

NCEF GYAN

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NEPALESE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

What's Inside:

Annual Fundraising Report for 2006

by Inku Subedi, the Fundraising Committee Officer

NCEF volunteers visit a record number of students in 2006

by Steven Lustig, NCEF Secretary



gyan: *n.* knowledge acquired
by direct perception

Annual Fundraising Report for 2006

By Inku Subedi, Fundraising Committee Officer



In the year 2006, NCEF was successful in raising a total amount of \$21,714. The majority of this amount came from our valued donors, a memorial donation fund, and wedding gift donations. A memorial donation fund was set up in memory of Mira M. Michaud by her family and friends and has contributed a total amount of \$12,290 to NCEF. A few of our benefactors generously contributed their wedding gift to NCEF by encouraging guests to donate to NCEF in lieu of a wedding gift. This year, Siri Skar and Satyam Panday had requested their guests to donate to NCEF as their wedding gift. NCEF received donations worth \$3,272.00 on behalf of Siri and Satyam. In addition, NCEF received \$1,376 as a gift for John and Cynthia Leffingwell. Apart from our other regular benefactors, NCEF received a touching and generous gift from the students of Mr. Bunel's sixth grade class, Thompson Brook School (Avon, CT) who had learnt of Nepal through their social studies project and wanted to help children of Nepal. We received donation worth \$300 from the class's bottle collection.

In terms of other committee activities, wikipedia and dotproject softwares were set up such that all the information on activities and events organized by the committee could be effectively stored in a way that is easily accessible, improving planning and transitions processes in the organization. Additionally, NCEF received a one-year IO-user license grant for software from the Salesforce Foundation to manage fundraising information. However, the existing database has not transferred into this platform yet, as we are still evaluating the usefulness of this software. Lack of active volunteers made it difficult for the committee to carry out any significant fundraising events, including the calendar project.

During 2006, the committee went through a transition, with Atul Pokharel passing on responsibilities with regard to donor relations and fundraising to Inku Subedi. Moving forward in 2007, the fundraising team will be reorganizing itself and will work alongside the Executive Committee with Inku as the Fundraising Officer and Chhitij as the Public Relations Officer. The team will be working with groups of volunteers on fundraising projects. In the future, any questions and suggestions regarding donations and fundraising can be sent to Inku Subedi at inku@nepalchildren.org

Goals for Year 2007

For 2007, the committee plans to fundraise a total amount of \$20,000.

Most of the 2006 donations came from the individual donors and memorial donations, so the committee will focus on improving donors relations by keeping donors in the loop via newsletters and possibly starting a program through which the donors can be more involved in the organization.

Apart from attention to individual donations, other plans include:

1. Prepare and submit 1 grant proposal. One idea is competing in a good venture grant competition sponsored by JP Morgan. For the competition, students can form teams of up to 4 people to create an initial presentation for a non-profit highlighting its mission and performance. If we win this competition, we have a chance to receive \$25,000 grant money along with good public exposure.
2. Coordinate one fundraising event in a university, possibly Brown and/or Yale university.
3. Prepare the logistics and network of volunteers for a calendar project. The project will include designing a calendar with pictures and drawings from children and distributing the calendars to a network identified by volunteers.

To achieve the above goals, the team will need dedicated volunteers and members. The fundraising team will utilize the first few months of 2007 to recruit more members and volunteers to help with public relations and fundraising events.

Monthly breakdown of donations for 2006	
January	\$4,360.00
February	\$1,267.00
March	\$820.00
April	\$381.00
May	\$145.00
June	\$6,390.00
July	\$2,071.00
August	\$207.00
September	\$1,405.00
October	\$325.00
November	\$330.00
December	\$4,013.00
Total	\$21,714.00

NCEF Volunteers Visit a Record Number of Students in 2006



by Steven Lustig , NCEF Secretary

One of the important volunteer tasks in NCEF is to visit students. Every month, dedicated NCEF volunteers in Nepal donate their free time to visit NCEF-sponsored students in their homes and schools. The volunteers talk to the students, their teachers as well as their parents or guardians. They find out how the students are doing in school and whether they need any assistance, for example, in buying new schoolbooks or receiving increased parental encouragement for their studies. The volunteers also learn from these visits and suggest ways to improve NCEF. They submit short reports on the status of each student after every visit. This is part of NCEF's commitment to accountability and responsibility.

