



## **Newsletter**

**January - April 2018**



Namaste from Nepal!

As we welcome the spring months after a particularly cold winter in Nepal, we are pleased to bring you the latest updates from Umbrella Nepal. The last 3 months have been an extremely busy time at Umbrella. We have been preparing for a media appearance that we look forward to sharing with you in the near future, and are preparing for the phasing out of our UNICEF emergency response project, as well as the very important work of moving our remaining children out from the childcare homes into alternative care arrangements. We will be making this newsletter a little longer than usual, to share some of the success stories (and photos!) from this program.

We are pleased to share with you that we have successfully reintegrated one young man with his extended family, and have organised foster care for the 5 remaining children living in the childcare homes - even better, we have been able to place the 3 girls together, and the 2 boys together with foster parents that they know, so they are able to maintain their brother/sister connections. Both of the foster care homes are close to Umbrella offices, so we will still have lots of regular contact with the kids.

For the children and young people under our care, the first months of the year are often quite stressful, as they are preparing for their exams, however they have been coping well and are, in general, happy and enjoying life. We hope you will join with us in wishing them all the best for their upcoming results!

We hope you've all had a great start to 2018, and would like to say a huge thank you for your continued support - thanks!

With gratitude,  
Kyle Mohamed  
Country Director



## Conor Brother Returns to Nepal

Moving from a Director in Nepal to helping out as a Director in Ireland, you really miss seeing the kids, families and the amazing Umbrella team in Nepal. So, it has been great to be back here meeting everyone again. It has also been emotional and inspirational seeing the people of Nepal rebuilding their lives after the earthquake of 2015.

It was great visiting the kids again that we rescued and reintegrated back with their families and/or communities in the Himalayan district of Rasuwa. The whole Umbrella team have done an amazing job and the kids have now grown into well adjusted, compassionate and inspirational young adults in their communities. It further confirmed the importance of our work in supporting families and communities to stay together. I was also lucky enough to see one of our street dramas in a small village in Rasuwa about the dangers of child marriage and the importance of education and equal right for girls.





It was a huge moment as well, to be present for the closing ceremony of our children's homes in Kathmandu, which celebrated the amazing work of our Childcare Team and Family Reintegration Team over the years. Umbrella is now one of the leading organisations in promoting family based care in Nepal, including an increased focus on foster care.

I was also lucky enough to meet some of our most inspirational care leavers in Kathmandu and Pokhara, some of whom are being highlighted in this newsletter. I now look forward to catching up with more of the children and young adult care leavers for a fun Saturday activity before I leave Nepal.

Thanks to Kyle, Imogen and Tsewang for making this a very productive and memorable trip. Jai Nepal!

## Some Success Stories from Umbrella's Residential Childcare Program!

### **Jal Maya's Journey**

Jal Maya is currently completing her hotel



training in Pokhara, through an organisation called Right4Children as well as Movenpick Hotels, which have many 5-star hotels abroad. After she completes her training she will be provided with a job in one of these hotels. She is very happy and in her words; "my journey is beginning and I am progressing towards a successful life". Jal Maya's father has passed away and her mother is a labourer in her village. Umbrella has played an important and consistent role in providing her with proper care and a good education since she was very young.

After growing up and graduating from both Umbrella's residential childcare and youth programs, Jal Maya didn't believe she would get this opportunity. She finished her +2 schooling (equivalent to A-Levels) and afterwards was working in sales for a clothing shop. During her time in Umbrella's NSEP youth programme she was very active, confident and showed leadership qualities which made her a role model for other Umbrella youth. Because of this, Umbrella's NSEP team thought she was a perfect candidate for this training, and helped facilitate the opportunity. Jal Maya proved herself by passing the interview and working hard throughout her training. Due to her own individual drive, combined with the ongoing support from Umbrella, she can now build her career in hospitality and secure a good job in the future.

Jal Maya shares "Now, I am going on the path of success and confident that very soon I will be able to achieve it through my hard work and it is only possible with the help of Umbrella." She wants to thank Umbrella for helping her with this opportunity and encouraging her to be a hard working person. She feels confident she can now fulfil both her and her family's needs.

## Returning Home after 12 years





In 2006, the Central Child Welfare Board closed down a unregistered children's home in Dallu and placed Rajan\* in Umbrella's care, along with his caretaker Rabin. Rajan was originally a street child in Kathmandu before being placed in the childcare home and then Umbrella. Because he is differently abled, he needs support with independent living tasks and has been assisted by his caretaker Rabin for the past 12 years.

After he was brought into Umbrella, he joined a school which encouraged him to improve his motor skills. He also learnt some new skills and is now able to complete basic tasks on his own without assistance.

