



# Kathmandu Kids Club Newsletter

November 2008

## News from Nepal

Contact: Sharon Beesley [sabeesley@isis.bm](mailto:sabeesley@isis.bm)

This year the KatKids Club has had its most unbelievably successful fundraising year - you have all raised \$ 308,335 so far! These funds have been directed to some life-saving projects on the ground in Nepal, helped us to run our office in Nepal to monitor, support and build the effectiveness of our partner organisations, and begun to form a 'rainy day' fund so that we can ensure ongoing funding security for the kids in our projects.

## Political Update:

Nepal is one of the world's poorest countries and is striving to overcome the legacy of over 10 years of civil war and political unrest. To the relief of all Nepali's, in 2007 there was a landmark peace deal and the terrible violence began to abate. In April this year, there was an amazing election in Nepal where the Maoists emerged as the largest party in parliament. They formed an interim government immediately and then in August the Maoist led coalition government officially came to power. Pralhad Dhakal, our Nepal Country Manager, says "the new government is now preparing Nepal's first ever constitution, with the involvement of all segments of Nepalese society. There is an increased hope in the people that Nepal will move towards a progressing country with a fast growing economy." Here's hoping that a new era of peace has begun in this beautiful country.

## The ISIS Children's Foundation

### Children's Homes:

#### *National Children's Day*



The children in the ISIS Children's Homes continue to be supported in wonderful ways and their confidence and capability is growing. They celebrated National Children's Day on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September in Nepal with the hope that this "new Nepal" will be bright and full of opportunity for them. The children from all ten homes gathered together and



celebrated the day with lots of dancing, singing and colouring. The staff also performed for the children, much to their delight! The Central Child Welfare Board of Nepal had also organised a number of activities for this event and we are proud to report that Prabhandu Mahatara, one of the youngest ISIS kids, was elected to be the honoured chairperson for the event. He did a very good job of sitting with the distinguished guests, although he did get a little bored and impatient!

### *A new set of electric wheels!*



Another interesting addition to the Children's Homes is an electric bicycle! Purchased with the help of the KatKids donations, it helps the staff to move between the homes - with no fuel costs! Fuel prices in Nepal are sky high and more often than not supply is a problem as well, with huge queues for petrol where people must sleep in their cars overnight to get a few litres of fuel. The cost of the bike is equal to just two years of fuel costs in Nepal and thus is not only a handy way to get around Kathmandu city, but also saves the Homes lots of money which can be used in other meaningful ways.

### *Children's newsletter*

The ISIS kids are demonstrating their creative skills and sent out their newsletter in June 2008. Here's a poem from one of our budding poets, Ganesh Bhandari-

### Humla



Humla is a beautiful place. I like very much.  
There are lots of jungle, rivers and waterfalls.  
There are many mountains and different kinds of food grown.



Humli people grow corn, barley and potatoes.

Humla lies in the Himalayan region and snow falls about four months of the year.

We can find daphne, rhododendron and many other flowers in Humla.

Ways of Humla are dangerous.

Humla people are poor and they are under-educated.

Humla has a long river.

Humla is a small place there are different kinds of fruit and trees there.

Ganesh Bhandari, ISIS Home 2, Green Field Cottage, Class 7

### ISIS Discretionary Fund Supporting Humli Parents:

A Humli mother whose children had been trafficked (and rescued) was diagnosed with heart trouble. While she received free treatment from the Heart Hospital in Kathmandu, she and her husband did not have the means to get back home to Humla. The Social Welfare Council and the Ministry of Child Welfare recommended her to ISIS for help, as we are well known as an organisation that assists people from Humla. Having been so far away from home, she was pining for her children, being separated from them once already. ISIS assessed the situation and considered it to be a genuine case and thus helped her in getting back to Humla so she could be reunited with her children! We paid for food, lodging and airfares to get her and her husband home. Thanks KatKids for making these small but wonderful things possible for Humli people, who generally tend to be forgotten by all others.

