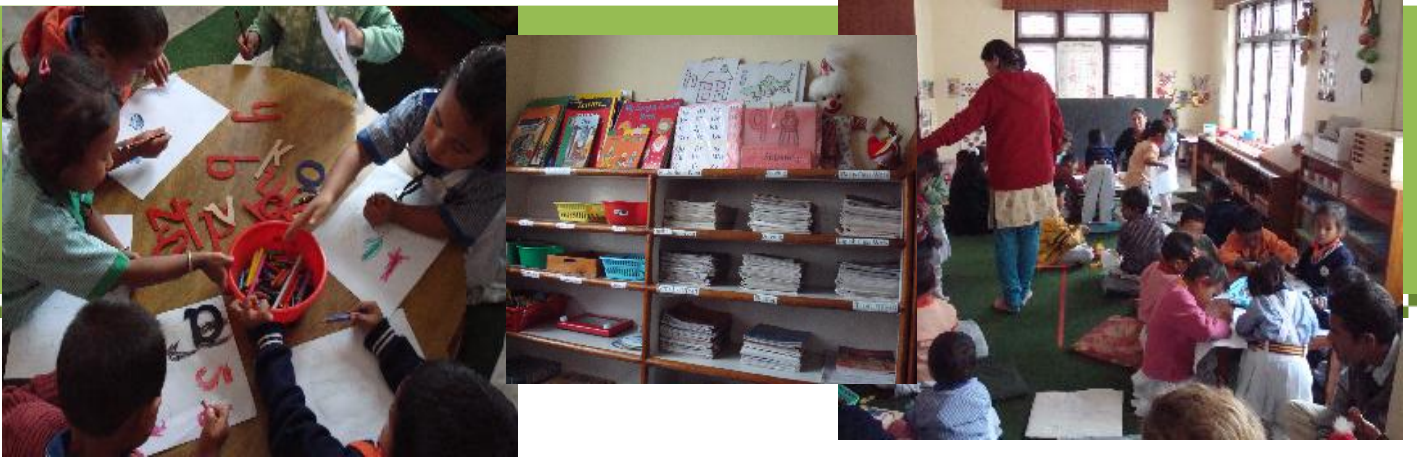
In this fourth issue of Shenpen's Newsletter you will find a report of our progress in the past year including personal accounts of how your support has improved the lives of many people in Nepal.

What is Shenpen?

Shenpen is a non-profit organization that aims to help the poor and disadvantaged gain access to healthcare, education and improved livelihoods and further works to improve the care and treatment of animals.

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Education Committee

Initiating Change through Early Education

This year the main project of the Education Committee has been with Pegasus English School in Boudha, Kathmandu. This is the second year we have supported the salary of a Class Three teacher; and the first year we instituted a Nursery program based on the Montessori teaching methods. The Nursery program was an off-shoot of our six-month Montessori Training Program,

which began in April and ended in September. Over twenty teachers took the training program, with 15 of them receiving certificates for three to six months of regular attendance. Shenpen is supporting the rental costs for the ground floor of a house conveniently situated next to Pegasus School. The Nursery

class, with a total of 28 students, enjoyed the large

space, carpeted floor, and Montessori materials that matched some of the best Montessori programs in the West. Our two trainers, Dolma Gurung and Nirmala Gurung, studied at one of the best Montessori training programs in Nepal for six months, through the support of

Shenpen. In addition, Shenpen

Giving the Mentally Challenged a Voice

continues to sponsor 5 disadvantaged children through school sponsorships.

Another project that Shenpen continues to support is the Maitri Griha, a home for mentally challenged boys. There are five boys who live in the home full-time and four who come in as day students. This is an important initiative

that Shenpen is supporting as there is a lack of facilities that address the needs of the mentally and physically challenged in Nepal. The Committee has been covering the salary of one part-time teacher, and this year added another part-time teacher. We are also funding the



class. He was brought to Maitri Griha four years ago by his parents who thought he was mentally disabled. He is indeed a very intelligent young man, who is deaf and dumb.



Street Children Committee

Helping children realize their potential by addressing each child's individual situation, abilities and aspirations.

Shenpen is supporting SathSath, an NGO that works for the improvement of street children's lives. With the support of Shenpen, it was able to open its doors to a new learning centre this spring. SathSath works with both street children and street-based children (children who have a home but either work or loiter on the streets during the day). The Learning Centre was temporarily set up in an area where there are many street children, but has now settled into its new location, not so far from the temporary one.

