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www.hausderhoffnung-nepal.de; www.facebook.com/HausderHoffnung; Instagram: @selfhelpnepal

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Dear friends,

Once again, I experienced three work-intensive and very nice months with our children in Nepal. During this period there were two notable events. After 17 years we changed schools for grades 6 to 10. Despite repeated discussions with the school management and a short-lived improvement, the children there were repeatedly beaten, which is against the law. The opinion that one can beat knowledge into a weak student is just wrong. Now we drew the consequences. Shortly before the start of the school year, we suddenly had 25 new children because the Nepalese government gave us 13 more children after our admission process had been completed. It closed three small, and now unprofitable, "orphanages" in the Kathmandu Valley, whose financial support from abroad was no longer guaranteed after the pandemic. How grateful I am to you that you remained loyal to us despite the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, which were associated with large price increases for everyday goods, so that our organization and our children were spared such a fate.

The Nepalese youth welfare office first looked for relatives of the children and, if successful, sent the children to them. It only assigned children between the ages of 11 and 17 to us who could not be placed back in their original surroundings. Like our previous children, they are full or half orphans or their parents are extremely poor and have health problems. However, three young people among them have an even more distressing fate, because they are foundlings. The now 16-year-olds were two weeks, 16 and 18 months old respectively, when they were abandoned



on the street and found screaming by the police. After no relatives could be found, they came to an orphanage that used to arrange adoptions and covered its expenses from this income. For one of these children, a search was even made in Nepalese newspapers – unfortunately without success – for adoptive parents. Because of the many forged papers, most countries stopped adoptions from Nepal years ago. Recently, the Nepalese government has also stopped allowing adoptions. Amplified by the pandemic, this orphanage ran out of money to support it.

These three youngsters do have a first name and, interestingly, a fixed date of birth, both of which they probably received from the police. The surname and their place of birth are missing. No one wanted to give them their family name because that would give them a right to the family inheritance – usually a piece of land in a village. They probably didn't want to expect their own children to have to share of what little they might have. In addition, the surname also indicates the caste to which one belongs, which can be very disastrous. I have experienced myself that a marriage was dissolved by the bride's relatives during the wedding celebrations when they found out that the mother (!) of the groom was from a low caste. The future son-in-law had the prestige profession par excellence: doctor. It also didn't matter that the bride, at 31, was very old by Nepalese standards and very difficult to marry. Hopefully all of our children will be spared such experiences.

As you know, it is very important to us to give all our children, but especially these three, a future. Since new children are associated with more costs, we urgently need more sponsors and ask you to recruit them in your circle of relatives and acquaintances. **A child now costs us \$150 a month. However, we continue to award partial sponsorships from 35 dollars a month or more. Anyone who does not take on a direct sponsorship but prefers to donate a fixed sum regularly or occasionally is also very welcome.**

Unfortunately, as a result of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, food prices have also risen exorbitantly in Nepal. The price for 1 liter of cooking oil has more than tripled – and we need 260 liters a month for our 200 or so eaters! Rice, a staple food, requires 72 sacks of 25 kg each month (in winter even 20 sacks more). Quite a few of our adolescent boys devour 1 kg of rice a day! Each sack now costs a good 20% more. The prices for milk, fruit, vegetables and cooking gas bottles have increased by 30-45%. Meat that is only offered once a week has almost doubled in price. We cannot and do not want to eliminate it completely, since most children would even like to have meat twice a week.

From kindergarten to the bachelor level and including German courses at the Goethe Center in Kathmandu, we are currently supporting 208 children and young people, including 20 scholarship holders who do not live or eat with us and for whom we only pay the school fees. We very much hope that all 11 young people who want to start an education in Germany in August will actually be able to do so. One girl wants to do the German FSJ year for career orientation, and another girl and a boy are supposed to attend the international 10th grade again at the high school in Marbach am Neckar. We are keeping our fingers crossed that all of them will get a visa and that the Nepalese customs will let them leave the country.



Of the nine young people in the first year of training and the two in the second, we can report only positive things. None of them has dropped out yet. They are all fighting their way through. Everyone who had a probationary period have passed it. All would take this step again, although learning the theory demands a lot from them due to language difficulties. Due to the clear structure of the German training courses, they always know what they should do or where they stand. This gives them a sense of direction in their own lives, which thus follows a clear course. Their host families also give them strength, and I would like to take this

opportunity to thank them very much for their educational work and their selfless service. As in society in general, the family is the backbone here.