### ISIS Partners:

Supporting education for underprivileged Nepali children:

ISIS partners with Hands in Outreach (HIO), a wonderful organisation which tries to redress the huge gender disparity in education in Nepal. HIO staff support around 100 children- 95% of whom are girls, to provide them with educational opportunities, helping their families to break the poverty cycle and encouraging literacy in impoverished communities. We

would like to share with you the story of Hari as an example of all the children whose lives are touched through this wonderful organisation.

Ricky Bernstein, HIO's President, tells us: "Hari is a quiet self-possessed, confident young woman, with seven brothers and sisters. Her family own a small piece of land, but that is barely enough to support their large family. Her father passed away about eight years ago, leaving them on their own. Realising there was little hope of earning a decent living in the village with no real job skills, she travelled from her home to take a yearlong machining course. HIO supported her with a scholarship and she completed the course at the top of her class! After a stint on an internship, she now works as a Junior Instructor in the school and pays for rent, food and supports her younger brother in a school nearby. She says, "If someone has the willingness to do something, there is always a way." With real practical skills and a useful trade, Hari is a wonderful example of how HIO can truly help by providing the funding vehicle to encourage self-initiation. "

### Club Donations and ISIS Expenditure:

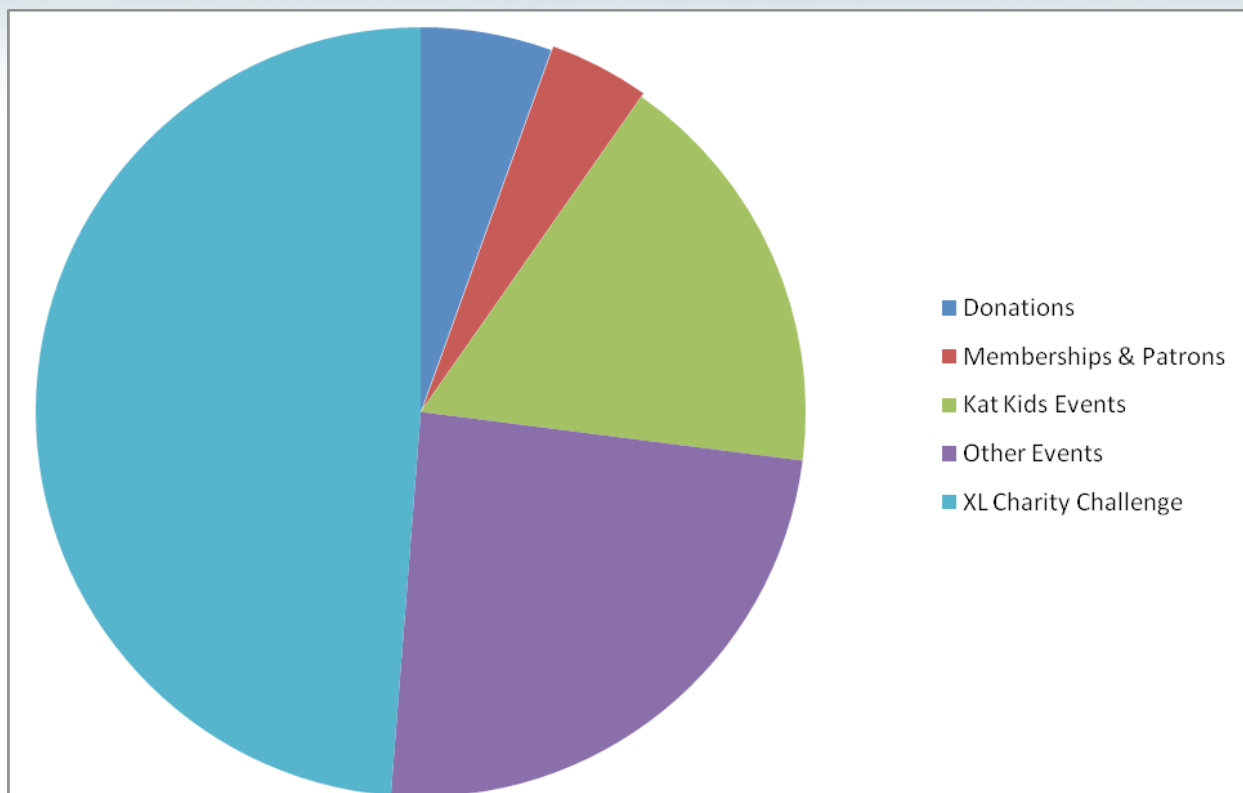
*Over 300,000 and counting!!*

This year from January to October 2008, has seen an incredible increase in KatKids income, with a 108% increase from 2007, to arrive at a total of \$ 308, 335!!! Many, many thanks to all the wonderful supporters, members, patrons, donors, fundraisers and shoppers who have so willingly contributed towards supporting the ISIS children in Nepal. The chart below breaks down the donations received by source.

A special thanks to the participants of the 2008 XL Charity Challenge Everest Base Camp Trek Team. Their tremendous efforts have raised \$ 150, 410 of the total funds raised thus far this year.

As of October 2008, a total of \$ 41,704 has been sent to Nepal to help with The ISIS Foundation's projects. Through this support we were able to fund The Himalayan Medical Foundation for \$ 5,957, Hands in Outreach for \$ 7,510, The Himalayan Innovative Society for \$ 5,572, and The ISIS INGO