Initially, the Learning Centre staff started its outreach services to raise awareness among the street and street-based children about the Centre, what kind of services and facilities are provided and meeting with the parents of the street-based children to encourage them to send their children. The Centre provides basic medical care and

sanitation facilities, entertainment and recreation facilities, counseling and education programme. In addition, the Centre provides a mid-day snack for the children of fresh fruit and dry food. Currently there are around 80 children who use the services, of whom about 25 who attend regularly. In the beginning, the staff encourage the children to join the non-formal education classes which are run in the mornings. Those who have a keen interest to learn and continue with formal education will enter the formal schooling system in the new school year, with the support of scholarships.

The Centre has provided a welcome break into the difficult circumstances of many of these children. In this area of Kalanki in Kathmandu, there are mostly poor households of which many of the parents work as scrap collectors or day

labourers. Their children do not attend school or have stopped attending school due to a lack of finances. The Learning Centre is an important service as it is essential in not only reaching street children, but also a key intervention in preventing other children turning to a life on the streets.



The Learning Centre also provides non-formal education for children from economically poor families who cannot afford sending their children to school.

Hope for a Better Future for Street Teen

Pradeep is 14 years old and lives in the streets of Basantpur area in Kathmandu. His parents are poor farmers. His mother cannot speak and was mentally unstable. Pradeep used to face beatings from his father as well as mistreatment from his step-mother.

When he was 9 years old he left school due to his family's poverty and ill treatment from his parents. He came to Kathmandu in the hope of finding a good job but was not successful. He ended up living on the street and is now working as a scrap collector. He uses dendrite and other drugs but would like to stop these bad habits. He comes to the Learning Centre regularly and has joined the non-formal education programme.

Pradeep now looks forward to a better future and wants to be a good person, but he faces challenges. He spends much of his earnings on video games because this is his only escape from using dendrite. Sathin provides an opportunity for Pradeep to create a better future for himself.



Health Committee

Supporting Burn Patients

Through the generous funding of Chance Nepal, Shenpen continues its support to the Bir Hospital Burns Unit to provide therapeutic services, medications, and equipment to assist the victims of burn accidents. Most of the patients at the Burns Unit are poor and are unable to purchase the necessary blood, intravenous protein supplement, supplies and medication for their recovery. Shenpen has covered the transportation costs for some of these patients. In addition, support went to the provision of two counselors and a physical therapist. This has been key in the long-term recovery of the burn patients. Lastly, there were much needed blankets and pillows in the unit, as well as setting up a play area with toys in the children's ward.

Mobile Dental Camps

This year Shenpen provided financial support to the 4th annual free Dental and Medical Camp which took place in September at the Korean Temple in Lumbini (Southern Nepal). There were a number of individuals who volunteered their time and expertise including dentists, doctors and a nurse from countries including Singapore, Malaysia and Nepal. Volunteers included monks and nuns and several other volunteers from Kathmandu, VajraVarahi and Lumbini. During the 4-day camp, over 3,000 people were treated.

Vocational Skills Training

This year Shenpen supported the skill training of over 300 poor women in a number of areas including sewing, tailoring, vegetable farming, poultry raising, literacy classes and micro-entrepreneurial skills. Through this training, the women will be able to earn an income and help to support their families and children.



Animals Committee

Each year in Nepal, approximately 16,000 people are treated for dog bites and as many as 200 people die painful deaths from rabies, most of them children. The small woodcarvers' village of Bungamati and the surrounding areas have endured sporadic rabies outbreaks. With the generous assistance of *C.H.A.N.C.E for Nepal*, Kathmandu's Shenpen Animal committee organized the second phase of the anti-rabies program, administered by the Kathmandu Animal Treatment (KAT) Centre.

The program began with the education of local children regarding the dangers of rabies, the treatment of dog bites, and the humane treatment of street dogs. At the end of the project, the medical team had vaccinated 590 street dogs, treated 28 for existing conditions, and hospitalized eight dogs.

When we visited Bungamati this year - now that the fear of illness transmitted by untreated animals was eliminated - it was wonderful to see how affectionately the villagers treated the village dogs, the children's lives enriched by the loving – and safe - companionship of “man's best friends”.

Animal Emergency Fund Saves Dogs' Lives

Shenpen has also established an animal emergency fund that has been able to save several street dogs around the Boudhanath Stupa area. One recent case was 'Mummy', whom was found near the Boudha stupa with an advanced tumor. This tumor was transmitted by the male dogs. Since she was suffering so much we decided to operate on her. We rented a cage for a week and took care of her so she could recuperate after the operation. Mummy received antibiotics every day and she recovered very quickly. She was a very scared street dog before, but now when we pass her on the street she starts jumping and dancing.

