



Kathmandu Kids Club Newsletter

February 2008

News from Nepal

Contact Leonie Exel, leonie@kathmandukidsclub.com

As you can see from the amazing amount of money (almost \$150,000) raised, last year was very successful for the KatKids Club.

2008 and Beyond...

Our managers in Nepal are working with our partner organisations to design projects for the next year or two. We will likely continue all our current work and then add some new projects - thanks to the donors, supporters and volunteers from KatKids. Some options that we are looking into include:

- (i) expanding our work in solar power in the high Himalayas,
- (ii) more help to women and children who have been the victims of domestic violence, and
- (iii) helping out a village, 12,000 feet high in the mountains, to improve conditions in their local school.

The ISIS Children's Foundation

We have utilized KatKids funds in the last year on almost all our projects in Nepal. The lion's share went to support the ISIS Children's Homes (now registered in Nepal as 'The ISIS Children's Foundation'). All of the 136 kids are now safe, healthy, attending good schools, and linked back to their families of origin. In the last half of 2007, the biggest change has been a wonderful training program for our home parents - a volunteer has been training them one day per week in child development, counseling techniques, and ways to encourage and support the kids. As a consequence the children are working together better, and their behavior has vastly improved compared to when they first came to us from the traffickers' homes.



One of the little ones is trying to keep his lunch away from Happy, one of the dogs of the homes.

Infrastructure in Nepal

We have been trying to link our partner non-Government organisations (NGO's) more closely in Nepal and in October 2007 we held a conference for all of them to meet and collaborate on helping the kids of Nepal.

In November 2007 we set up an office in Kathmandu which is a resource and support centre for our partner



Some of the kids and Mums from this shelter are pictured in October with Karen Esdale and Rachael McVean, two ISIS staff members.

NGOs. This is absolutely essential to develop Nepali staff so that they can better support kids and families in poverty. These initiatives were funded by The ISIS Group.

KatKids Helps ISIS Partners

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, we now have ongoing sponsors for our homes so the Katkids funding will start to be utilised on other projects. In late 2007 Katkids funds were sent to a number of our smaller partner NGOs - see below.

Caring for Victims of Domestic Violence

The Women's Foundation, supports women and children who have been the victims of domestic violence. We are helping with their costs at a shelter where families can recover, regain skills, money and confidence, and then move into new supportive communities. Katkids funds helped us to pay:

- (i) wages for 2 part-time tutors for the children - many of the kids are very behind in their schooling because of family turmoil
- (ii) wages for a full-time Health Coordinator, Security Guard, and Shelter Coordinator
- (iii) Sponsorship of two children to attend school.

Health Care for Kids and Families at a Monastery

We were also able to support the salaries of two health workers, a laboratory assistant and a supervising doctor at a clinic operating out of Swyambunath Monastery. This is one of the Himalayan Medical Foundation's clinics which treats around 3,000 impoverished children and families every six months, people who would otherwise not receive any health care at all.

The projects above are just some of those supported by Kat Kids - huge thanks, yet again, for your support, from all of us at ISIS!



Charity Challenge

KatKids Goes To Everest!

Contact Pia Hopkins, pia@kathmandukidsclub.com

The XL Everest Charity Challenge is on! From March 6 – 23 an 11 strong team will attempt a 100 kilometre trek, climbing over 9,800 feet in elevation to reach their goal of Everest Base Camp in the Nepalese Himalayas (17,576 feet). Each participant is attempting to raise \$10,000 in sponsorship for the Kathmandu Kids Club. If they succeed a staggering \$110,000 will be raised and sent to Nepal to ease the plight of children in desperate need.

While in Kathmandu, the XL team will have the chance to visit some of the ISIS projects and see, first hand, how far the funds they raised will go and how it will directly impact the lives of children in serious need. All participants are paying for their own travel and expenses, so all funds raised will go directly to Nepal and to where the money is needed most.

