



# HAUS DER HOFFNUNG - HILFE FÜR NEPAL e.V.

Spenden zugunsten des Vereins werden von deutschen Finanzbehörden als mildtätig und gemeinnützig anerkannt (VR 701024).

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## Newsletter No. 53

Dear friends,

Since you were not all able to come to our memorable anniversary celebration, I would like to give you a brief summary before I give you an update into the current situation about our children's home and our Nepalese apprentices in Germany.

Thanks to the generosity and exemplary commitment of our Schwäbisch Gmünd mayor, Mr. Richard Arnold, we were able to celebrate an unforgettable 25th anniversary with around 330 guests in the the Prediger cultural center, a magnificent historical building. Depending on the item in the program, the mood was thoughtful and concerned or happy, exuberant and colorful like the flags originally from Tibet that decorated the foyer of the venue.



*In his speech, which covered the entire spectrum of Nepal, the mayor of Gmünd spoke about the poverty of the people in this country, who are nevertheless able to celebrate in a colorful and exuberant manner. He praised the well-run houses of our association in Kathmandu and my commitment to the children and young people there, who can now even do apprenticeships in Germany. Former county administrator Klaus Pavel described the association as a remarkable open-hearted initiative that works for others with head, heart and mind.*

Sponsor, host mother and entrepreneur Sylvia Rall introduced some of the hardworking, always cheerful young Nepalese who make life in her family happier and more colorful.



The report from our Nepalese leader, Eak Nath Adhikari (called Rajesh), whom we had invited to the anniversary with his wife, was both shocking and moving. He himself had experienced all facets of everyday life in Nepal. His parents were married in his village as children, his mother gave birth to 12 children, 7 of whom survived. As the second eldest, he had to leave his village at the age of 9 due to his father's illness and earn money for the family. In Kathmandu he lived partly on the streets.



He was rescued by a Danish tourist who bought him a rickshaw and later sent him back to school. Today he has a bachelor's degree.

A presentation on the development of the children's home in Nepal as well as reports from the young people about their own fates and the earthquake relief provided in Jajarkot (see NL 52) were also part of the event, which was accompanied and enlivened by dancing and singing performances by the Nepalese young people.

We were served dal soup and pita as well as coffee and cake. This celebration couldn't have been nicer.



I would like to once again thank everyone who contributed to this successful anniversary celebration for their efforts.

In April/May we took in 15 half-orphans and six children with two living parents, whose families are dependent on support because, unfortunately, poverty is increasing as prices rise. The latter sleep at home or with relatives who live in our area because the state no longer allows them to stay with us. There are four sets of siblings among the new children because we want to keep as much of a family setting for them as possible. For the first time in the association's history, we have taken in more girls than boys. Most of them are still quite small. Six of them alone attend our preschool. Their fates shock me and I can understand that Rajesh could not say no, i.e. that we have taken on more children than planned.

The father of the two sisters of preschool age, who mostly walk hand in hand, committed suicide four years ago. For six of the fifteen new children, the father succumbed to alcoholism, often coupled with another illness. In three cases the father died in an industrial accident. Company pensions or pensions for orphans or widows are not known in Nepal. The mothers, who are mostly illiterate, make ends meet as domestic helpers or in construction. In two cases, two siblings' educational careers were interrupted because their mothers were working. One of them locked her children in the room that served as her apartment while she was working on a construction site. In the other case, the two sons had to help earn a living. In only two cases is the mother dead. In the case of one of these girls, the father disappeared without a trace on the day she was born six years ago. Is he still alive? A boy met a fate that is unfortunately very common. While the father was working in the Gulf States, the mother ran away, married another man and left the son with his grandparents for the time being. The father's second wife then treated her stepson badly. Neighbors took pity on him and brought him to our organization. Like the other new children, he is really prospering and growing with us. Our last fate is that of a girl whose physically disabled parents cannot care for her. Who of these children should we have turned away? Who would you have turned away? If we had turned away any of these children, it would have broken our hearts.



