

Newsletter

Feb - May 2017



Namaste



Namaste from Umbrella and Nepal. It's that time of year again when monsoon begins in Nepal - and we all welcome the relief the rain brings from the humidity! It is also the time of year when some of our children leave the childcare homes and sign into NSYEP, which brings us both sorrow in saying goodbye, and pride and joy in seeing how far our kids have come.

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Namaste

There are now 11 children in the childcare homes, and 67 youth being supported in NSYEP. Our Reintegration Officers continue their excellent work in ensuring the safety and happiness of our 99 reintegrated children and their families, travelling across Nepal in all conditions. I am also pleased to announce that we have signed another agreement with UNICEF, to continue our award-winning child protection work in Nuwakot and Rasuwa districts.

None of this would be possible without your continued support over the years, no matter how big or small. After nearly a year in this role, I am awed at how much has been achieved by our small organisation, with such humble beginnings, for the benefit of so many children and their families. I hope you share some of this pride.

Yours, with gratitude,

Kyle Mohamed
Country Director





Umbrella Anniversary Picnic



On the 8th April, 2017, we held a large picnic to celebrate 12 years of The Umbrella Foundation. Over 300 children, youth and staff attended on the day, and it was a wonderful and memorable gathering. Many of our reintegrated children travelled from very remote parts of Nepal and spent the day dancing, eating and laughing with their friends. Later in the afternoon we had speeches from some of our board members, inspirational youth, our staff members, and of course incredible performances from the children and youth!

Umbrella Anniversary Picnic



Thank you to everyone who helped on the day, and to our supporters for helping us reach such a milestone! It was wonderful to celebrate the friendships formed over the last 12 years, and also watch the Umbrella children grow into impressive young adults.



Umbrella Anniversary Picnic





The
Umbrella
Foundation

Umbrella Anniversary Picnic





Umbrella Wins 3 Awards in Nuwakot!

We are proud to announce that our team in Nuwakot district (who are implementing a UNICEF funded project) have been given three awards recently for their outstanding work.

On the 8th March (International Women's Day), the Women's Development Office awarded our team for their contributions to the child protection sector during the post-earthquake emergency phase.

They also individually awarded our District Project Coordinator Arjun Kafle for his individual contribution during this time.

On the 10th March, the NGO Federation of Nuwakot also awarded our team for their valuable work in the child protection sector.

Congratulations to all our hard-working staff in Nuwakot!





Reintegration News!

In the last month, 4 of our boys living in our Annapurna childcare home have now been fully reintegrated with their families. Our reintegration team have worked tirelessly over the years to make sure the Umbrella children reconnect with their families, with the aim that they will eventually be reunited permanently.

Although it was sad for everyone to say goodbye, the boys were excited and happy to return to live with their families. We wish them all much happiness in this new stage of their lives.





Reintegration News!





Introducing the new “First Steps” Program

Umbrella is always trying to grow as an organisation, and find better ways to support the children under our care. As such, we are proud to announce a new programme being run, called "First Steps". This programme has been developed by our Country Director (Kyle), Programme Director (Tsewang), Youth Manager (Sujata), Education Officer (Shyam), Child Protection & Development Officer (Binita), and TUF board member Stephen Jenkinson, and is in direct response to the feedback we have had from our children regarding the problems they face when they leave the childcare homes. For example, our young people often have limited or no experience in communicating with people in positions of authority - in most cases, these are skills that would be directly taught by a parent, or that a child would learn through observation, however our kids have not had these opportunities. So, we aim to teach them these skills, so they are better prepared to adapt to, and flourish in, the world outside of childcare homes. We are excited to announce that, as part of this programme, we will be employing mentors to help support with the learning aims, and to give the children additional role models and a wider support network. We are one of only 2-3 organisations currently doing this in Nepal. If you have anymore questions about this exciting new programme, please feel free to contact Kyle at kyle@umbrellanepal.org



SEE Exams

Our boys and girls in Class 10 sat their SEE exams in March (their final compulsory school exams), which are challenging and require many months of studying. They will now be moving into Umbrella's NSYEP Youth program, where they will be living with family or independently, and engaging in further study or vocational training.

Well done to all the Umbrella children who completed these!





End of the Rural School Volunteer Program

Umbrella has been supporting rural schools and their communities since 2007. In that time, with your kind support, we have supported 26 schools, 13 VDC's (village development committees) in 5 districts to receive desks and benches, whiteboards, computers and printers, and toilet renovations. More than 100 volunteers have also done their bit to improve the English language skills of the children at these schools.

But sadly, all good things must come to an end. Due to new policies from the Government of Nepal, it is no longer possible for our implementing partner (Umbrella Organisation Nepal) to carry out activities in districts other than the one they are registered in. This does not effect our childcare homes, NSYEP Program, or reintegration programmes, but it does however mean that we will be unable to carry out projects outside of Kathmandu, which is where all of our rural schools were located.

