

# nagarhope

giving a future to the children of Nepal

2014-15



## Chairman's Address

Nagarhope had a busy year in 2014. We completed our Pre-School building in April and opened the doors to 30 children in May. This has been a massive step for us, as opposed to just sponsoring children in other schools; we are now responsible for the education and safety of these students. It is a pilot year for us and we are in constant contact with our teaching staff and parents to ensure that the children attending Sathikurya Community School are catered for. Nagarhope Nepal's Committee members are entrusted with developing all aspects of both the school and the grounds around.

As well as running the school, we are responsible for keeping our land and grounds in order. Our facilities are used from time to time as a community centre and are open to various women and social groups furthering their own causes in the surrounding areas. In June this year, we planted over 100 tree saplings including many fruits, both to beautify the grounds and provide for the future years.

Our SponsorKidz Program is now in its seventh year, and directly assists 205 children in Private and Government schools in the Nagarkot, Bhaktapur and Kathmandu areas. Our sponsors contribute between 10 and 25 Euro per month to facilitate the education of children in Nepal. We regularly meet in schools with teachers and parents to ensure that children get the best from the education provided to them.

Nagarhope also provides part and full college scholarships to deserving and needy students. At present, 12 students are being assisted with their college fees, books and other costs. Some of the college students we assist in turn help us by volunteering in one of our tuition centres, giving back to their community and gaining valuable life experiences.

Our Kalimati Kidz Education Centre is in its 6th year and assists 45 school going children's education and extra tuition class. We also run daily education classes for women and children who have never received formal education.

Our Educational Art or "Saichik Kala" Painting Program has been running for three years now. Saroj, our full-time painter goes from school to school painting colourful teaching aids on the walls, such as English and Nepali alphabets, numbers and pictures. To date, we have brightened up the walls and grounds of over 40 schools.

None of this work would be possible without the kindness and generosity of our sponsors, donors, volunteers, fundraisers, well-wishers and committees, both on the Ireland and Nepal sides. Being on the ground for the last eight years in Nepal, I have seen the difference that has been made to the lives of families, children and the communities we deal with. Although the work can be exhausting at times, the rewards are there to see, as children progress through their classes, as schools thank us for running programs or breathing life into their environments. On the back of the support received from Ireland and beyond, I have always been instilled with a hope and desire to continue assisting the needy in whatever way I can. Simple things we take for granted in the 1st world are still out of the reach of many Nepalese, like running water, electricity, sanitation and health. Nagarhope will continue to provide assistance to those in need, only made possible by the many who have helped make this a reality. I humbly thank you all once again for your continued support.

Mise le meas

Fachtna 'Doc' Clandillon December 2nd 2014





## Nagarhope – a History

In 2006, a chance meeting in Nagarkot, a small Himalayan village 2 hours from Kathmandu between Doc, a 30 year old Dubliner, and Dhurba, a 40 year old Nepali man, was the catalyst for Nagarhope being born. Almost 8 years on, Nagarhope Ireland and Nagarhope Nepal have been registered in their respective countries, and many children, families, schools and communities have benefitted from the work that Nagarhope does, through education, community based programs and assistance. The long term goal of Nagarhope is to alleviate problems in society that are rife in Nepal, such as illiteracy, poverty, life and training skills, women's empowerment, employment and other social stigmas that affect every day lives of Nepali citizens, and hinder the development of many groups including low-caste and indigenous communities.



## SponsorKidz

Nagarhope has provided a scholarship scheme for students in both private and government schools. Many of the children we sponsor are from poor rural farming or tough urban backgrounds, and their families find it hard to provide a decent education for their children. Sponsors can sponsor an individual child by donating between 10 and 25 Euro per month depending on the school and the level at which the student is studying. This will cover both their Primary and Secondary education. We currently directly sponsor 205 children in 8 different private and 7 different government schools. As part of the SponsorKidz Program, admission, monthly and exam fees are provided to the schools and students are provided with books, uniforms, shoes, rain jackets and sweaters. As these children grow older and progress, and get closer to their School Leaving Certificate Exams, we hope to put them in direct contact with their sponsor through email so that they can keep in touch, relaying back their achievements and hopes for further education.

## College Students

Tertiary education can be an expensive endeavour for students in Nepal. Almost half the students we sponsor are from rural areas such as Nagarkot, and have to travel 1 hour on a bus to reach a college. Colleges in Kathmandu are expensive and out of reach for most of the children we assist. Every year we assist about 5 students with college, be it full or part scholarships. Some are students we have helped through secondary school, others are referred to us by the local authorities. A handful of the college students we assist give back their time and efforts through volunteering in one of the tuition centres which we run.