As we look back on 2006, we can see an increase in visits by NCEF volunteers in Nepal to sponsored students. Looking forward, we see opportunities for further improvement in increasing the number of visitations to sponsored students. A special thanks go to all of the NCEF volunteers who spent their time visiting students in Kathmandu, Kavre, Nepalgunj, Palpa and Patan in 2006.

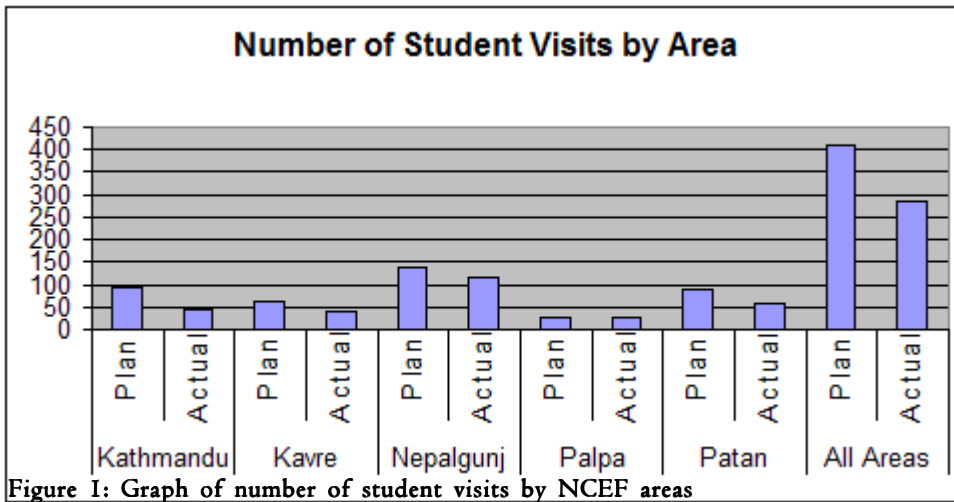


Figure 1: Graph of number of student visits by NCEF areas

Volunteers visited the 42 NCEF-sponsored students a record of over 280 times in 2006 (see Figure 1). Students in all 5 areas in which NCEF operates were visited, and all students were visited at least several times each.

Student visit and reports are very important in our efforts to provide the best opportunity for sponsored students to succeed and to inform NCEF officers so that they can make the best use of the generous contributions by donors. As such, NCEF's goal is for students to be visited every month in which visits are planned. As Figure I shows, NCEF has not yet achieved this goal. NCEF continues to strive to improve performance in this respect. The good news is that more students are being visited by NCEF than ever before. Additional good news is that the percentage of planned visits that take place is increasing (see Figure 2). For the first half of the year, just under half (49%) of planned

student visits occurred. Reporting was particularly low during April and May, however, and low reporting was due to the fact that April and May is at the end of one Nepalese school year and the start of the next school year. Also, in April and May, there were a lot of political disturbances in Nepal including large protests, curfews and blockades, all of which made it difficult for NCEF volunteers to visit students.

For the second half of the year, over 86% of planned student visits were made. This is a great improvement. In fact, there were several months when all students in all areas were visited.

NCEF officers also try to understand student visit performance by area and to work with area coordinators to increase student visits. Volunteers in Palpa, which started as an NCEF area in June, visited all students each month for the rest of the year. Nepalgunj volunteers throughout the year consistently visited a high number of students each month (84% average). Volunteers in Patan visited all students each month from September to December. Kavre and Kathmandu volunteers visited a large percentage of students in the second half of the year (see Figure 3).

