



Himalayan Children's Charities Annual Report 2017





A note from our Founders...

In 1999, after visiting Bal Mandir orphanage in Kathmandu, we were given the opportunity to sponsor two orphaned sisters, Nari and Chet. The moment we met them, we knew we had become a family. As we readied them to begin at the Reliance School, a private boarding school in Kathmandu, Nari was uneasy. "Dad, I don't want to go," Nari whispered to Bruce. We told her that we knew it was scary, but it was important for both of them to have a proper education for their future. Then Nari suggested something that would change our lives forever: **"Could our friends come with us?"**

The kindness of Nari's idea for her friends to join them helped launch Himalayan Children's Charities, which, to date, has benefited over 2,200 vulnerable Nepali children from severely impoverished backgrounds. Thousands of children in Nepal are denied a future of their own choosing because of economic status, social class or gender. When seeing the number of children in need, it can be painfully daunting - how does one person truly make a difference?

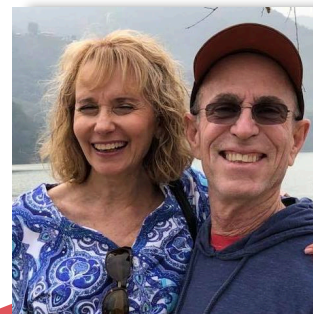
As an HCC parnter, **you** are changing the life of a child. It's because of you that we are able to keep Nari's idea alive and growing each year. When you sponsor a child today, you are giving them the tools to give back to their communities and help more children in the future. Giving back infuses them with confidence and a spirit of generosity that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. By supporting even one child, you help create a generation of leaders dedicated to improving their country and the world.

We are full of gratitude and hope because of **you**. Thank you for being a part of our HCC family and for being an example of this same spirit of generosity for our students.

With Gratitude and Love,

Bruce and Susan Keenan

Co-Founders, Himalayan Children's Charities



We never know what people can give unless we, as leaders, give them a chance."

- Mun Maya Rawal, Program Coordinator and HCC Graduate Class of 2016

HCC 2017 Highlights



- HCC's Earthquake Orphan Scholarship Program (EOSP) provided **life-saving support to 90 children** in rural communities, helping to keep them in school and safe from child labor, trafficking, and early drop out.
- HCC **installed internet service** to six remote village schools and a central food kitchen, providing improved educational opportunities for over 2,400 students.
- HCC provided over 5,000 children across rural Nepal with an **anti-trafficking comic book** to raise awareness, combat human trafficking and keep them safe.
- **All 44 children and youth** in our Kathmandu Signature Program **are thriving** - excelling in academics, sports and creative endeavors.



- All Signature Program students, who are now 16 or older, are **enrolled in higher education** programs.



- Rupesh graduated from university, bringing the total HCC **university graduates to nine**, with three students now pursuing Masters Degrees.
- HCC senior and graduated students successfully registered their very own local NGO, **HCC-Nepal**, which will help develop and implement HCC's scholarship and outreach programs.

2017 by the Numbers



Thanks to the support of our donors, 2017 was a momentous year!

135 children and youth directly supported by HCC programs

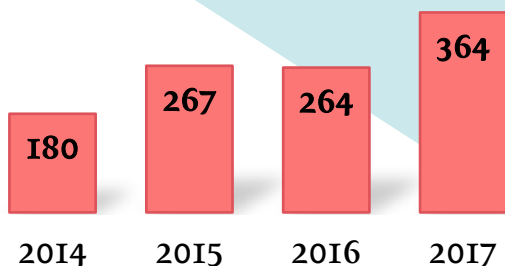
- **45** students in the Kathmandu Signature Program
- **90** students in the rural Earthquake Orphan Scholarship Programs (DCI & REEP)
- **53** students in primary school
- **53** students in secondary school
- **26** college & university students
- **3** Master's students

5 outreach programs and projects provided to rural communities

- **12** health and hygiene educational seminars & health camps
- **6** schools & **2,400** students connected to the internet
- **2,300** books collected to help support two rural school libraries
- **5,000** anti-trafficking comic books distributed



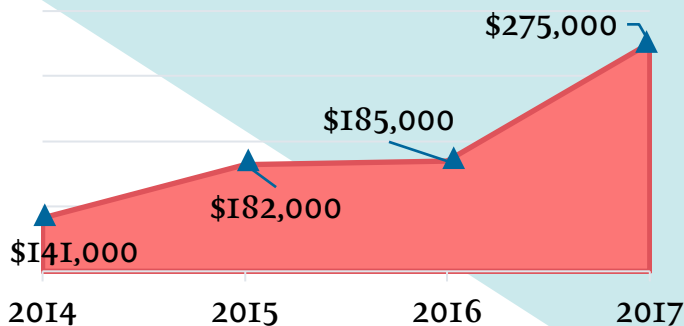
Number of HCC Donors



In the U.S. our dedicated fundraising team worked to reach new audiences through social media and press, created highly successful fundraising events around the U.S. and inspired many new donors. As a result, **donations to HCC in 2017 increased by 49%!**



Total Donations





HCC Students Give Back

Two HCC high school students, Bhina and Pushpa, began volunteering for Engage, Nepal, an organization that promotes social inclusion for youth with disabilities. Bhina and Pushpa are now coaching a wheelchair, youth basketball team - combining their love of sports and their wish to give back to their community.



