

Newsletter

July – October 2016



Dear Friends,



Namaste to all our supporters!

It is my huge honour to write my first introduction for an Umbrella newsletter, and to say hello to all our wonderful supporters. Since I began this role 2 months ago, I have been getting to know the excellent Umbrella team, and our amazing Umbrella kids, and gaining a greater understanding of the work we do - and have enjoyed every minute of it! I would like to quickly take the opportunity to say how encouraging it is working with such a dedicated and professional team.

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We are currently in festival season in Nepal, and the main festival of Dashain has just finished. This is the nicest time in Nepal - the rain has stopped, the skies are clear, and the temperature is perfect. All but 2 of the children in RCP were able to go home to their families during this time, which we are all very proud and happy about. And the remaining 2 enjoyed a pretty amazing trek around Helambu region! Our new group of Next Steps youth had a trip to Nargakot last month to mark the commencement of the programme, and lots of fun was had by staff and youth!

As someone who has lived here for 3 years, I can honestly say that living in Nepal is rarely lacking in challenges, and as such it is heartwarming to see the strength and resilience of the Umbrella kids - they have done so well over the years, and that is down to the continued generosity and commitment of our supporters, all over the world, coming together to support some of the most vulnerable children in Nepal.

Thank you all, from myself, and all the team at Umbrella.

Kyle Mohamed
Country Director

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Some good times we've had over the past three months!



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The 1st Annual Umbrella Mentoring Workshop



On the 17th of September we held our first Umbrella Mentoring Workshop in which some of our ex-Umbrella Youths came and spoke about their careers to the Umbrella Children and our Youths in the NYSEP program. The day was inspirational and energetic, and everyone listened attentively to the valuable advice given by these impressive young adults paving careers in hospitality, business, health care, trekking, and the aviation industry. Our Umbrella Children felt better equipped to face future challenges after attending the workshop, and acknowledged that hard work is essential to achieving their dreams.

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Dashain Festival



To celebrate Nepal's largest Hindu festival Dashain, the Umbrella children and staff held a wonderful event where the boys and girls sung and performed. Ranging from traditional dancing to modern beat-boxing, everyone immensely enjoyed the show of talent and most importantly celebrating this special time together as the Umbrella family!

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Dashain Festival



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Welcome to our New Country Director Kyle Mohamed



Join us in welcoming our new Country Director,
Kyle Mohamed!

Kyle brings a wealth of experience working on Child Protection in the UK, and as a long-time resident, he understands the challenges that come with working here. Good Luck Kyle! See more about our staff on our Website: Umbrellanepal.org

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From Umbrella Youth to Mentor

Chakra, who works in our Education Department, has been with Umbrella since he was a young man and also works as a tutor to our Umbrella kids. As he is an important and respected role model, he recently gave his first presentation to the Umbrella kids on how to make their study habits more effective. It makes us extremely proud to see one of our own have such a positive impact on the younger Umbrella kids!



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Jayram's Story

Hello my name is Jayram Gurung. I am originally from Gorkha district. v.d.c. Lapu. My village Lapu is the place where 90% of people from Gurung community live and the people there speak Gurung language. My village is surrounded by hills. From my village you can see Ganesh Himal/Mountains very clearly. There is greenery everywhere and a huge jungle and Budhi Gandaki river.



I went home for Dashain and spent it with my family after one year. Everything looked different after the earthquake. Now all the houses are new and in a different style. During Dashain I got to meet all my relatives. I've been working with Umbrella since may 2013. I have been working in the Admin and Finance department. Everyday I have to communicate with different people in different ways and I really enjoy dealing with people and learning how to communicate in a formal style.

I will soon begin working with the reintegration team. This will consist of monitoring the reintegrated child. I have to update the education and health status of the child and monitor the relationships between the child, parents and relatives after reintegration.

I am very excited and enthusiastic to begin working with the reintegration team as all the reintegrated children are from a similar background to me. Also I am very excited to join the reintegration team because the work will be more challenging as I have to visit different districts and speak with people and children. In my experience you get a chance to learn more when the work is challenging. Besides that I am excited to travel, see new places and communicate with people.

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Umbrella returns to Sangachowk!!



Nearly 18 months on from the earthquake, our first volunteers have returned to Sangachok as teaching assistants in one of our partner schools, Shree Bachchhala Lower Secondary School.

Sangachok is in the Sindhupalchok district of Nepal, with a population of approximately 10,000 people. This beautiful hillside village, devastated by the 2015 earthquake, is slowly beginning to recover. The majority of people here are still living in temporary structures, trying to save enough money to rebuild their homes and businesses.

As a part of their Emergency Response Programme, SOS Nepal helped Shree Bachchhala to repair the huge amount of damage caused to the school building by the earthquake.

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Umbrella returns to Sangachowk...

