



nagarhope

giving a future to the children of Nepal



Chairman's Address

2012 brought few major changes to Nagarhope's work. Some of our sponsored children have moved on to Secondary Schools, some have stepped up to college level. Our education centres are evolving all the time with a new intake of students each year to keep the tutors busy. We partook in no new school buildings this year as we are busy planning our own children's home and community centre. Our Committee in Nepal has been busy since we bought land in the summer of 2011, and since then we have concentrated most of our efforts on farming the land and watching the seasons.

We have been given the green light to start construction this year by the Nepali Government, and will start by concentrating on what it is that is most important to both Nagarhope and the surrounding villagers' aspirations. We have formed a temporary construction committee in Sathikurya, where our project will be built, and have highlighted the three main areas of importance before any large scale construction actually begins. There are severe electricity shortages in Nepal and power cuts can last as long as 20 hours a day in the winter. The villagers face a constant battle of having little or no clean running water. The road leading to our land, through this village is unusable for 3-4 months of the year during the summer monsoon season. We are planning, with this village committee, a long term solution to these three problems, and only then will construction begin.

Volunteers have come and gone over the months, some bringing donations of clothes, some assisting by giving their time teaching in local schools, and some helping out in our tuition centres for underprivileged and children and kids struggling to keep up in school. Our long term plan for such volunteers is to incorporate a small volunteer house into our building plan so that they have somewhere comfortable to stay while they are giving up their time.

Our Kalimati Centre is now in its 4th year, and serves the needs of about 40 children in two local schools. We also have a day class for uneducated children, whom, we hope, will make the grade by the time the Nepali school year comes around again in April 2013. Currently we have about 8 children in our day class with Manju Miss, our full-time teacher. Since establishing this centre, we have gone on to open a similar centre in Nagarkot, which also doubles up as Nagarhope Nepal's office. We have been selling discounted stationery to children in the Nagarkot area, taking a small bit of pressure off families struggling to pay the spiralling education costs of their children.

I'm sure there will be a big push on fundraising over the coming years as we get stuck into our main objective of constructing and operating a children's home and community centre. Due to the economic climate Ireland has faced, it is certainly not getting easier to fund projects on the ground in Nepal. I am confident that our work will continue as it has done, providing needy Nepali families and their children with a choice for a brighter future, mainly through education and community programmes. None of our work would be possible without dedicated teams, both in Ireland and Nepal, not to mention our sponsors, donors, supporters and volunteers.

It gives me the passion, the hope, the will and the conviction to continue pressing for our goals, to continue attempting to right those small wrongs I see in the world. Nagarhope's work is about preserving that which is good in life, and instilling a sense of that which is missing in others. Humble thanks, as ever, to one and all.

"When the world says, "Give up," Hope whispers, "Try it one more time." – Author Unknown

Mise le meas

Fachtna 'Doc' Clandillon 7th January 2013



Nagarhope – a History

In June 2006, Doc, a 30 year old Dubliner, and Dhurba, a 40 year old Nepali man met in the small Himalayan village of Nagarkot, 30km from Kathmandu. What at first seemed an inconsequential meeting turned out to be a changing point in both their lives. What has happened since, and their relationship to both each other and the various people involved with Nagarhope both in Ireland and Nepal, has evolved into a fully-fledged NGO / Charity in both their respective countries. Over the years, they have seen many simple ways in which people can be helped. Focusing mainly on ways to improve education both in the villages around Nagarkot and urban centres such as Kathmandu and Bhaktapur, they are committed to the needs of the communities that they deal with. Many problems such as illiteracy, child labour, life and training skills, women's empowerment and social stigmas affect a large section of the Nepali population of 27 million people. Nagarhope's plan to build and run a children's home, and now to incorporate a community centre is a large undertaking. Vital to their task are their friends and families, and the locals in the areas where Nagarhope works.



Doc and Dhurba



Parents meeting



Sunrise students receiving shoes

SponsorKidz

Nagarhope's SponsorKidz programme is now into its 4th year in some schools. In the Nagarkot area, we sponsor over 40 children in Sunrise Lower Secondary School and 20 in Kent Public primary school. For €10 per month, a child's educational needs will be covered for one year. This includes fees, books, uniform, shoes, and from time to time other materials such as rain jackets, warm sweaters and schoolbags. Our programme runs up until Class 10, when students in Nepal take their SLC (School Leaving Certificate) Exams. Some will go on to college level education, depending on their work ethic, attendance and results. We have noticed over the years the high drop-out rate of school-going children in the area and encourage their parents to put the education of their children first. We send results to sponsors a few times a year and we meet regularly with parents to discuss their child's progress and how to improve on it. Details on how to sponsor a child are on the back page.

