



HAUS DER HOFFNUNG - HILFE FÜR NEPAL e.V.

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

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Winter 2024

NEWSLETTER No. 54

Dear friends,

To the great delight of all our children and young people, we were able to complete our sports field this summer thanks to a donation from "Ein Herz für Kinder". At the end of 2022, we had collected the financial base for the construction of this covered sports field with special donations and completed it in March 2023 so that it could be used (see Newsletter 51 Summer 2023). Without artificial turf, however, playing on the pitch was not conducive to good health due to the dust constantly being stirred up by the sandy surface. Now it has been given the necessary artificial turf.



Like all our houses, our boys' house, a former residential building, is well filled with 48 boys. Due to a lack of space, their two study rooms are not only used for homework, but also for eating, playing games (e.g. board games), quizzes and watching movies. The ageing and very worn furniture therefore needed to be replaced. Our industrious general manager Rajesh managed to get 30 new twin tables and benches sponsored by a bank in Nepal. This is the first time we have received a donation - and a large one at that - from Nepal, which makes us very happy.



Despite the heavy and very late monsoon rains at the end of September, which were even reported in German news, most of our protégés were able to travel to their villages for Dashain, the largest Hindu festival. Generally speaking, the group of people who stayed behind was smaller than in previous years. We are very happy that more children were able to experience the festival with relatives because we don't want them to lose their connection to their roots. We "only" want to be their second home, a reliable place of security and learning for them.

Parallel to the festival in Nepal, we celebrated Dashain for the third time in Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany on October 12.

This year, 25 Nepalis and 15 guests - some from Germany, some from Nepal - came together in Germany. Our Nepalese trainees had planned the whole celebration meticulously and relatively long-term. Didn't Germany, with its strong tendency to plan ahead, rub off on them a bit? On the previous weekends, they had come together from northern Baden and northern Württemberg and even from Munich to rehearse their dances and musical performances in the Staufer city, which was not so easy to manage due to distances and weekend jobs, for example for the nursing trainees or cooks. Despite his small speech impediment, Manoj gave a brilliant welcoming speech without making any mistakes and without using a cheat sheet. What an achievement!



As a spectator or listener, you could really feel the passion with which everyone had devoted themselves to practicing. There was a great atmosphere and mood that everyone present was enthusiastic about and carried away by. Feelings of home came up at the latest during the meal, as the Nepalese national dish, enriched with lamb, could once again be eaten with the right hand. Our Nepalese young people went home with shining eyes and deeply satisfied. They had recharged their batteries and satisfied their longing for their homeland that resonates at such celebrations, they had gained new strength for all the "other" things in Germany.

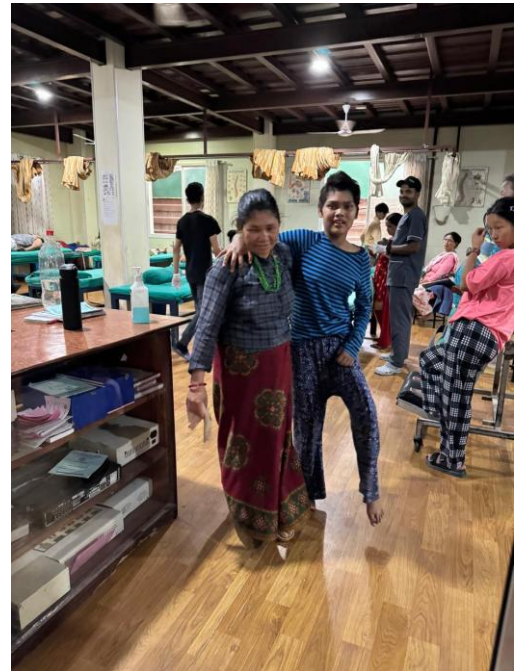




I was deeply touched by the bouquet of flowers and a framed group photo from our first Dashain celebration three years ago, which they gave me as a gift. Whether in Nepal or Germany, over all the years we have spent together they have become "the children of my heart". I am very proud of their development and especially of what they had achieved at this celebration. In terms of its excellent standard, this event set standards for the future.

