



trifc.org newsletter

The mission of The Rose International Fund for Children (TRIFC) is to improve the lives of children in developing countries who have a disability, are orphaned, or are disadvantaged. TRIFC raises funds through donations, grants, and hands-on fundraising activities. With the funds raised, we provide financial support to existing non-profit organizations in Nepal that share our goals and vision. Our focus is on providing support in the areas of education, medical needs, nutrition, facilities, and environment improvements. We participate in project planning, coordination, and implementation. In addition, we raise awareness of the living conditions of these children by documenting and publishing our project work. TRIFC believes in sharing resources with those less fortunate.



Rob with Subash of the Newlife Disabled Children's Center.

Rotary International & TRIFC Helping the 'Differently-Abled' in Nepal

Three years ago I conceived of a program that would attempt to change the negative perception many Nepalis have about people with disabilities. In late April Rotary International approved a major grant application (\$330,000!) to help work toward this goal. Hence, the 'Nepal Disability Awareness Campaign' project is now off and running! As you can imagine, I am very excited as well as emotionally drained after three years of dreaming, planning, and coordinating. My sincere appreciation goes out to TRIFC Board

Member and Nepali Rotarian, Rabendra Pandey who did his utmost to get us to this point. Thanks are also due our many Rotary project committee members both here and in Nepal who have been so supportive and helpful.

With the approval of this project, we have the opportunity to bring hope, education, and empowerment to people with disabilities in Nepal who have been held back and held down for so long. This is our moment in time to be that agent of change with Rotary as our vehicle. I am proud to say that TRIFC is also a contributing project partner!

When you think about it, our time on earth is relatively short. For me, this project is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a lasting legacy, an indelible footprint that will continue to bear fruit for generations! Look for more information about this important project in the coming months.

-Rob Rose

If you would like to volunteer with our organization, we would love to hear from you. You can help with our programs, fundraising, medical, professional assistance, or teaching. Please call, email, or visit our website.

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to TRIFC. Your generous contributions allow us to continue and expand our programs. Visit www.trifc.org today!

Pen Pal Program Update

As a high school social studies teacher my greatest challenge is to engage my World History students in the world outside their suburban frame of reference. As I got to know my fifteen and sixteen-year-old students last fall I learned that they were great kids: funny, charming, energetic, and smart. But most of them had not traveled much or had contact with people who were different than they are. Our school is a public school in Lynnwood, Washington, and many of my students even think of nearby Seattle as a distant and exotic place to visit occasionally.

Adolescents with limited experience understandably have trouble relating to the history and current events curriculum in a social studies class. In my experience, only about 10% of high school sophomores have a natural affinity for this subject. Because I believe that intercultural understanding is the best guarantee of peace and justice in the world, I look at helping to develop a passion for world affairs in the other 90% of students as the most important part of my job.

Enter Rob Rose and TRIFC. Through our mutual friend, Sandy Clark, I was introduced to Rob in September of 2007. He suggested a "Pen Friends" project between my 30 World History students, and a class of roughly the same age group at Durbar High School in Kathmandu. There is nothing teenagers are more interested in than

communicating with other teenagers and I thought this project would be a terrific way to "hook" my students into developing an interest in another culture and a compassion for people who have much less than they do. My hopes and expectations for this project were definitely fulfilled.

Rob visited my classroom about once a month. Each time he brought Nepalese tea and treats. He showed films about Nepal's culture and led discussions about current political, social, and economic conditions there. Rob explained several of TRIFC's ongoing projects. My students were particularly moved by efforts to change cultural beliefs about disabled children in Nepal. Almost every class period started with someone asking, "Is Mr. Rose coming today?" Around the holidays, my students were able to raise \$800 for TRIFC by selling beautiful note cards with photographs from Nepal donated by Brant Photography of Bellevue.

But the centerpiece of the project was the letters and videos that went back and forth between Lynnwood and Kathmandu. Each student exchanged several letters with his or her pen friend, and because Rob actually traveled to Nepal in January, he took videos of the American kids saying hello to their friends and brought back videos of the Nepalese kids. It was quite a moment the afternoon Rob brought the video

from Nepal into my classroom. Projected onto the screen were larger-than-life Jayanti in Kathmandu, saying hello to Jason, and Laxmi, giggling a greeting to Rachel. Rob also brought back T-shirts from Nepal embroidered with symbols of Nepal's culture. This cultural exchange was the highlight of the year for my students.

The pen friends project will have a lasting impact on many of my students. At our end of the year celebration, complete with a large cake frosted with a photographic image of Durbar High School, my students eagerly provided Rob with a list of their e-mail addresses, so that they could continue communicating with their pen friends into the future. Mackenzie, a particularly compassionate 16-year-old, entrusted Rob with a beautifully wrapped necklace to be forwarded to her pen pal, Manish. Thank you, Mr. Rose and TRIFC, for opening this "global gateway" for my students and inspiring them to explore beyond their national borders.

-Julie Carey
World History Teacher,
Meadowdale High School



A group of Nepali pen pals from Durbar Square.



USA Pen pal Aaron

The New Life Center Update (DNC)

As chairperson of a British charity called the Nepali Children's Trust, I have been working alongside Rob Rose of TRIFC and the Rotary Club of Kupondol in Nepal for the past four years helping thirty physically-challenged children at The New Life Centre in Kathmandu. We work to complement and supplement each other's contributions in order to provide the most effective support for these very deserving kids. Working as a team to coordinate our efforts has meant that we have been able to maximize our resources.