## Sodha Gurung - Nursing

In 2012, one of our students, Sodha Gurung, whom we helped for the last few years of Secondary school, expressed her desire to become a Nurse. Our Nagarhope Nepal committee admired Sodha for her commitment to do something so noble. Just prior to that, her mother had fallen sick in the village and had to be carried 2 hours to the nearest health post to get treatment. The only problem at the time was the financial cost of the course which was about 3000 Euro over 3 years. Thankfully, with the assistance of several extra sponsors who committed to helping Sodha for the three years, she is on the road to achieving her dream. Sodha wants to help alleviate such hardships, and at the same time be able to give back to her community. She has been doing well and consistently scoring in the top 5 in her class of 30 in Iwamura College of Health Sciences in Bhaktapur.

## Teachers

Over the years, Nagarhope has been assisting Government schools by providing the salaries of teachers in understaffed schools. For as little as 30 Euro a month, we can provide the salary of a teacher that will boost the overall quality of the school, and also provide employment, usually to a girl who uses the extra cash to put herself through college. The teachers are always locally sourced, and known to both staff and students alike.

## Tuition Centres

Nagarhope runs tuition classes in its office in Nagarkot and Kalimati in Kathmandu and also supports another organisation Srijanshil Sahayogi Hathharu (Creative Helping Hands) in running their own centre in Bhaktapur. These centres were established to give extra support to weak students. They also create employment by offering a small salary to the tutors who teach the children and help them with their homework.



## The Kalimati Kidz Project

Our support centre in Teku / Kalimati in Kathmandu is into its 6th year now, and supports the 45 children we sponsor in Miniland Secondary School and Saraswoti Niketan Secondary School. Our teacher Rupa Miss is at the helm since 2013, since Manju Miss left. Kids attend class after school for homework, tuition and extracurricular activities. Rupa Miss also takes a day class where a handful of uneducated women and children attend informal literacy classes, the oldest being a 72 year old woman, the youngest a 3 ½ year old boy. Menuka, one of our college students also assists Rupa with the evening classes; in turn we assist Menuka by paying some of her college fees. Many of the parents of children we sponsor in this centre are living hand to mouth, working as daily wage earners, struggling to meet ends meet. Problems facing these families are cramped and unhygienic living conditions, child marriages and school dropouts, alcoholic and abusive fathers. In October 2014, a dentist, Mary, from Sweden, conducted a free Dental camp for all our children and some of their families as well. We have received generous help of toys, books and donations from Umbrella Foundation Nepal. For more info on Umbrella log onto [www.umbrellafoundationnepal.org](http://www.umbrellafoundationnepal.org). Umbrella also run a quiz every Thursday in the Everest Irish Bar in Kathmandu, and every few months are kind enough to donate the proceeds to Nagarhope.



## Saichik Kala Art Education

Our Saichik Kala program has many benefits. For a small fee, government schools pay for our painter, Saroj, to come and paint educational art on the walls of their school. To date we have completed over 40 schools. These paintings assist the students in learning, the teachers in teaching and brighten up an otherwise drab looking room. Saichik Kala has become so popular that we always have a waiting list of schools looking to beautify their walls.

## Nagarhope Land & School

Nagarhope's land and school in Sathikurya / Gurung Gaun has become one of our flagship projects. The school building was constructed in about four months, finishing in April 2014. The doors to Nagarhope Sathikurya Community School opened in May, and since then it has been all about educating the now 33 students who attend classes 6 days a week. Our three teachers Laxmi, Jaya and Sunita and our caretaker Binda have been working hard to provide an overall environment conducive to what running a school entails. It is the initial year of the school, but already parents have been asking us to upgrade the class for the next session.

In October 2013, Nagarhope funded the opening of a 200 metre road to our land. This was essential for us to transport building materials for construction including stone, wood, sand & cement. It has also been of great benefit to the 10 or so local houses by which the road passes as they can now transport their farm produce / crops directly from their door.

Other works have been ongoing on our 1½ acre plot, such as building a stone stair down to the school, our tree planting program in June and farming. We have given our arable land to a local to farm, in turn we receive a share of the crops including potato, corn and mustard without having to hire labour and pay for seeds / fertiliser / medicine.