We are proud of the achievements we have made in supporting rural schools to become more attractive places for parents to send their children for school, thereby combatting one of the main drivers for parents wanting to send their children away from the villagers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our supporters who have contributed to this project over the years, and a special huge thanks to all the volunteers who have made this possible.



End of the Rural School Volunteer Program





World Environment Day

On Monday 5th June, the boys and girls in Kathmandu Celebrated World Environment Day by making beautiful things from rubbish and waste materials. They also planted flowers in the gardens of the Umbrella homes. During the workshop, they all discussed the importance of caring for our planet and the different ways in which we can do so.





World Environment Day





Update from the Reintegration Project

A total of 70 reunified children and youth (38 inside Kathmandu valley and 32 outside Kathmandu valley) were monitored these past 3 months to get their overall updates during the first quarter of the year.

16 reunified children (10 from Kathmandu valley and 6 outside Kathmandu valley) sat their Secondary Education Examination (former SLC examination) from 16th March to 24th March 2017.

A workshop on the topic “Adolescence- Lets talk about sexuality” was organized for the reintegration children with the children living in our childcare homes, to discuss on developing physical changes, teenage problems and a way to cope with teenage/adolescence problems. Another workshop “ Saving and budgeting” was also organized for reunified youths and children with the view to discuss the importance and techniques of saving and budgeting to be financially stable. Reunified children and youths further attended the sharing program organized as part of our NSYEP program.

12 Reunified youths studying at grade 12 prepared for their grade 12 board examinations which were held from 23rd April to 5th May 2017. An amendment in the education act has resulted in changes to the education system. Now grade 12 is regarded as last class of secondary education and compulsory for all children to complete.

Santosh Sapkota
Reintegration Officer



Update from the NSYEP Youth Program

The ***Next Step Youth and Education Programme*** now have 67 youths in the programme. Most of them are enrolled into a formal course (such as Management, Humanities and Science) and some are also in Vocational courses (Community Medical Assistant, Veterinary Junior Technical Assistant, Civil Overseer, and Nursing).

Recently the board examination result of Grade 11 was published, in which 12 youths passed with very good marks and 2 failed in Accountancy. These two are also preparing for a second chance exam being held at the end of this month. 78% was the highest mark obtained by one of our youth.

Many of these current youths are balancing their work and study very effectively. They are working in Finance, Thangka and Handicraft making. We at Umbrella always encourage our youths to work or volunteer. This gives them first hand experience which is useful for their future careers.

NSYEP youths are also continuously participating in the National Campaign "Bagmati River Cleaning" being organized by Nepal River Conservation Trust. Thousands of people including Police, Army, Social Workers, and Government Officers gather every Saturday on the bank of the Bagmati River. NSYEP youths have to participate in at least 10 weeks of the cleaning programme as per our programme policy. Except these, some interested youths are also busy in short term volunteering programmes.

Sujata Sharma
Youth Manager



Thanks to:

The 2017 Umbrella 7s Rugby tournament took place on April 1st in Terenure College in Dublin, with school and club teams competing from all over Leinster. A great day of rugby was had with Belvedere College and St. Andrews College taking the winner and runner up titles in both the Under 17's and Under 15's plate and cup competitions.

Huge thanks as always to Terenure College for facilitating the event, all the kids and coaches who travelled up for the day and fundraised for The Umbrella Foundation.

Special thanks to our organising committee; Ciara Close, Darina Carr, Conor Clancy, Conor Davis, Dave Sheehan, Lisa Simpson, Carla Simpson and Donal O'Nuallain.



Thanks to:



2017 Umbrella 7s U17 Plate Winners, St. Andrews College



2017 Umbrella 7s U17 Cup Winners, Belvedere College

Thanks to:



2017 Umbrella 7s U15 Cup Winners, Belvedere College



2017 Umbrella 7s U15 Plate Winners, St. Andrews College



Thanks to:

Mini Marathon 2017:

The VHI Women's Mini Marathon is the largest female only event and caters to all levels of fitness. This years event took place in Dublin on Monday June 5th. Thank you to everyone in 'Team Umbrella' for taking part and fundraising for The Umbrella Foundation! We hope you had a fantastic day.





Thanks to:

All our wonderful donors, sponsors and supporters!

With special thanks to:

Umbrella Trust Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Football Club for your ongoing support
Latham & Watkins for your kind donation

YETI Trust New Zealand

Rosie Knight & Friends for the wonderful quilts
Bharat Pancha and the students from Wellington High School
for another delivery of clothing

Umbrella Australia

Thank you to all our supporters and sponsors in Australia

Umbrella USA (Wings of the World)

A big thank you to our generous supporters in the USA, and to
Bryan and Michael

Umbrella Canada

Thank you to all our supporters in Canada who took part in
the recent poker event



Goodbye Until Next Time From the Umbrella Family!