We are urgently looking for more sponsors for these children and a few from last year. A child now costs us **160 Dollars a month**, but there are still partial sponsorships **starting at 35 Dollars a month**. You can set higher monthly amounts yourself, depending on your financial situation. You would bring the children great joy if you became their sponsor. Why not join us in supporting these children?



Our apprentices and trainees in Germany, most of whom are developing very well, are aware of the great opportunity they have been given thanks to the support of their sponsors, because they would never have gotten this far without them. The first two are currently taking their final exams. We can already reveal that Sachin, our production technologist, passed his theoretical exam at a vocational school with distinction. He came to us with a B2 level German qualification and began his training around three weeks after his arrival. Isn't that a great achievement!

And I don't want to withhold another success story from you. Our nursing trainees have to work in a retirement or nursing home for three months as part of their training. A 94-year-old woman, who was one of our sponsors until she was admitted to the nursing home a year ago, was looked after by one of our trainees. Because the trainee was so kind and caring, she requested that when she passed away, not to have any money spent on wreaths and flowers but rather have this money donated to our children's home. In fact, she passed away quite unexpectedly a week before her 95th birthday. For the child that she sponsored, she was able to convince her grandson to be the new sponsor. Isn't that a nice, exemplary story? This and another donation, as a result of a sad occasion, are currently going towards our own long-term care case in Kathmandu.

Our 12-year-old Junkiri – known as "Juna" – who we had to take unconscious to the children's hospital in Kathmandu twice, was finally diagnosed with meningitis. She lay unconscious in the intensive care unit for 19 days. Unfortunately, the illness left her paralyzed on her left side. She is now in a rehabilitation facility with physiotherapy. Blessed with a healthy appetite, she is now eating solid food again, has learned to speak again, and has been able to sit up with help for a few days. She recognizes visitors from the children's home, waves to them with her right arm and beams. She asks them how they are doing and says that she is doing well herself. Her optimism is certainly aiding her recovery. The hospital stay, medication and rehabilitation have now cost almost 5,000 euros (\$ 5346). Unfortunately, there is no health insurance in Nepal. We have to pay for everything ourselves. Juna and every other child are worth it to us, but the burden is still there. And every month, 600 euros (\$ 641) are added to the rehabilitation bill.



I am very proud of our trainees in Germany, who raised money for Juna's hospital stay and thereby cushioned some of the costs for us. Now we are very grateful for the additional donations from bereavement cases, which are helping us to cope with this enormous additional burden. As we do not know how long Juna will have to stay in the facility, we need further financial resources. May I therefore ask you for a special donation under the keyword "Juna" - no matter how much? Every cent helps. Thank you very much in advance for this. As in Nepalese hospitals, the families have to care for the sick instead of the nursing staff, our employees took turns working shifts during the day and night. I pay them the utmost respect for this selfless service. Juna's mother has been here for a few weeks now and she takes a lot of the care off of our hands.

The kindergarten, primary school and children's home are running well. All employees work together harmoniously and have organized the daily routines in a way that is beneficial for the children. Our daycare center currently has 45 children, from the playgroup to preschool. We have 71 children in our primary school (Kusum Academy). Of these, 19 are external-paying students. 61 of our students are in the secondary school JB School. They are very satisfied with the lessons and the atmosphere there.

**We still have a few free places for our group trip from October 28th to November 13th, 2024 or with the Trek until November 20th, 2024.** Due to my age, this will probably be the last time I offer this trip. Take this chance and come along. Just request the announcement from us by email.

**We are looking for more interns.** We have also had very good experiences with senior citizens and once with an American woman. More information on our German homepage. Or send us an email at the address above.

I would like to thank you all once again for your constant support and ask you to remain loyal to us. We urgently need you in the future.

I wish you a nice and relaxing summer!

Best regards,

*Ellen Dietrich*