On the 4th of September 2016, two Irish Umbrella volunteers, Ciara and Finnian, began their rural school placement in Sangachok. A typical day for volunteer teachers includes making lesson plans alongside local teachers, teaching English lessons, and helping organise school activities and programmes.



(Weekly quizzes run by Ciara)

In being the first volunteers to return to Sangachok post earthquake, Ciara and Finnian were also involved with some school development projects, in particular an overhaul of the library. Because of ongoing construction, the school's library was being used as a storage space for everything from furniture sent from NGO's to rubbish and waste!

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Umbrella Returns to Sangachowk...

With the help of a later joining volunteer carpenter, Maurice Berger, the volunteer team began to clear out and thoroughly clean the room, before redecorating and painting the library shelves.

Shree Bachchhala's library is now clean and in use, with books and art supplies that have been generously donated by donors and volunteers over the years.



(The library before and after)

In addition to the library, Maurice and Finn repaired the shutters and floorboards in the school in order to best prepare for the forthcoming winter season.

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Umbrella returns to Sangachowk...



Maurice repairing the shutter with the help of Dinesh, a local teacher.

Finn and Maurice repairing the floor, with Badri, the vice-principal, overseeing.



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Curry Without Worry

On the 25th October, the Umbrella Foundation sponsored, cooked and helped serve 200 meals to hungry souls in Kathmandu's Durbar Square with the help of the organisation 'Curry Without Worry'. Members of our staff, the children in Class 10 and some of our Umbrella Youths helped prepare the food from 2pm and then served the meals at 5:30pm to a long line of people waiting. It was a wonderful and rewarding experience for all and we look forward to doing this again soon!



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Curry Without Worry



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Upcoming Events!

The Umbrella Foundation presents

BRAWL 4 NEPAL

Make like Rocky and
stick it to the Russians!

Recruiting guys & girls all fitness levels
Training starting September

Call/Text Naomi 0852705626 or email irishoffice@umbrellanepal.org



The Brawl for Nepal is a night of amateur boxing in aid of The Umbrella Foundation. Now in its 6th year, this White Collar Charity Boxing event is taking place on 11th November 2016 in The Palace on Camden Street, Dublin. Tickets are €20 and can be secured by emailing irishoffice@umbrellanepal.org or text/call 085 2705626

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Thanks to YETI:



A big thank you to Anna and the Crafty volunteer knitters for the hats.. and Rosie and the Whataitai Quilters group for the beautiful handmade throws for the Gauri Shankar girls!

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Thanks to:

A very special thank you to **Alice Wong** and everyone at **Umbrella Hong Kong** for your generous donations and continued support. Especially to **Alice** who came and volunteered for 2 weeks in September after years of visiting. It was lovely having you here in Kathmandu with us!



Another big thank you to Jim and Helen of Ireland for their generous donation to Umbrella on the occasion of their wedding. Fair play to you both!

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Thanks to:



The Umbrella Foundation Australia

All of our wonderful supporters who have been attending our monthly fundraisers 'Conversation's at Blackbird'



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Thanks to:



Our guest speakers to date: Marianne Harvey, Lil Mel Lee, Geraldine Moran & Bev Brooker. All amazing and inspirational women. Funds raised at each event have supported not only Umbrella Australia projects but also our guest speakers projects.....it's about sharing the love.



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Thanks to:

Corey & Nicole de Silva from Melbourne who have been fundraising for most of 2016. Corey recently organized the first Umbrella Australia charity golf tournament.

Spring Valley Golf Club Melbourne



Dr Rosa Matheson, from the UK who kindly donated 100 books 'Earthquake Stories' to Umbrella Australia. Our Nepal youth & staff contributed to the stories and we do have copies available with 100% of all money raised going to a school project. You can get your own copy by contacting us at Umbrella Australia or going on our website.

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Thanks to:

Lake Macquarie City Council Social Club who held a trivia night for TUFA. We would also like to acknowledge the many local businesses who donated prizes for the evening and the social club team who put so much time and effort in to organizing the event.



To the kind Maitland lady who knitted babies & children's clothes for us to bring over....we don't know your name as they were originally donated to Lil Mel & Co. for Bali, due to the climate we have them here to distribute to needy kiddies in the mountains.

Thank you Lynda Watters once again for your kind donation and materials for our DFG project.

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Our friends Sanju & Uddhab Shrestha who kindly organized the safe arrival of our 'Earthquake Stories' books to Australia.

Special thanks to Bridie Scott & Michael Kirwin and the 2016 RYLA team for the opportunity to speak about Umbrella.

A special thank you to Bridie Scott, Marianne Harvey, Geraldine Allen & Desley Pfeffer for all their support and precious time they have given over the last twelve months....you are very appreciated Ann & Robert Loughran from Newcastle for their kind donation.



Centre For Hope (our Australian sister charity) - For the delivery of our Umbrella painting to the children at Gilgandra public school NSW.

Carolyn Diegan from Sydney for her donation.

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Goodbye Until Next Time From the Umbrella Family!