With our travel group from October 28th to November 12th, 2024, we celebrated the Tihar Festival (Festival of Lights) with the children in Nepal. We took the participants to our kindergarten and elementary school, where the children gave small, heartwarming performances that moved some to tears. Seeing the children blossom in these institutions confirms to me again that we took the right path three years ago. The dance and musical interludes with all the children and young people at the big celebration that followed were very graceful and seemed professional. It took endless hours of practice. They performed with a joy that was infectious to everyone. What a wonderful gift they had given to everyone who was present. Pictures of the Tihar Festival will soon be available on our homepage.

In addition to the personal email, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who responded to our appeal for donations for Juna, who is suffering from meningitis. Your donations were enough for her entire treatment. Unfortunately, she seems to have been left with physical and mental harm. We are still looking for a handicapped accessible facility for her.



Finally, let's end with what Mrs. Sylvia Rall had to say about her trip to Nepal. She went with her husband this fall and visited their two sponsored children, who both still live in our children's home. They also visited the home village of her former sponsored child Jay Prakash Bohara - known as JP (pronounced: JayPi) - who completed his training as a carpenter this summer. As part of my group trip in 2017, they met the 15-year-old personally, initiated his one-year school visit at the international 10th grade of the Friedrich Schiller Gymnasium in Marbach am Neckar and also hosted him for that year (see Newsletter 43, summer 2019).

A new world opened up for the young man. When they picked JP up from the airport in 2018, his first comment was a frightened "so fast" when they were driving at 80 km/h (50 mph) on the motorway. He has now lived with the family for 4 years and has enriched them greatly during this time with his always friendly nature and his balanced, cheerful personality. In short: he has become part of their family.

At that time, the Rall/Schnaidt family had no idea whatsoever about JP's origins, childhood or way of life in his home village. It was only on their three-week trip this year to his village in Jajarkot, which is far to the west and extremely difficult to access, that they had an idea of what his life had been like. The journey by bus from Kathmandu takes 48 hours. If you fly, as they did, you still have to plan for two days: a 40-minute flight to Surkhet, 18 hours off-road to the bus's final stop in Jajarkot, and a three-hour steep climb to the village. They had no idea about what life in the village was like and they could not have imagined it. No house in Nepal has heating. In JP's village, there is not only no road, there is also no electricity or running water (they use the nearby spring). All the villagers work as farmers and are self-sufficient. The tool for everything (cutting pears, mowing the grass, chopping meat ...) is the sickle and is always carried by all villagers.



After JP's return to Nepal in the summer of 2019 to continue his education, he decided to become a carpenter as his vocational training. "Carpenters are needed in Germany, in Nepal, just like in any other country," writes Mrs. Rall. And she continues: "JP managed to get an apprenticeship in the neighboring town of Marbach. The visa application process was still a difficult procedure, which required a lot of nerves and patience. But we managed to get through it.

The apprenticeship started in September 2021. First a year of internship - practically still without pay - and then 2 years of training. Even during his apprenticeship, he supported his family in the village and paid his sister's school fees. Today he does the same for three other children. Now in September was his graduation, which we were able to attend. We were so happy for JP. We are so proud of him. He made it - despite initial language challenges - and is now a journeyman carpenter. Wow! The world is open to him now and he has every opportunity. Chapeau!"

A few words to our donors in the USA.

Nepal Hope continues to be so kind to accept donations for our association and to issue you with a donation receipt. However, the mailing address has changed since July 1, 2024:

Nepal Hope
1235 S. South Lane
Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

The website, www.nepalhope.net, and email nepalhope@earthlink.net remain the same. Donations can also be made on-line using the website or their PayPal account.

We thank you for your loyal support and we wish you in these troubled times peaceful days during the advent season.

Best regards,

Ellen Dietrich