HCC Staff and Signature Program students conducting a street clean up in Kathmandu with the US Embassy for Earth Day 2017.

HCC Grads Lead Menstrual Hygiene Awareness Project

"In many areas of Nepal stigma and shame are attached to menstruation but HCC graduates are leading the charge to eradicate the stigma and promote healthy and hygienic practices for girls."

- Khil Bahadur Thapa, Programs Officer and HCC Graduate Class of 2016

HCC staff and senior students regularly visited orphanages in Kathmandu and communities in rural Nepal to provide educational seminars on health and hygiene, including on proper menstrual health, and to distribute menstrual hygiene kits and health materials, including toothbrushes, toothpaste, and soap. HCC grads are working to change the conversation about women's health.



HCC Welcomes Higher Education Scholarship Winner Saraswati



In the summer of 2017, HCC welcomed our newest student, Saraswati, as the recipient of the HCC Scholarship for Higher Education. Saraswati is pursuing an education to become a social worker and fulfill her dream of helping communities in need, including her hometown.

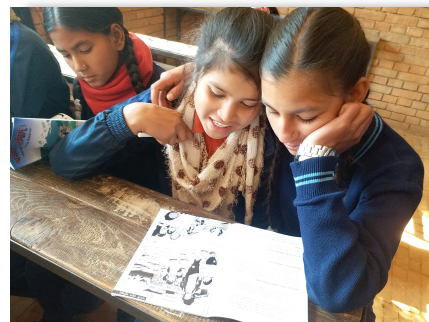
"Two years ago, in the earthquake, I lost my house and so many people I knew. At that time of need, many people came to support us. One day I would also like to be like them and support others." - Saraswati



2017 Anti-Trafficking Campaign

The rate of child trafficking in Nepal is shocking – UNICEF estimates at least 13,000 Nepali children *each year* are trafficked to India alone. Domestic and international trafficking are both common, and many thousands of children are trafficked each year for labor into hazardous jobs and sexual exploitation.

HCC has partnered with Cause Vision and SASANE to produce and distribute the Nepali language comic book “Chameli Goes to School”. With little access to information, many communities and children are unaware of the dangerous risk of human trafficking in their communities. Anti-trafficking comics help close the information gap for those most vulnerable by teaching how to recognize and avoid potential trafficking situations.



Monika (R) and her best friend Smriti (L), who is also supported by HCC.

Update on Monika

In 2016 HCC staff met young Monika, who had been living on the streets alone since the age of two. In 2017, after the HCC team worked hard to cut through much red tape, Monika joined the HCC family. She is now safe, healthy, living at a local boarding school and is thriving. Currently in lower kindergarten, she is praised by her teachers for her scholastic excellence and warm, kind demeanor- they believe she is a very gifted and has enormous potential.

The WiFi Program – Connecting Rural Schools to the Web

HCC’s WiFi Program is working to bring internet services and computer literacy teacher training to remote, underdeveloped communities in rural Nepal. In 2017, with funding from our partners, The Prem Rawat Foundation and the Premasagar Foundation, Nepal, HCC connected computer labs for six schools in the Dhading and Makwanpur districts for 2,400 students and teachers. This project is a game changer for rural schools, providing access to resources for lesson planning, teacher training, and research materials for students and teachers.





"2017 was an amazing year. After graduating from HCC in 2016, I joined the HCC Nepal team with a new vision for helping children who are in the position I was once in. I feel so lucky to have experienced Himalayan Children's Charities both as a student and now as staff. I am looking forward to making 2018 an amazing year and reaching out to more children and communities through our different programs."

- Khil Bahadur Thapa, Programs Officer and HCC Graduate Class of 2016

2017 was very fruitful and remarkable for us at HCC. Our multipronged approach helped our children and youth to be successful in their academics, to learn many life skills and have a happy, healthy family life. By working as a team, we were able to overcome obstacles and meet all of our goals for the year.

- Dinesh Raj Sapkota, HCC In-Country Director



"For me, 2017 was all about shifting perspectives. The kids we work with are not poor, helpless victims on the other side of the world. They are survivors - strong and compassionate - with the will and capacity to help lead us all in the right direction."

- Sadie Green, HCC Director of Nepal Program Development



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