If you would like to support the trekkers you can donate via their websites below:

Bermuda Based Trekkers:

Cherie Simons:

<http://www.justgiving.com/cheriegoesnepal>

Roddy Gray:

<http://www.justgiving.com/roderickgray>

Megan Kempe:

<http://www.justgiving.com/megankempe>

Tonia Szeto:

<http://www.justgiving.com/toniaszeto>

Roma Jedrysiak:

<http://www.justgiving.com/romajedrysiak>

Nick Pewter:

<http://www.justgiving.com/basecampbermudian>

Jennie Lee O'Donnell:

<http://www.justgiving.com/jennieleeodonnell>

Christine Doughty:

<http://www.justgiving.com/christinedoughty>

Mark Norman:

<http://www.justgiving.com/markspinynorman>

London Based Trekkers:

Richard Goodger:

<http://www.justgiving.com/richardgoodger>

Swiss Based Trekkers:

Lukas Ackermann:

<http://www.justgiving.com/luketown>

Events Update

No joke as Just For Laughs donates \$18,000

Contact Eve Patterson, eve@kathmandukidsclub.com

Club members had plenty to smile about after this year's international comedy event, Just For Laughs Bermuda. Not only did we get to be part of a great event but we raised an amazing \$18,000 in the process!

For the second year running, members volunteered to staff the event at the Mid-Ocean Amphitheatre at the Fairmont Southampton from January 10-12, acting as ushers, handling tickets, door staff, and running the merchandise stall for the five shows. Our 40-plus team – which included help from BMDS and Pembroke Rotary Club amongst others – was kept busy doing double duty on the Friday and Saturday nights when there were 7 and 10 o'clock shows but we got to see some hilarious performances from the comics – host Alonzo Bodden, Gerry Dee, Ed Byrne, Wendy Liebman, and Greg Morton plus Bermudians Bruce Barritt, Jonathan Young and Jah.



Back row from left to right: Bill Dickinson (of presenting sponsors Transact), host Alonzo Bodden, comedians Bruce Barritt, Ed Byrne, Gerry Dee, and Wendy Liebman.

Front row from left to right: comedian Greg Morton, producer Robbie Praw, Karen Esdale (finance director, Kathmandu Kids Club), Richard Simon, Kim Carter (chairman, Kathmandu Kids Club).

With four of the shows selling out, it meant Just For Laughs' organizer and "Chief Chuckler" Richard Simon was able to give us \$6,000 more than last year, which made it more than worthwhile.

Special thanks to Event Manager Julia Cook for pulling the whole crew together and making sure we were in the right place at the right time, and to Volunteers Manager Jennie Lee O'Donnell for helping to round up enough willing bodies!

Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for kindness. - Seneca



Plenty of Christmas cheer at festive fundraiser!

Well we may have been promising you a November event (KatKids Newsletter September 2007) but then we got all excited about Christmas and went for it in December instead. And we couldn't have wished for a better Christmas event. The mulled wine flowed, gifts were given, children from the Bermuda School of Music played carols, and good cheer abounded.

More than 200 people came to the KatKids Christmas Market at Goslings Wine Cellar on December 4, 2007 and perused our unique gift stalls, bought KatKids gift certificates, had a go in our raffle or bid on our silent auction. It was a perfect festive party to kick off the holiday season. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to another great KatKids event – we raised a fantastic total of \$25,798!

How will we spend the money raised? Approximately \$1,500-2,500 (raised from the sale of Ugandan crafts) will go to ISIS supported projects in Uganda and the rest (over \$20,000) will go to the projects that the ISIS Foundation supports in Nepal. Projects that range from looking after street children in Kampala, Uganda to supporting women and children who are the victims of domestic violence in Nepal.

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed goods and/or services to the event, as well as everyone who came along and bought, bid, donated or volunteered on the night – this money will make substantial improvements to the lives of all those children and families in serious need who are supported by ISIS.

Here's to a fantastic 2008!

Club Donations and ISIS Expenditure

Contact Karen Esdale, karen@kathmandukidsclub.com

The Kathmandu Kids Club raised a fantastic total of \$147,630 for the year ended December 31, 2007 from supporters in Bermuda and around the world. We raised \$70,092 from our generous patrons, members and donors of the club and an additional \$51,816 through the auction and sales of our two fundraising events held at Gosling's Wine Cellar in May and December of 2007. Reid Robinson and Rachael Rothwell raised almost \$6,876 for their Annapurna Trek in November 2007 and as at December 31st an additional \$18,846 has been raised by our intrepid charity challengers who will be climbing to Base Camp Everest in March 2008.

As at December 31, 2007, \$77,970 of these funds had been sent to Nepal to help with The ISIS Foundation's projects.

\$5,315 was sent to The Woman's Foundation, \$6,735 was sent to Hands in Outreach, \$4,361 was sent to the Himalayan Medical Foundation, \$16,952 had been used for Kiwoko Hospital funding and \$44,607 was used in the running of the ISIS Kids homes in Kathmandu. The remaining balance will be sent to Nepal in the coming months to continue helping with ISIS Foundation projects there.

