

Newsletter

Nov 2016 - Jan 2017



Namaste



Dear friends,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to you today with an update of some of the activities and achievements from the last 3 months. It has been a busy time, our boys and girls here in Kathmandu finished their 2nd term exams, we celebrated Tihar and Christmas, and some of our Youth had a cooking workshop with a celebrity chef!

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In wider news, we have been very lucky over the past few months as there has been no drastic load shedding! Having electricity most hours of the day has made the winter much easier for many people here in Nepal.

We hope you all had a good start to the new year and we look forward to updating you in the next quarter with more news!

Warm wishes,
Imogen Harper
Communications & Donor Relations Director



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



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Tihar Festival



During the wonderful festival of Tihar last November, many from the Umbrella family took part in the celebrations. During this festival, young people move from house to house in their neighborhood singing and dancing.

The children and youth put on amazing performances, ranging from singing traditional songs to Justin Bieber, and traditional dancing to break dancing.

Everyone immensely enjoyed the performances and most importantly celebrating this special time together as the Umbrella family!

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Tihar Festival



Tihar performances



Bhai Tika Celebrations



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Rajani's Story

I am Rajani Gurung and I am part of the Umbrella family. I lived in Umbrella for 9 years. I spent half of my childhood with the Umbrella family. The past 9 years have been a very precious part of my life and Umbrella has been the best family to me. They have been so important to me as they have helped to change my life. They provided me with good education, clothes, food and entertainment. They taught me so much.



Currently, I am living in a rented room and my day to day life is running well because of the support I get from Umbrella. Now I am studying in grade 12 and my faculty is based on humanities. This is a very challenging part of my life as I have to manage everything for myself. At the moment I am really focused on my future study and my career. To make my future brighter I have been gaining experience related to my social field. I am really interested in researching and learning about human society. In the future I want to be a really great social worker. To reach my goal I have been taking part in Women Lead Nepal, who provide young women with the skills, support and opportunities to become leaders and change-makers both nationally and internationally. Now I am a leader and I provide leadership training to the students of class 9. I am enjoying this work and now I am looking for a scholarship to further my study.

So this is my short story of my beautiful life.

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Cooking Workshop with Celebrated Chef Kevin Thornton!!



At the beginning of December our Umbrella youths working in hospitality and management took part in a workshop run by celebrated Irish chef Kevin Thornton! They made a chocolate cake using local ingredients - including flowers from the office garden! The cake was enjoyed by all our staff and children the next day. We are hoping the youths will come back soon and make it again. Thank you Kevin for inspiring our youths (and staff) to persist and work hard in their chosen professions.

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Kevin put our new chefs to work preparing all the ingredients.



The (nearly) finished product. Although no-one was impressed when told we had to wait 24 hours before we could eat the delicious cake..



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Annual Umbrella Christmas Cup!



On Christmas Eve 2016 we held our annual Christmas football and basketball competition. It was an energetic day full of laughter and friendly competition, especially between our staff and the children. Everyone got into the spirit of the day either taking part in football, basketball or badminton competitions. We all worked ourselves into a mighty sweat by lunchtime and feasted on well deserved samosas, fruit and juice.

At the end of the day it was our Youth who took away the coveted cup, and our staff who were yet again left in last place (no surprises there!).

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Umbrella Christmas Cup



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Welcome to Imogen Harper & Naomi Gould



We would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of the Umbrella family, Imogen Harper our new Communications & Donor Relations Director, and Naomi Gould our new Irish Coordinator. Both bring with them a wealth of experience in their respected fields and we are very excited to have them on board.

We were delighted that Naomi had the opportunity to come to Nepal for 3 weeks in December to meet the team and see our projects on the ground.

We would also like to farewell Scott Rosefield and Ciara Close for their wonderful contributions in these roles over the past few years. You will be missed, but we hope to see you again in Nepal very soon!

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Upcoming Events!



The annual Umbrella 7's will take place on Saturday 1st April 2017 in Terenure College, Dublin.

The Umbrella 7's is endorsed by The Umbrella Foundation patron and Irish International Rugby player Jamie Heaslip, Ireland manager Joe Schmidt and former Ireland international Tony Ward. Entry per team is €300 or €25 per player with competitions for Boys U15's and Boys U17's.

To add to the incentive for teams to fundraise, we are delighted that once again Jamie Heaslip has offered to do a training session with teams raising in excess of €2,000. Previous winners of The Umbrella 7's have enjoyed a brilliant afternoon with Jamie going through various aspects of the game.

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Previous winners include:

2016 U17s Cup winners Belvedere College & U15s Cup winners Clongowes Wood College B

2015 U17s Cup winners Terenure College & U15s Cup winners Castleknock College

2014 U17s Cup winners Belvedere College & U15s Cup winners Clongowes Wood College

2013 U17s Cup winners St Andrews College & U15s Cup winners Kilkenny College

2012 U17s Cup winners Newbridge College

For more information or to enter a team, please contact Naomi on 085 2705626 or email

irishoffice@umbrellanepal.org and keep an eye on the facebook page for updates:

www.facebook.com/umbrella7s

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Upcoming Events!



VHI Dublin Women's Mini Marathon

The VHI Dublin Women's Mini Marathon is taking place on the Bank Holiday Monday, June 5th 2017 and Team Umbrella is calling all female supporters to join us this year and help make it our biggest and best year yet!

This annual all female event welcomes walkers, running novices and pros, so no matter your fitness level, we would love you to lace up your trainers and take part in aid of The Umbrella Foundation.

Get your friends, family and work colleagues along for a great day!