Education is key to changing people's attitude towards street animals

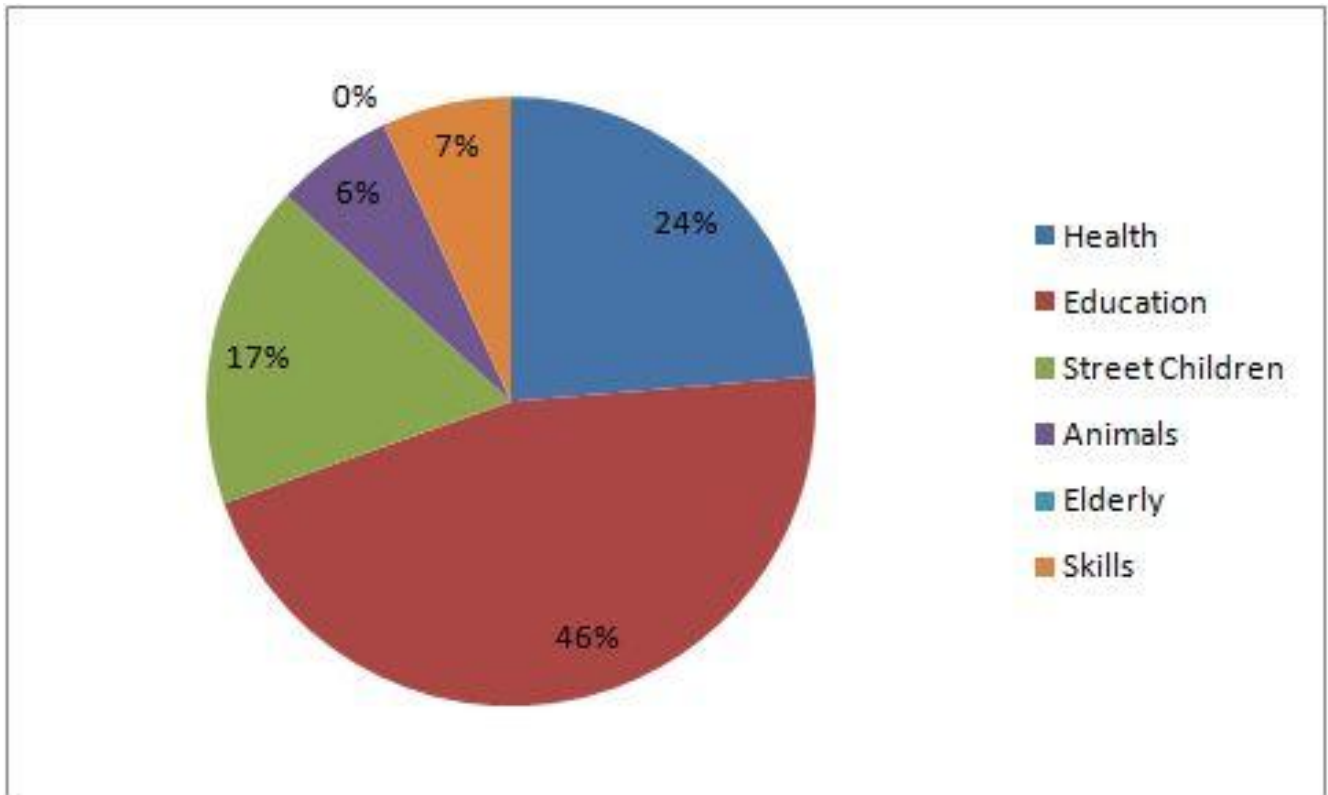


Before



After

FINANCIAL UPDATE





Getting Involved

For further information on projects please visit our website at: www.shenpennepal.org

If you would like to volunteer your time, skills and experience or make a financial contribution, please contact us at: enquiries@shenpennepal.org

Acknowledgements

Shenpen has been able to continue its help to the poor and disadvantaged in Nepal due to the strong financial support from its two main donors, Ms. Barbara Datson (CHANCE for Nepal) and Ms. Ulli Olvedi (Tashi Delek, Germany). In addition, this year Shenpen was the recipient of another generous philanthropist, Mr. Filip Daneels, which benefitted several burn patients at the Bir Hospital's Burn Unit and street children through a Drop-In Learning Centre.

Our gratitude also goes to the Singaporean and Malaysian dental team and its international and local volunteers who have organized and managed the annual free dental and medical camps throughout Nepal for the past four years.

A special thanks to Ms. Andrea Briggmann who has worked tirelessly around the Boudha and Kathmandu area to rescue street dogs. She has not only raised the awareness of local communities, but has facilitated the participation of the local people in treating the sick and wounded dogs. This year, we also were fortunate to have two other volunteers, Arpana and Zeta, who assisted with the Anti-Rabies Program.

Finally, Shenpen would to thank, with much appreciation, all those individuals whose financial and personal support allows Shenpen to continue its voluntary efforts!

Thank you!