2008 News Flash!

And some good news for 2008! We have already received another generous donation from one of our biggest supporters – Just for Laughs, Bermuda in the amount of \$18,000. The Charity Challenge team has now reached a fund raising level of over \$50,000 and we have also received over \$10,000 from a tremendously generous family who between them donated to KatKids in lieu of Christmas gift giving. What a wonderful thing to do!

Huge thanks to all of our patrons, donors, members, contributors and volunteers!

Merry Christmas Katkids, from the Hendersons

When the Hendersons decided to invite their far-flung family to Bermuda for Christmas, they figured it was too much to ask people to buy each other presents – so they asked people to donate to the Kathmandu Kids Club instead, raising an amazing \$10,000!



A family photo of the Hendersons gathered in Bermuda

"We had more than 40 people from Switzerland, the former Yugoslavia, Canada and the United States and we didn't want people wasting money on gifts for people they had never met before," they explained. "So we decided the best thing to do was to give the money to charity. We had heard a lot about the Kathmandu Kids Club and about Reid Robinson [Reid trekked around the Annapurna Circuit last year on our behalf] and when we read about the suffering these children



go through, that was it – we decided to give the money to the Club.”

Family members donated an incredible \$9,550 but the total was pushed over the \$10,000 mark by a spontaneous gift from the Hendersons’ five year old son Sam. “He brought out his piggy bank, which his grandmother had given him as a baby and in which he had been saving ever since,” his parents said. “He said he wanted to give all the money to ‘his poor children’ and that \$450 took us over the top. We were astounded and very proud that a five- year- old could already have that in his head. Hopefully he will have that consciousness throughout his life and maybe the next generation will give even more.”

We couldn’t agree more – and on behalf of the children of Nepal, we’d like to say a heartfelt “thank you” to all of the Hendersons for a truly wonderful Christmas gift.

Birthday girl Zoe gives Kathmandu Kids Club a very special present

Little Zoe Hasselkuss got plenty of fun presents for her third birthday – but the best present of all was the \$1,600 she gave to the Kathmandu Kids Club.

Her mother, Club member Alex, asked parents of Zoe’s friends to donate to the club instead of bringing presents to Zoe’s birthday party on December 8. Donations came to \$935 and with \$700 being matched by ACE Limited – many of the parents work for the company and Alex worked there as a catastrophe risk specialist – it meant Zoe and her family were able to hand the Club a cheque for \$1,635!

Alex said: “We thought this was great for a three year old because with children you can never start too early to instill compassion, being grateful for what you have and being aware that there are children in need of our help. The parents of Zoe’s friends were very supportive – and Zoe still got plenty of presents! The \$10-\$20 you spend on gifts in Bermuda can go so much further in Nepal, especially as every cent raised by the Club goes directly to Nepal.”

As Sharon A. Beesley, Director of The ISIS Foundation, said:



Zoe Hasselkuss with father Dirk and mother Alex show off a special certificate of thanks presented by Kim Carter, chairman of the Kathmandu Kids Club (far right) and Sharon A. Beesley (far left), co-founder of The ISIS Foundation.

“We think it is wonderful that a new generation is being taught the kind of compassion and generosity that Bermuda is famous for. It is very exciting to see people like Zoe inspired to do something to help those less fortunate than ourselves.”

Membership Update

Contact Bonnie McGlynn, bonnie@katmandukidsclub.com

The Kathmandu Kids Club welcomed 26 new members, 1 lifetime member and 4 new patrons during the 2007 year. Our May and Christmas events were especially good ways of attracting new members. (A very special thank you to our wonderful volunteer bartenders at our events, who always take special care of the girls on the membership table!)

We would also like to officially give a HUGE welcome and thank you to Carol Dixon. Carol has joined the membership team and works hard every month in getting out our renewal notices. Renewals have been steady coming in, but if you haven’t gotten around to renewing, drop a cheque off at the ISIS office on East Broadway or go to www.donations.bm. If you can’t remember when you joined simply go to <http://www.kathmandukidsclub.com/content-members.htm> and the date you joined is listed, or email us at: bonnie@kathmandukidsclub.com and we will be more than happy to help you.

Remember – membership is our bread and butter!

What its children become, that will the community become. - Suzanne LaFollette