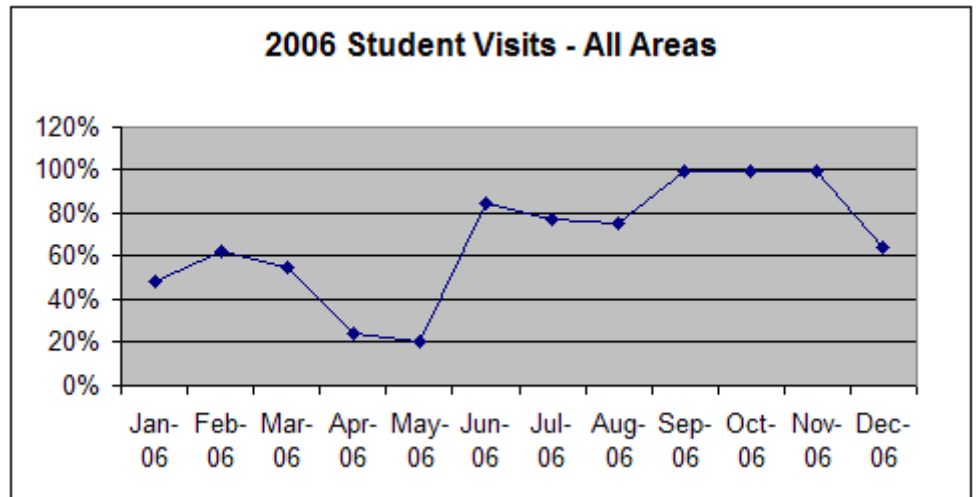


Figure 2: Graph of percent of student visits by volunteers in all NCEF areas

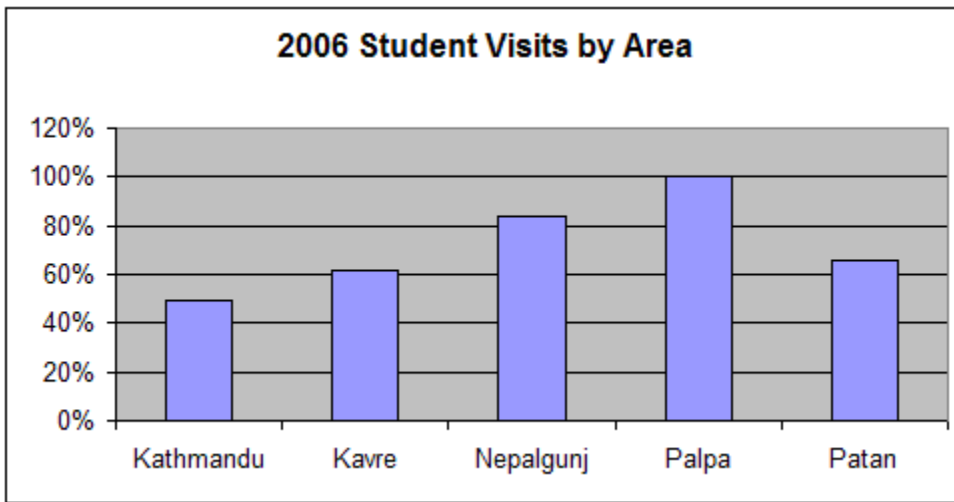


Figure 3: Percent of student visits in different areas

NCEF and its volunteers are committed to visiting 100% of students as planned. It is important that we recognize some of the challenges with this, which may be unfamiliar to members who live outside of Nepal. Volunteers sometimes have to spend considerable time traveling (walking and/or taking public buses) to meet with students. As an all-volunteer organization, volunteers are not paid for the time they spend doing this. Weather, such as flooding, can make such journeys difficult, longer or impossible at times. Political instability, ranging from protests to rebel military actions, may make travel for such visits dangerous or even illegal. School and national holidays may mean that volunteers or students travel to other areas for family reasons, making mutual contact hard to arrange during those periods.

NCEF continues to work with its volunteers to improve frequency of visits. English translators allow volunteers not fluent in English to provide reports in Nepali. The translators allow the information to be understood by officers and members who do not speak Nepali. To reflect the fact that there are several long school vacations, NCEF has recently implemented a reporting plan that allows Nepal area coordinators to customize their reporting schedule. Student visits can be waived for up to two months a year, but those two months must be scheduled in advance and must be the same for all students in a particular area. This allows flexibility but also requires planning, meaning that this policy cannot be used to excuse missed planned visits. Also to help Nepal volunteers with student visits, reporting and other functions, NCEF initiated a small training fund where area coordinators and volunteers in a particular area may spend up to 4% of that area's funds for students' expenses. Typical classes taken by volunteers under this program are expected to be English and computer skills. This will benefit both the volunteer and NCEF. In addition, there is a new discretionary budget for area coordinators with a maximum cost of 5% of student expenses per year. This will be used for extra expenses, ranging from trips to the zoo to buying filing cabinets in which to keep NCEF records. These are two ways NCEF can help Nepal volunteers while still dedicating the vast majority of donated money toward directly helping students.

NCEF looks forward to building on this year's success in student visits to arrange even more student visits in 2007.

2007 FUNDRAISING METER

\$1958

GOAL: \$20,000

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!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE

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

NCEF PAMPHLET

Share information about NCEF with your friends with [this printable pamphlet](#)

Nepalese Children Education Fund (NCEF) is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization.US Taxpayer ID: 51-0424140

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).