That type of education is also coming to the States. Just recently I have read an article in an English newspaper about German-style apprenticeship programs that offer US high school students a safe career path without expensive university degrees. The „Schaeffler Group USA“, one of the world's largest auto part manufacturers, runs such programs in the US. It is a dual education program like in Germany where you learn a trade, such as for example mechatronics, through on-the-job training by qualified mentors and by going to trade school part-time to learn more about the subject. Apprentices get paid a small monthly wage, which rises as they become more useful to their employers. The apprentices are trained to very high standards. In Germany, they get a „professional bachelor“ degree.



Thanks to some larger donations, we were able to set up a new sports field. Regardless of age, it is a very popular place.

Since the start of the school year in April, our children from grades 6 to 10 have been going to the "JB School", which is a little closer to our houses than the previous school. Above all, we are spared the traffic jams on the main thoroughfare, the Ring Road.

The abbreviations JB stand for Jung Bahadur, a model father and social worker who died at the age of 58 and did much for the poor in his area. His memory should be preserved in the name of the school.

The entire school grounds are spacious, the classrooms are spacious. To the great delight of the children, there is even a small swimming pool where swimming lessons are given during the summer. After the first happy splashing in the water, they came home overjoyed.

According to the children, the overall learning atmosphere and the lessons are better than before. I'm very happy that the children experience the change as a gain, because it was also associated with losses, since the children had to part with their friends from the old school. In contrast to Germany, people in Nepal rarely visit each other outside of the family.



In our elementary school, the Kusum School, we have grown a little, because we now have 67 students: 49 from our house and 18 external students. The children feel very comfortable there and the parents are also satisfied. We are working on improving the quality of teaching. In mathematics, we have made the lessons in the first two grades more vivid and lively with the help of Montessori rods that I received from a retired teacher. In science class, the children write down short mnemonic sentences in English. There is still much to do, but a good start has been made. **We**



would be happy about retired teachers who would come to us for about two weeks or even longer and train our local teachers, because in Nepal there is no methodical-didactic training. Please contact me without obligation. If you do not know Nepal, you are welcome to combine this with a trip to this country and its incomparable culture and mountains. For connoisseurs, a trip to these nice people is always worthwhile.

Thanks to our trainer Nima and our very dedicated young staff, our kindergarten is a real gem. In pre-school, the oldest children are well prepared for school by learning through play. The children are enthusiastic, disciplined and participate very well. The younger children hear stories, learn verses and songs in Nepalese and English and can develop optimally in play, which they also enjoy very much. Unfortunately, too few Nepalese parents see these advantages since they are from poorer backgrounds and are often still illiterate themselves. They think that a child will not be able to keep up at school later if it does not learn to read, write and do arithmetic by the age of 3. During two teacher-parent conferences, we showed the parents what they had learned and explained our concept. Conclusion: We still have a lot of convincing to do. But we will not give up.

Again our dentist from Berlin, who does three weeks of volunteer work every year at the Sushma Koreila Memorial Hospital in Sanku, treated our children in three groups. Since there was hardly any drilling and only a few teeth had to be extracted, he was delighted with the dental health of our protégés.

We still have plenty of room for new interns. An internship usually lasts at least four months. Exceptions are possible for internships within a study program. We once had a good experience with a young American woman, with whom we would be happy to put you in contact with if you are interested.



We are also urgently looking for more sponsors for individual children. Sponsorships start at 35 dollars a month. A 100% of your donation goes directly to the care and education of the children.

If you live in the U.S. and want to support this organization, you can do so by sending a check to the following American organization that is kind enough to transfer your contribution to our account in Nepal and to issue a tax refund slip to you.

Nepal Hope
38112 Young Drive,
Fremont, CA 94536.

Please, specify our organization by stating "for SHN." "SHN" stands for Self Help Nepal, the name of our organization in Nepal.

Finally, I would like to thank you once again for your constant support and sincerely ask you to remain loyal to us and help us find more sponsors and donors.

I wish you a nice and relaxing summer.

Yours truly,

Ellen Dietrich