In April and May 2014, a group of volunteers, along with some of our committee stayed down in the village, sanding and painting windows, interacting with the new students and getting the school ready for classes. A big thanks to all who helped, especially Alexandra from Sweden who also donated school materials, carpet and toys from money she had collected from friends and family in Sweden. We were also delighted to welcome Nagarhope Ireland committee members Niamh and Séamus Clandillon to our school in September where they witnessed our operation, donated some materials and were treated, along with the students and staff to a fine Nepali meal.



## Satprayas Nepal

Satprayas Nepal is a Nepali Non-Governmental Organisation based in Jagati, Bhaktapur which assists mentally and physically disabled children. Originally called Matri Griha and well funded, the funding was completely cut in 2013. A good friend of Nagarhope, Aiden Twomey, a magician going by the stage name Jack Wise has been donating money to Satprayas since its re-opening, funding without which the organisation would not have managed to keep its doors open. Both Satprayas and Nagarhope are indebted to Aiden for his philanthropic efforts.



# Nagarhope Fundraisers

Since our last brochure in 2012, many fundraisers and events have happened. Here is a quick look back at what has been going on:

- In February 2013, our 2nd Celebrity Challenge took place on Lucan Sarsfields' all-weather pitch. Celebrities, male and female, young and not so young, from the worlds of sport, music, television and politics gave up their time to play football and hurling against a group of stalwart Sarsfields' members. Kids were entertained afterwards in the clubhouse with a magic show, again by a group of entertainers who gave up their free time for Nagarhope.
- In May 2013, Lucan Sarsfields held a hugely successful White Collar Boxing event and made a donation from the proceeds to Nagarhope as did Bambury's, the bookmakers on the night.
- In June 2013, Kathryn and Amy took part in the Women's Mini Marathon.
- In 2013 and 2014 Lucan Lions' Club gave us a generous donation.
- The annual women's picnic in Nepal was funded by several donations from Irish friends of Nagarhope.
- On the October Bank Holiday Weekend in 2013, 4 men braved Irish weather and Dublin's streets to take on the Dublin City Marathon, raising vital funds and awareness in the process. A big thank you to Richard Gilbert, Ger Twohig, Kevin Nolan and Paul Stapleton for enduring this massive physical test. Richard and Ger repeated the marathon again in 2014!
- Now an annual staple, the Church Gate Collections in St. Mary's, Lucan and St. Patrick's, Esker churches have been a massive source of income for Nagarhope, our team of helpers pivotal to its success.
- Both in 2013 and 2014 in October, Nagarhope has run a Par 3 Golf Classic in Newcastle Golf Centre. The generosity of Martin McNulty and family for giving us the use of the course, and the wily organisation of Michael O'Grady and Séamus Clandillon has made for a great day out.
- After doing presentations of Nagarhope's work in Nepal in various schools around Lucan and beyond, kind donations have been given by a number of them including Loreto Abbey Dalkey, Colaiste Phadraig CBS Lucan, Archbishop Ryan NS Lucan South, Scoil Mhuire GNS Lucan, Scoil Mochua Celbridge, Scoil Mhuire Woodview, Esker Educate Together School, Lucan Community College and St. Mary's BNS Lucan.
- Other collections through Christmas Card sales and Collection Boxes in Athy (Maureen Ryan), workplace (John Condon) and Lucan Sarsfield's GAA Clubhouse Bar.
- "Arthur" at Lucan Sarsfields' Clubhouse (Music, dancing and finger food) with thanks to Collette Condon.
- The 2014 Fifa World Cup Sweepstake collection.
- Collection at Ladies Keep Fit, in Lucan Sarsfields by Esther Keenan.
- Weekly "Cúpla Focal" Circle, organised and run by Michael O'Grady, with assistance from Seaghan Ó Lanagáin, is proving to be a great success.

## Nagarhope Website

Nagarhope's new-look website is up and running since mid-2014. The lion's share of the work and most of the thanks has to go to a good friend Ken Baird from Ashbourne, who put his heart and soul, enthusiasm and creativity into giving it the final touches. Thanks to Tadhg for organising all the text and photos and for liaising with Ken. Check it out on [www.nagarhope.com](http://www.nagarhope.com).



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

## Contact Details

Sponsor a child (Niamh): [niamhclandillon@hotmail.com](mailto:niamhclandillon@hotmail.com) 01 624 1328/ 087 066 6891  
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