Bhaktapur Schools

About 20 children in various schools are sponsored by Nagarhope in Bhaktapur, a well-preserved historical city lying about 10 kilometres east of Kathmandu. Some children who have graduated from Sunrise School have moved to Nyatapola Secondary School in order to do their SLC exams. Of the children we sponsor in Khwopring Secondary School and Bagiswori Higher Secondary School, many of the parents are single parents and live in abject urban poverty, barely able to pay their rent and put food on the table. Children seem to be immune to some of these problems, but as life progresses, they will face hardship after hardship due to their situation. Nagarhope works hand in hand with several other small NGOs in this area in order to maximise the benefits of our sponsorship programme.



Education Centre in Bhaktapur

Mahankali School

Following the success of our joint effort to construct a three-roomed building for the students of Mahankali Secondary School in Nagarkot in 2011, 2012 saw us fit the school with library books as part of the on-going work. The Rotary Club of Taiwan also assisted this project by installing 10 computers. This computer room / library, when fully utilised will be the first of its kind in the Nagarkot area. Private schools often have good computer facilities, but government schools are lacking in this area.



Chuna Devi students

College Students

Although Nagarhope only sponsors students officially until School Leaving Certificate Exams, we do have a scholarship programme for worthy students who wish to pursue higher studies in college. Most of them are on a half scholarship, which means they must also support themselves by getting a part time job or find another form of income. This will also get them outside the four walls of a classroom they have become accustomed to, and teach them life skills as well as academic ones. Many of our college students also give back by volunteering in their old primary or secondary schools or as a tutor in one of our smaller tuition centres.



Santosh Dhakal

Teachers

Due to the lack of qualified teachers at primary and secondary level, many government schools are running classes with unsuitable and under qualified teachers. We try to find local qualified teachers and place them in government schools to try and combat this problem and give a boost to badly resourced schools. Nagarhope currently employs 6 teachers on a full time basis and 5 tutors on a part time basis. Some of these teachers will be lucky enough to gain permanent status as a result of this placement in which case Nagarhope no longer needs to employ them. The more rural smaller primary schools are most affected by this problem, which brings Nagarhope a little further up or down the mountain every week!



Miniland students with family

The **Kalimati Kidz** Project

Our educational support project in Teku, Kalimati has been running close on four years now. We have a full time teacher Manju Miss taking care of this project. It doubles up as a support centre for children we sponsor and a classroom for uneducated children who attend day classes. Children from the day class spend one year attending informal education classes learning Nepali, English and Maths before making the jump into mainstream schooling to either Miniland Secondary School, an English based private school close by, or Saraswoti Niketan, a government run Secondary School. This is one of our most successful projects, and as opposed to other schools where we simply visit the school itself to check on the students, in our Kalimati centre, we have direct contact with every student in the

Niamh with Kalimati kids

morning and evening before and after school. The kids live close by to our room, enabling us to meet the parents on a regular basis. It costs €15 per month to sponsor a child in Miniland School. We have had volunteers and sponsors visit our centre. It has been generously supported by Umbrella Foundation Nepal, and by Harry Coogan and Dave Cutler in particular. For more information on Umbrella, log onto www.umbrellanepal.org.



Sumit, Kundon, Chandani, Kabita

Saichik Kala (Educational Art)

Since November 2011, Nagarhope has employed a full-time painter called Saroj Tamang. His job entails visiting schools and painting educational art on the walls. His work ranges from Nepali and English Alphabets to murals. For a minimal fee, Saroj puts colour in the lives of so many. To date, we have been and gone to over 25 schools in the Nagarkot and Bhaktapur areas, covering schools, disabled day care centres and small health posts. It has been an invaluable source of joy for many children and teachers alike, and ensures that teachers can use teaching methods other than reading constantly from drab textbooks.



Educational Art



Women's Day

Annual **Women's** Day

Every year, for four years now, we have taken a group of 50 – 60 older women on a picnic for the day. It happens on International Women's Day, usually in February. Many of these older women seldom leave their villages and spend a lot of their time farming, carrying grass on their back for their livestock, and tending to other laborious chores close to home. Our picnic is usually sponsored each year by somebody, and in 2012, Irantzua Ibaia, a Spanish volunteer helped us out with the costs. Dhurba spends weeks before hand visiting villages and getting names of women who haven't been on this trip before. I was asked a few years back what we ever did for old people, and I didn't have much of an answer for them. What this day highlights also, as Dhurba does his rounds, is the lives that women in Nepal lead, the hardships they face, the pressure they are under. Our picnic is a small respite from the daily toil.