However, since Rajan arrived at Umbrella, the team could not find any information about his family and worked hard for many years to trace them. He only had a few vivid memories of his village and family. After many years in Umbrella's care, pieces of information were tied together from different sources, and the reintegration team headed towards his village in the hope to meet his family. Finally, his birthplace was traced and it was found that his mother had sadly died 2 years before, and his father was in India working as a labourer. However, his younger sister was in the village and she was married with a baby son! His uncle's family and other relatives were also in the village. During the visit, it was revealed that his father and sister were also differently abled.

After his family was traced, Rajan was very happy and travelled to his aunt's family each year to celebrate the major festivals. During these times he was accompanied by his caretaker. After many visits home, his aunt expressed an interest in taking responsibility of him.

Rajan was happily reunified with his family on the 18th April, 2018. His aunt came to collect him, and it was great day to see him so happy and excited. According to Rabin; "he got a new life and everyone is happy for him that he has his family now".

\*name has been changed

## Kishor's Success

Growing up in Umbrella's care since 2006, Kishor has always been a good student and role model for the other kids. He completed a vocational course in 2016 studying to be a Plant Junior Technician Assistant (PJTA), and achieved an excellent final result. Due to this, he won a full scholarship from CTEVT for a 3 year Diploma studying agriculture. This is a wonderful achievement, and he was very excited after receiving this opportunity. He is now in his second year of college and doing well in his studies.



Kishor understands it is difficult for his family to financially support him, and his hard work and determination made this opportunity possible, with help and assistance also from Umbrella. Kishor shares “if there is a will there is a way”, when anyone is goal oriented and has a focus in their life. We wish you great success in the future Kishor!

## **A New Foster Family!**

As mentioned above, Umbrella has been a pioneer in promoting foster care arrangements here in Nepal, as an alternative to residential child care.

We are very happy to share that the 5 remaining children that have all grown up in Umbrella for more than 10 years, have now been placed in a foster care setting with carers that they all know well. The three remaining girls from our Gaurishankar house will continue to live together as sisters, and the two boys from Annapurna house as brothers. They are all happy and excited for this new chapter!





## Holi Festival

Holi festival, also known as the “festival of colours”, is an Indian and Nepali spring festival that is celebrated annually. To celebrate the festival, people smear each other with colour and drench each other with water balloons and water guns. This year Holi festival took place on Thursday the 1st March in Kathmandu Valley. All schools and offices closed for the day to allow everyone to participate in the festival celebrations. The Umbrella youth travelled to Golfutar to play Holi in what can only be described as a beautiful, sunny morning in Kathmandu. Shouts of “Happy Holi” and colourful scenes were highlights of this very enjoyable day.





## **Welcome Darren**

We would like to welcome Darren Halligan as our new Irish Coordinator, based in Dublin.

Darren, who volunteered for 3 months back in 2016, will be supporting the team in Nepal as well as organising fundraising events in Ireland. If you are based in Ireland and have any queries about volunteering, fundraising or would just like to meet and discuss Umbrella's work, please contact him through [irishoffice@umbrellanepal.org](mailto:irishoffice@umbrellanepal.org).



# **THANK YOU**

Thank you to Naomi Gould, who worked as the Irish Coordinator for The Umbrella Foundation for nearly 2 years. We wish you all the best for your future, and we hope to see you again in Nepal very soon!

A very special thank you to 16 year-old Fin from the UK, for generously donating the

significant amount of £1000 to The Umbrella Foundation. We hope you can come visit us here in Kathmandu one day!

Thank you once again to Alice Wong and The Umbrella Trust of Hong Kong for their continued support, and for the recent clothing donations.

Thank you to Wendy Teasdill for your ongoing support and the generous clothing donation!

Thank you to our friends at Lincoln School for funding the recent Curry Without Worry program, where our youth and the children of Lincoln School cooked more than 300 meals together for the needy and hungry.

We would also like to thank all our recent volunteers who have not only been an enormous help, but always bring a smile to the office.

Last but not least, a huge thank you to our supportive donors and sponsors across the world for which our work would not be possible! Special mention to Umbrella USA, Viva & Friends of Umbrella Nepal UK, Linda & YETI Trust NZ, Stichting Paraplu Nepal, Stichting Maha Mata, The Umbrella Foundation Australia, Annette and our friends in Canada, and our supporters and friends in Ireland!

## Upcoming Events!



Entries are now open for the VHI Woman's Mini Marathon! It is the largest female-only event and caters to all levels of fitness - walk, jog or run the 10km for the Umbrella Foundation!

This year's event takes place in Dublin on Sunday, June 3rd at 2pm. If you have registered and would like to join #teamumbrella, please email: [irishoffice@umbrellanepal.org](mailto:irishoffice@umbrellanepal.org) for more information.

All #teamumbrella runners will receive an Umbrella t-shirt to wear proudly!

## Thank you from your friends at



# The Umbrella Foundation

**We look forward to updating you with more exciting news next quarter!**



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