

NCEF GYAN

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NEPALESE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

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- by Omprakash Gnawali, NCEF CEO

Meet Dinesh



gyan: *n.* knowledge acquired
by direct perception

Administrative highlights from 2006

By: Omprakash Gnawali, NCEF Chief Executive Officer CEO

NCEF conducts its fieldwork in Nepal through its sister NGO called Campaign for Education (CE). CE was incorporated in 2005. In 2006, CE's members made important contributions in coordinating our work in Nepal. CE helped with the application collection process. Area coordinators from different parts of the country sent paper applications to CE. CE made arrangements to scan and email those applications to the selection committee.

One of CE's most important contributions is financial administration for all the areas in Nepal. CE signed a memorandum of understanding with NCEF to receive funds from NCEF, disburse it to the area coordinators, and assist our program by playing the role of a trusted intermediary between NCEF and the areas in which we conduct our fieldwork. CE was allocated a budget of NPR 437800 (approximately \$6500) for the academic year 2006/2007. This fund has been disbursed to the area coordinators to help pay for school fees and supplies for the students we support. The area coordinators send their financial report to CE. The CE treasurer compiles the reports from all the areas each month and sends it to the NCEF treasurer.

We organized an event to enable the area volunteers to interact with NCEF and share their ideas on how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our work. Amrit Pant, a director on our board, while in Nepal for a personal visit, hosted an interaction program with the area coordinators and volunteers on the ground. The suggestions received range from a need to compensate the volunteers for their time to the need for a more systematic training for the coordinators and volunteers. While no decision has been made (or can be made without careful consideration), everyone appreciated the opportunity to interact and have a say in the future direction of the organization.

In 2006, we announced the new area identification program. This program has made the process of finding potential new areas and evaluating them more systematically. Under this program, we can start a provisional area at any time of the year. Upon demonstrating regular interaction, reports, and updates while taking care of one student, these provisional areas become full-fledged areas the following academic year. The details of this program are available at www.nepalchildren.org/documents/newarea.html Sindhupalchok, currently a provisional area, is the first new area to go through this program.

We are pleased to report that we added Palpa as a new area in 2006. Palpa currently has four students. The reports and interaction have been encouraging. We are confident that Palpa will continue to perform well into 2007 and expand to a larger number of students in the academic year 2007/2008.

On the legal front, this is our fifth year of existence. At the end of the fifth year, non-profit organizations file paperwork with the IRS to obtain permanent ruling on 501(c)(3) status. NCEF is in touch with the IRS



and preparing to file the paperwork to fulfill the legal requirement to continue to be recognized as a publicly supported 501(c)(3) charity. This status allows our donors to claim tax deduction for the amount they donate to NCEF.

Recruiting and retaining the volunteers has been a challenge in 2006. Our work is done by a team of volunteers that do not get monetary compensation for their time and effort. This makes it difficult to recruit the volunteers in Nepal because people have extremely limited free time beyond their day-to-day job and activities. We have not been able to find a stable team of volunteers in Kathmandu and Patan to conduct the fieldwork. Other areas have a small number of volunteers and they are always trying to recruit more volunteers. We replaced an area coordinator in Patan in 2006. The area coordinator in Kavre is scheduled to move out of the area in 2007 and hence will need to find a new area coordinator in the upcoming months.

To provide incentive to the volunteers to stay with us, help them improve their skills, and give them more flexibility in the way they run the program, we started allocating discretionary and training budget for each area. Training budget allows the volunteers to take classes or attend training programs to help them improve their volunteer work. Each area is allocated a training budget not exceeding 4% of its total budget approximately at the rate of \$4 for each student in the area) and discretionary budgets not exceeding 5% of its total budget (approximately at the rate of \$5 for each student in the area). We expect most of the training budget to be used in English language and computer training classes. We expect most of the discretionary budget to be used in organizing recreational events (zoo visit, for example) for the students and occasional meetings for the volunteers and parents. The details of the training and discretionary budget is available at

http://www.nepalchildren.org/coordinator_requirements.html

Volunteer recruitment in the US has also been difficult. We have recruited few new active members in 2006. To help transform new

ABOUT NCEF

NCEF is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to develop the potential of disadvantaged Nepalese children through education. Need-based scholarships are provided to deserving students who would otherwise be unable to attend school. Our social workers in Nepal meet regularly with the selected children and their parents to assist in each child's development. We dedicate our resources to each NCEF child until they complete high school (twelfth grade).

2007 FUNDRAISING METER

METER IN PROGRESS...

MAKING DONATIONS

□ Online:

www.nepalchildren.org/donation.html

□ Checks:

Make checks payable to:

Nepalese Children Education Fund or NCEF

Mailing address:

Nepalese Children's Education Fund

P.O. Box 380061

Cambridge, MA 02238-0061

Questions?

Website: www.nepalchildren.org

Email: contact@nepalchildren.org

THANK YOU!

WHAT ARE CHILDREN DOING?

Jyoti in Patan is looking forward to a computer course.

During vacation, Lampsang in Patan enjoyed a trip to the bazaar with his father.

Laxmi in Patan spent her vacation playing with friends and watching movies.

Mankumari in Palpa enjoyed participating in a physical education class.

Sharmila in Palpa had fun at a quiz competition.

members into productive and active members, we have implemented the new member-mentoring program. Membership is solicited on our website. Once a membership application is received, a designated person gets in touch with the applicant to determine the area of interest. Subsequently, a mentor, who has been with the organization for a long period of time, interacts regularly with the assigned new member to provide guidance on various sources of information and resources in the organization to get the work done.

We achieved encouraging growth in fundraising and the number of areas in which we operate, volunteers that take care of the students and help with logistics, and the students we supported in 2006. We also put in place stronger institutional processes to lay the foundation for stronger growth and better organization in 2007 and beyond.

MEET DINESH

Age: 11

Grade: Third

School: Sri Om Academy,
Jaibageshwori, Kathmandu
Nepal

Region: Patan



"He is a very nice student. He is hardworking and obedient," a NCEF volunteer writes in her report.

Dinesh's mother was abandoned by her husband seven years ago. Working as a custodian in an office, she earns about \$28 per month, with which she has to pay for rent and necessities of her two children. Dinesh's grandmother helped to pay for his schooling, but her death left the family without recourse. With such a low income, his mother wouldn't have money left to pay for his and his brother's education. NCEF has reached out for this child who has a lot more to gain and become in his life.

GETTING INVOLVED

Why?

- To make a lasting difference in the lives of children.
- To be a part of an exciting team of interesting and dedicated volunteers.
- To put your spare time, no matter how little, to good use.

How?

- **Join** our announcements list!
- Help fundraise money for NCEF scholarships.
- Help with the administrative aspects of NCEF.
- Take part in discussions to ensure NCEF is increasingly effective.
- Help expand NCEF to new areas in Nepal
- Become a field volunteer in Nepal.
- Help lead NCEF by running for a position on the Board or Executive Committee.

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To subscribe or unsubscribe the newsletter, please send a request email to subscribe@nepalchildren.org

NCEF PAMPHLET

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