Children's Home & Community Centre

Our main aim all along has been to build a children's home close to Nagarkot. Now that we have acquired land, this has been pushed to the forefront of our plans. Since July 2011, when we bought close to 1½ acres of fertile farmland in a small village called Gurung Gaun / Sathikurya, an hours walk down the mountain from Nagarkot, we have followed the seasons and farmed the land. We have set up a small committee comprising of locals and members of both Nagarhope Ireland and Nepal and met on occasion to discuss the aspirations of the locals. They would like to see three things happen – an improved road, access to clean drinking water twelve months of the year and electricity other than the sporadic power they are used to until now. Nagarhope will incorporate the locals' aspirations whilst planning, design and construction. We have seen other NGOs set up projects in poor areas only to forget about the situation of the surrounding villages once they are up and running. This is vital to the long term success and well being of Nagarhope's aims in this area. We have made friends over the 18 months, some have farmed for us, some have volunteered, some have ploughed our field for us. Our belief with this project, a massive undertaking, is to take it slow and do it right. We have not rushed any step. Another key to development is listening to the locals, as we will be their neighbours over the years to come.



Nagarhope Ireland and Nepal members

Farming

Using local people, getting advice from local farmers, we have seen the seasons come and go. This particular area of land gets three crops a year – wheat, corn and potato. In December 2012, we reaped a bumper crop of 3000kgs of potato, which took a full large truck to transport to the closest town – Bhaktapur. We have seen each season and what it produces, which crops can make money, and which are labour intensive.



Fundraising Events 2012

Income this year has come from various places. In January and February 2012, Doc talked in many local schools in the Lucan area and beyond. Schools were very generous in either organising fundraisers or donating money to the cause. The Deaf Club, through Maura Buckley, knitted many warm jumpers and blankets which arrived in Nepal and were given out over the year to needy children in both Nagarkot and Kathmandu.

On February 12th, the Nagarhope Celebrity Challenge was run in Lucan Sarsfields GAA club. A team of celebrities took on a Lucan side in the non-contact forms of our National Sport – Peil Abú and Camán Abú. A lot of work went into making the day a big success, and was helped greatly by Croke Park, who donated the Hurls and Sliotars, O'Neills Sportswear, who sponsored the jerseys, the local media, and Lucan Newsletter. Many others were instrumental before and during the event. A big thanks to Fintan for his organisation and professionalism in fine tuning the whole thing. Jack Wise the magician, Johnny Phelan the juggler and Silly Sally the clown made for great entertainment in the function room after the match for big and small kids alike. Thanks also to Paul Casey for getting the Sam Maguire to the club on time, to all the players, the referee and Gerard McGarry – who commented with ease on the day. Celebrity Challenge 2013 is due to take place on Sunday 3rd February, and like last year's version – the supporters on the day will determine it's success.

The Boys National School raised over €1,500 in April and June. Thanks to all the teachers and students involved. Also, Coláiste Phádraig CBS Lucan raised a generous amount of money following talks. Many thanks to both Denis Cronin and Brian Murtagh for their support.

A church gate collection was held in September in the two parishes of Lucan – St. Mary's and Esker, and €2,500 was raised. Thanks to all involved in the collection in both churches and to the respective parishes for allowing this to happen.

In October, Niall O'Callaghan and Lisa Feehan ran the Dublin City Marathon for Nagarhope and between them raised a whopping €4,500 Euros.

Nagarhope printed Christmas cards in late 2012 which raised a few quid. We hope these cards will sell even better next year. A big thanks to Dual Printing Co. Ltd for their work and reduced cost in getting this done.

In Nepal, Umbrella Foundation Nepal, an Irish INGO working in a similar field to Nagarhope donated a collection of books, games and clothes suited to younger children at our Kalimati Centre in Kathmandu. A big thanks to Macartan Gaughan and Umbrella for their continued assistance to this centre.

For anyone interested in sponsoring a child, a college student or a teacher, volunteering or organising a fundraiser, please use the contact details below.

WEBSITE:

www.nagarhope.com



Lucan Sarsfield's V's Celebrity Team

Contact Details

Sponsor a child (Niamh): niamhclandillon@hotmail.com
Fundraising (Tadhg): tclandillon@hotmail.com
Volunteering (Doc): bilijoni@hotmail.com

Nagarhope Ireland

Address:

191 Beech Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin.

Charity Number: CHY18004

01 - 624 1328 • 087 - 066 6891 • 087 - 922 5103

Bank Account Details

Nagarhope Ireland
Ulster Bank, Lucan Branch
Sort Code: 98-60-40
Account No: 10122317

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