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Upcoming Events!

Entries open the 1st March, so once you have registered, Email Naomi on irishoffice@umbrellanepal.org to receive your Umbrella participation pack and sponsorship cards.

Date/Time: Bank Holiday Monday, 5th June 2017 at 2pm.

Distance: 10KM

Start: Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2

Finish: St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2

Registration Closes 28th April at midnight:

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The Hong Kong Diaries



The Umbrella Foundation's Country Director, Kyle, was delighted to be invited to speak at a conference organized by STIR, focusing on issues around voluntourism and speaking about Umbrella. <http://stirimpact.wixsite.com/stir>. He would like to thank Neville, Ben, Susan and Alice for organising a lovely dinner and engaging in a wide-ranging conversation about the partnership between The Umbrella Foundation Nepal and Umbrella Hong Kong. A very special thank you to Alice for spending her Sunday showing Kyle around the amazing city!

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Thanks to our friends in Ireland

Jane O' Rourke: Huge thanks to Jane O'Rourke for raising €1500 for The Umbrella Foundation following a successful Ladies golf event at Charlesland Golf Club in Greystones.



Nepal Irish Society:

Thanks to everybody at the Nepal Irish Society, especially Deepesh Man Shakya for their hard work in organising a successful Nepal Ireland Day in Pheonix Park on September 4th 2016.

It was a pleasure to have a stall at the event, meet potential volunteers and supporters and to be surrounded by so many great organisations.

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Thanks to:

The Brawl for Nepal VI took place on Friday 11th November 2016 and it was a great success raising over €21,000.

All of our dedicated Brawlers went above and beyond with their fundraising and tickets sales, ensuring we had a full and raucous crowd on the night!

Thanks to the organising committee – Cormac McCann, Ruth Flanagan and Ciara Close for all their hard work in the lead up to the event and to Conor Fox, Conor Clancy, Dave Costello, Joey Norton, Deirdre McEvoy and Deirdre Fitzgerald for their help on the night, as well as the film and photo crew who helped us document the carnage!



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Thanks to:

Huge thanks to Tamu, Ritchie and Cathal at Whitecollar Boxing.ie for all the blood, sweat and tears.....But as always the biggest thanks goes to each and every one of our star boxers, who after 8 weeks of training, put their faces and pride on the line in order to raise funds for The Umbrella Foundation: Glenn Brady, Conal Heaney, Ruth Flanagan, Sean McMahon, Daniel Fogarty, Pat McKenna, Madeleine Hand, Laure Boukabza, Peter McMahon, Elaine Maguire, Ciara Close, Megan McDermott, Ian Gaughran, Patrick Daly, Joe Silke, Conor O'Riain, Paul Shields, Louise Leonard, Kevin Gaffney, Gary Mc Kenna and Declan Groarke. And a notable thanks to Ciara Close, who fought not once but TWICE on the night and also took away the 'Cully Cup' for Best Sports person at the 2016 Brawl for Nepal.



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Christmas Catch-up:

Lastly thank you to all the ex-volunteers and Umbrella supporters who joined us for some Christmas Celebrations on the 29th December 2016. It was great to have so many Umbrella legends in our midst, particular mentions to Jack Hogan and Country Director Kyle Mohamed who joined us from London for the event.



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Thanks to:

The Umbrella Trust Hong Kong for your ongoing and valuable support.

The Umbrella Foundation USA:

Byran Van Vranken
Michael Van Vranken
Margaret Van Vranken
Nikki & Eric Sutton
Earl & Lorene Horst
Mariano Romano

Stichting Paraplu Nepal – to our friends and supporters in the Netherlands, thank you!

Annette Lipkovits & Amira Loosemore in Canada for your ongoing and wonderful support.

YETI Trust & Linda in New Zealand – thank you for your support and the beautiful handmade quilts for our Gauri Shankar girls. We look forward to seeing you again this year.

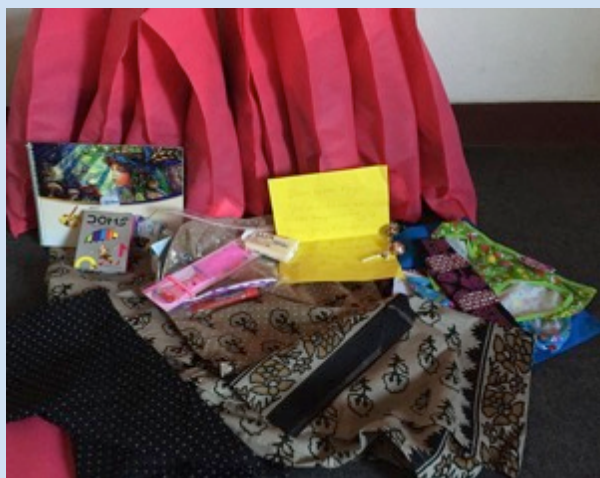
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Thanks to:

The Umbrella Foundation Australia



Thank you to all those who have made donations over the past few months Geraldine Allen, Professor Geoffrey Kellerman, Irene Goodhew, Ann and Rober Laughran and Desley Pfeffer.

Linda (chairperson) of Umbrella Australia would like to thank board members, Tracey Elliott, Geraldine Allen and Bridie Scott for their amazing support and assistance whilst visiting Nepal in 2016. Linda would also like to thank the board members of Umbrella Australia for all the work they have achieved over the last twelve months.

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Goodbye Until Next Time From the Umbrella Family!



Thank you to our wonderful donors and sponsors for your ongoing support. Our work would not be possible without you!