

# Newsletter 2015



## **A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

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Dear Friends, dear Contributors,

We often feel that the poor are prey to hardship. Nepal and its population have suffered an extremely difficult year. On top of the two major earthquakes, and the 450 aftershocks of more than 4 magnitude destroying the few homes still standing, there were landslides caused by faults filled with monsoon rains. The difficulty to find food, to find protection against the cold, against humidity, and of course, since September to face the Indian blockade on fuel and gas for political reasons.

As you can imagine, all of this has had an impact on food prices and on the price of gas used for cooking, which have sometimes been multiplied by ten.

At the request of Lakhputi Sherpa and in this emergency, my wife and Véronique Testard, a member of our board, were able to raise sufficient funds to buy 800 tents large enough to house 50 to 60 people, two tons of rice and wheelchairs, all this from the month of June and independently of our trust. Our teams on location headed by Lakhputi Sherpa organised the delivery of the goods with the help of the army, in remote villages that had not received any help whatsoever. This effort was made possible thanks to the local people who speak the language and know the terrain. An enormous Bravo !!!

Through all of these problems, life in our orphanage carried on. We were lucky enough not to suffer any losses or casualties amongst the children or their minders.

The morale of the children was very affected by the events in the Spring, but all is back to normal thanks to daily and then weekly calls from Brigitte. They have resumed their studies and their results are encouraging.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your messages of support throughout this dreadful year, they were a great help.

Thank you once again for your support which is so important to secure the future of each of our children.

Patrick Susse

## Each day brings its own trouble

There are hardly any taxis and the streets are deserted. One litre of fuel can cost up to 7 francs, a fortune for them. The shortage of gas results in huge problems and people fall back on wood, but it burns very fast and costs even more than gas.

I am in weekly contact with our children and with Lakhputi and even though the

Nepalese are very brave, life is a daily ordeal.

For the first time in 17 years and on the demand of Lakhputi and my family, I am going to wait before going back to Nepal. The situation is too difficult at the moment. The children are very mature and they understand.



Here are two photos of Lakhputi and the children which were taken in the beginning of October 2015 by Katarina, one of our friends who was kind enough to invite everyone to the pizzeria. By the way, it was the first time in their life that Subita and Rupamaya – the two young sisters we took in last August - had a pizza. They loved it ...



**On the left, the Stupa of Bodnath before the earthquakes. The two other photos were taken by Katarina early October 2015.**

## NEWS OF THE CHILDREN

Here are a few pictures we received from the children during the earthquakes. There are also some photos taken by Mingmar when she delivered essentials to her village which had been totally devastated. All the children showed a lot of solidarity and humanism during this time; they also offered their help in the neighbourhood and in the hospitals.



Two of our girls supervising the cooking of potatoes



Picture taken on 21st May 2015 in Lakhputi's garden



During the earthquakes, Lakhputi set up a makeshift cooker in her garden



When Mingmar (wearing a striped sweater above) arrived in her village, the inhabitants had not seen a soul for 10 days. Thanks to her, they were at last able to eat a true hot meal and two casualties were taken to hospital. On the right, what is left of the school; the whole village suffered the same fate.



Mingmar will complete her Hotel School course in February 2016. She will then go to the Seychelles, on the Island of Praslin. The general manager of the 5 star Constance Lémuria hotel has taken her on for a 6 month internship to improve her knowledge. It is an incredible privilege for her to access such a quality requirement in this paradise hotel. Mingmar is so looking forward to this internship. It is a dream come true.





## Welcome to Subita and Rupamaya



At the end of last August, we had the pleasure of welcoming Subita and Rupamaya, two sisters aged 8 and 10 who lost their father a few years ago and who have not heard from their mother for several months; she disappeared in India. They come from Dolpo, a very remote mountainous region in North-west Nepal which is very difficult to reach. They suffered from hunger during the earthquakes. Above are two photos taken by Lakhputi when they arrived. They were very tired and emotionally tested.



**The district of Dolpo**



**The district of Kathmandu**



Here are two photographs the girls sent me on 14<sup>th</sup> November for the Tihar celebration. They looked after our new young wards as they did not speak the same dialect as in Kathmandu and they gave them lessons. We are delighted to see them thrive with us, they have recuperated and the family atmosphere has helped them rebuild their lives. The girls told me that they were very happy to have celebrated Tihar and Dashain with Lakhputi. Subita and Rupamaya work very hard in school and during the holidays they have been studying their multiplication tables every day.



**YANGJEE**

She is one of the happy 40% of students who passed their entry exams to study nursing in the second best school in Kathmandu. Yangjee began her studies in early November 2015 and her university course will last 3 years. She is a brilliant student and we are happy with her choice. She has always shown tremendous compassion and will certainly be very comfortable in this line of work.



### DROLMA-SAÏLI

Last August, Drolma-Saïli started an apprenticeship as a tailor and she is blossoming in this trade. Her training also includes courses in fashion design. She has found her way and we are delighted for her.



Above on the right, Kemi being interviewed by a local radio station in Manila during the Nepal earthquakes

### KEMI

During the holidays we gave her flight tickets to visit her mother in Nepal, because her house was partially destroyed during the earthquakes. Kemi is now back in Manilla continuing medical school. She is ever as passionate and is always among the best students.



### SANJOK – 15 years old

Sanjok is Kemi's brother. During the earthquakes, the hotel that was sponsoring his studies was destroyed. At the request of his mother and of Kemi, whom we have known for many years, we have accepted to take charge of his studies. He is living with his mother and will remain with her in Pharping, a small town south of Kathmandu.



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