Nepal is such a poor country that there are virtually no government funds available for vulnerable people. As a result they are entirely dependent on charity. Together we aim to provide long term sustainable support to give the children every opportunity to fulfill their potential and to lead happy, fulfilled and useful lives. So for instance, TRIFC has set up a post-school education and training fund and also provides travel expenses for families that are unable to afford the transportation costs necessary for them to either visit the children in Kathmandu or for the children to visit their homes in the village. The Rotary club of Kupondol provides help with medical and education expenses and helps to counsel children leaving school and the centre about their

futures. The Nepali Children's Trust gives funds to top up the rent of the centre's premises and contributes to the cost of education. Perhaps most importantly, we are committed to building a new purpose built home for the children. This will mean that the centre no longer has to spend a third of its monthly budget on rent. We have bought land on the outskirts of Kathmandu and the first phase of building is about the start. It has been a long road getting to this point but finally we are ready to go!



Working in conjunction with TRIFC and the Rotary club of Kupondol, yet functioning as separate entities, means that The New Life Centre is not dependent on one donor alone and yet benefits from a 'partnered' approach that we hope will ensure the long-term security of the children and the New Life Centre. Good dialogue and cooperation is the name of the game and there is no doubt that it's working well!

-Fran McGowan
Chairperson, Nepali
Children's Trust (NCT) - U.K.



Left to right:
Laurie Larson, Sophie Lipitz (lower), Rob Rose, Gina Rose, Chandra Pandey

Rob's Nepal Trip Highlights

What a wonderful and successful two-month trip to Nepal! My sincere thanks go out to all of my Nepali TRIFC & Rotary friends whose extraordinary efforts made it happen. Listed below are some of the outstanding accomplishments from our journey as well as some random thoughts and insights!

Highlights:

- On many of our Rotary Club visits we were accompanied by Ms. Nirmala Gyawali or her sister, Ms. Sita Gyawali, who are both women with blindness. Having a representative of the community with disabilities made for a very compelling presentation on disability awareness.
- TRIFC board member, Rabendra Pandey and I traveled to four other cities within Nepal besides Kathmandu and met with representatives of over 40 Rotary clubs to discuss the 'Disability-Awareness' project. All of the clubs we spoke to were interested in participating and inspired by the project.
- Representatives from eight USA Rotary clubs visited Nepal as part of our group for volunteer projects and sightseeing activities.
- Sadly, we ended our relationship with the Nandumaya Orphanage after numerous attempts to encourage the management to show accountability for our donated funds. We have received assurances from other donors that they will continue to fund the children's schooling by donations directly to the school. We are currently looking into other orphanages where we can place our trust (and funds).
- We are also looking into 'teacher' sponsorship opportunities at the Kavre School for the Deaf where teachers are working for little or no pay.
- Our sponsored children at the School for the Deaf in Kathmandu were overjoyed to receive us and get letters from their sponsors and treats from the visiting Rotarians!

-Rob Rose

TRIFC's Sponsored Helpers

With the help of local sponsors we are now providing part-time employment opportunities to two TRIFC helpers, thus allowing us to better administer our growing portfolio of programs in Nepal. Here are their bios:



Ms. Sita Gawali-

Sita is the older sister of TRIFC volunteer, Nirmala, and was the first Nepali blind woman to earn a Masters degree. She is currently teaching sighted students at Laboratory High School in Kathmandu as well as tutoring a blind student before school starts each morning. Three out of the five children in Sita's family were born blind; however all three have had great success in life and are wonderful, warm and caring people. After being brought to Kathmandu as a child by her uncle, she grew up at the Jorpati home for people with disabilities in Kathmandu. After the 7th grade an organization called Nepalese Youth Opportunity Foundation (www.nyof.org) gave her a scholarship to attend school. Sita has a very gentle personality and engaging smile. She has had to endure some very major health issues in addition to having blindness. Within the past several years she has had surgery to repair a hole in her heart, which required a great deal of fortitude during the long road to recovery. TRIFC is honored to have her assisting us in our project work!



Mr. Chimey Sherpa-

Chimey was born in Nepal in 1972 and grew up in Darjeeling, India. He graduated from St. Joseph's College in Darjeeling and began working toward a Masters degree in anthropology at Osmania University in South India. He has been organizing trekking groups in the Himalayas since 1999. Chimey worked with Professor Daren Leaver as an associate of the National Geographic Society, organizing treks for Mr. Leaver's US-based company, Educational Adventure Services. Also, he worked as a co-writer for Travel De Mundo which was published in 1998 about the Khumbu Region (on Mt. Everest) with Spanish writer Felix Riog. Presently he is working toward his P.G.D. in Buddhist Hermeneutics and Metaphysics.

Indeed we at TRIFC are proud to be associated with such kind, caring people as Sita and Chimey!



Newly sponsored by Peter and Jackie Mansfield

Kishor Thing attends the Sanjiwani school in Dhulikel, Nepal (Near Kathmandu). He is 18 years old and studies in the 7th grade. Kishor became blind due to glaucoma when he was only three years old. There are seven members in his family and his parents run a small retail shop. Kishor's proud sponsors are Jackie and Peter Mansfield. You can see Kishor holding a photo of Jackie and Peter!

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Thank you! We appreciate your kindness.

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