



## **Newsletter**

### **Dashain/Tihar 2018**



Namaste and happy festival season from Nepal!

As many of you will know, October/November marks the main holiday season in Nepal, with the festivals of Dashain and Tihar both taking place. This quarter just gone is also traditionally one of the busiest for Umbrella, with children graduating from programs and a lot of statutory work to be completed, it's nice to have the holiday period to recharge.

Dashain is a time to be with family, and I am delighted to be able to share that 2 of the girls living in foster care had the opportunity to go to the East of Nepal with their foster family, and to truly experience a Dashain festival. They very much enjoyed this experience. The other 3 young adults living in foster care were able to travel back to their own communities and spend time with their own families. Umbrella strongly believes in the importance of maintaining family bonds and ties in the community, and this is the best time of year to do that.

Following Dashain is Tihar, "the festival of lights", and my personal favourite time in Nepal. This year, I was lucky enough to receive blessings on "Bhai Tika" (the day when sisters offer blessings for their brothers' health and prosperity) from not 1, not 2, but 5 sisters! So I feel like I'm going to have a good year!

At this time, I'm also reminded of how blessed Umbrella is to have such a great family of supporters from all over the world. The organisation has grown and changed a lot over the years, and we are both proud and humbled that so many of you have continued on this journey with us. I am lucky to be able to interact with so many amazing young people that have grown up in Umbrella care, all of whom are a testament to the love, dedication and care shown by the extended Umbrella family.

With gratitude,  
Kyle Mohamed





## Winter Season Begins..

As we move into winter here in Nepal, the nights are beginning to get very cold. This is the time of year when our reintegration team brings warm clothing to our reintegrated children and youth. Thank you to our generous supporters who have donated clothing to us over the past year. Our team also supported some of the children that were part of the recent rescue with jumpers and beanies to keep them safe and warm this season!



## Dashain Festival Programme!

Every here we have our annual Dashain Festival Programme which happens just before the Dashain school holidays, and before many of the Umbrella children and youth travel back to their villages to celebrate the festival with their family and friends!

This year's programme was full of performances from the youth as well as the staff, ranging from singing to dancing, beat-boxing and speeches!





It was a joyous occasion as usual, and we were blown away by the talent on the day.



## **An exciting new programme launching next year!**

Umbrella is proud to announce, in partnership with our donors at ONGD-FNEL, that we will be opening a drop-in & advice centre for all youth aged between 16 and 25, called the “Chautari Youth Club” (CYC). It will provide a safe, vibrant space for youth to come and



engage with each other, and with our youth officers who will have knowledge about a wide range of areas, for example sexual reproductive health, financial management, peer pressure, interview practice, to name but a few. Although it will be open to all young people, there will be a focus on supporting youth who are not in education or employment, and a separate focus on youth who have left institutional care and need some support to transition to independent living. We hope that by having a wide range of young people visit, youth will get the opportunity to understand about each other and different life experiences, and learn & grow together.

As well as offering knowledgeable youth officers as a resource for young people, the CYC will also provide subsidised tea and coffee, as well as computers offering free WiFi, to give youth the opportunity to look for jobs and write their CVs. In addition, we are delighted to be able to offer a free computer skills training facility, which is being funded by our friend Rochelle Forrester, from New Zealand. This will be a space where people with interest in learning what can be done on a computer (for example app/game design, web design, photo/video editing, coding, database management, blockchain) can use our facilities to engage with the large amount of learning resources available online and teach themselves how to do whatever it is they are interested in. This will be supported by a staff member and we hope to establish relationships with employers in this sector. We believe there is a lot of scope and opportunity for the technology sector to boom in Nepal and provide a lot of jobs, so we feel now is a good time to start providing these skills.

The CYC will have regular workshops, the topics of which will be decided by youths attending, so that we can best meet their needs. To complement the computer skills training, there will also be a space for other vocational training, for example sewing. We will also run community/education based activities, which will be led by the youth, every 2 months, to try and promote a sense of community and service in the young people. In cases where it is appropriate, emergency financial support will be available to support young people in very challenging situations (e.g. accessing medical care). Behind the scenes, the staff of the CYC will work hard to build networks that will present opportunities to the young people accessing CYC, for example internships, scholarships and employment opportunities.

Although this is a large project, we are fortunate that a lot of the knowledge required to implement a project of this scope is already within the team, and we are confident of being able to support. The team at Umbrella are so pleased to have the opportunity to share our experience with a wider range of young people in the Kathmandu area, and we are really thankful to ONGD-FNEL for their support of this project.

## **A Great Snapshot of Umbrella's Work in Rasuwa**



Our friends and supporters at ONGD-FNEL created a great video documenting some of the work we have been doing in the Himalayan district of Rasuwa over the past few years. The video highlights some of our reintegration success stories, the livelihood support we have provided to families, as well as the street dramas focused on raising awareness about child trafficking and child marriage in very rural areas.

To watch the video, follow this [link](#)!



## Photo Highlights from Tihar Festival





**THANK YOU**



A huge thank you to Mark Burke & Umbrella 7's Canada for organising another fantastic female rugby tournament, fundraising \$2000 in support of Umbrella!



Thank you to Isabel Pérez for the generous clothing donations

Thank you to Helen Cooper and friends, for visiting our office in Kathmandu and donating some beautiful warm blankets for the Umbrella youth for this winter season.

Thank you once again to Alice Wong and The Umbrella Trust of Hong Kong for your ongoing support.

Thank you to Mary O'Leary for your continuous generous support of Umbrella's work, and for your recent €700 donation!

A huge thank you to our friends at Stitching Paraplu Nepal, who raised an incredible €622 at their market stall in Arnhem!





Thank you to John & Mary Craddock for your generous donations on behalf of Laura Byrne.

As always, an enormous thank you to our supportive donors and sponsors across the world for which our work would not be possible!



Umbrella's Communications Director Imogen recently attended a reception at the Australian Embassy, Nepal to receive a certificate of appreciation from Western Sydney University's Vice-Chancellor Professor Barney Glover, for our partnership in supporting student placements here in Kathmandu. Thank you WSU!

## Irish Tax Reclaims

Have you made a donation to The Umbrella Foundation since 2013?

The Umbrella Foundation is a registered charity, thus can claim 31% tax relief on donations made over €250. This is a significant benefit and your donation may literally be the gift that keeps on giving!

For us to make this claim, we need you to complete a CHY3 Cert (literally only takes 2 minutes!). Please email Darren at [irishoffice@umbrellanepal.org](mailto:irishoffice@umbrellanepal.org) who will provide you with the form.

Thank you to all our supporters who have donated over the years! Without your generous donations, we would not be able to support the children, youth and their families in our programmes. If you have donated close to €250 euros but have not quite reached the amount, you can still top up your donation and receive the 31% tax relief. Please contact Darren for more information.

## Upcoming Events!



### Battle of the Bands in Dublin!

Join us on Thursday 29th November at 8.30pm for a night of great music in support of The Umbrella Foundation!

Location: Fibber Magees (Downstairs)

Tickets: €10 donation at the door  
Band/ Artist entry: €15 donation

Sign up: Call 083 834 1070 or email [irishoffice@umbrellanepal.org](mailto:irishoffice@umbrellanepal.org)

**Thank you from your friends at  
The Umbrella Foundation**

**We look forward to updating you with more exciting  
news very soon!**





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