

BUSINESS



Photo by Glenn Tucker

A helping hand: Kathmandu Kids Club president and general manager of the ISIS Foundation Leonie Exel is pictured with club chairman Kim Karter. The club was launched last Friday to raise funds for children in war-torn areas of Nepal.

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Kathmandu Kids Club reaches out to children in war-ravaged region

By Robin Holder

The ISIS Foundation last week launched the Kathmandu Kids Club, a web-based fundraising club to help children in the war-ravaged region of Kathmandu.

"The purpose of the club is to raise funds for children in serious need in Nepal. The club is run by volunteers in Bermuda," chairman Kim Karter said.

"Club members will feel good to know that 100 percent of the funds we receive through membership fees will arrive in Kathmandu undiluted so the funds will have a direct impact on the children and the people caring for them."

The funds will be raised by selling memberships to the Kathmandu Kids Club at www.kathmandukidsclub.com but donations can also be made.

The ISIS Foundation has experienced staff on the ground in Nepal and they will make sure the money is allocated where it is needed.

"We've had our kids' homes with bullets whizzing over their heads in the last few

months," said Leonie Exel, club president and general manager of the ISIS Foundation.

"There is a civil war in Nepal currently and Maoist rebels in the mountains have demanded of families that one child from every family become a Maoist."

To avoid loss of life, some parents are giving their children away to child brokers who take them into Kathmandu and sell them into the sex trade or force the children to become beggars on the streets.

Funds raised through the Kathmandu Kids Club will go towards a variety of areas including school fees and uniforms, science supplies and computer equipment, food, medical care and living expenses for around 130 Nepalese children who are living in several homes in Kathmandu, as well as towards helping women and children living in shelters.

For more information on the Kathmandu Club call Kim Karter at 234-5809 or Leonie Exel at 232-9001 or log on to www.kathmandukidsclub.com.