and the ISIS Children’s Foundation for \$ 21, 580. In addition to this, we have set up a Discretionary Fund to support people who are often forgotten or get lost in the system and one story is reported above. Last quarter, A\$1,000 was transferred to the Discretionary Fund.

Due to the huge efforts made this year, the balance of funds yet to be deployed, not only provides ongoing funding security to the children in our projects, but also enables us to support some new and dearly needed projects. One of these will commence soon – we are funding the building of a kitchen and toilet block for a school hostel high in the Himalayas. This project will assist 100 children to attend school. Other projects we are currently assessing for funding include an infant’s day care centre for single Mums (so that they can work to support their children), and help for Dalit (or ‘Untouchable’ caste) children in Humla.

DHANYABAD! Thank you so much for your ongoing support of The ISIS Foundation!

### Events Update

Contact: [Natasha Merino natasha@katmandukidsclub.com](mailto:natasha@katmandukidsclub.com) or [Kate Walsh kate@katmandukidsclub.com](mailto:kate@katmandukidsclub.com)

PAST: Our Nepal Uganda Everest event at BUEI was a huge success. I think it is safe to say that the entire auditorium was inspired by Claire Underhill’s wonderful talk on her time volunteering at the Kiwoko Hospital in Uganda and Megan Kempe, Jennie Lee O’Donnell and Nick Pewter’s presentations on their trek to base camp, Mount Everest. Audette Exel talked about the history of The ISIS Foundation so that the kind people who donate their time and money into the Kathmandu Kids Club can see the effects that it has on helping women and children in serious need in Nepal and Uganda. After the talks our guests enjoyed delicious Nepalese cuisine as well as an opportunity to do some shopping at our market stalls. Overall we raised over \$20,000 that went directly to The ISIS Foundation projects in Nepal and Uganda!!

FUTURE: This year’s KatKids Christmas market is sure to be another fun filled and festive evening! The event will be



held at the Bermuda Society of Arts, City Hall on November 20th from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. We will feature unique handmade jewellery, crafts and other gifts from Nepal and Uganda as well as a mini auction and raffle. All proceeds will go directly to The ISIS Foundation to help children in need in Nepal and Uganda.

Auction items include handmade knotted Kashmiri silk rugs, Tibetan Ting Sha chimes and bronze singing bowls used as meditation aids by Tibetan Buddhist monks, traditional oil paintings from Uganda, gold leaf paintings from Nepal, silver necklace and bracelets from Nepal, and an African sculpture. Raffle prizes will include dinners and spa treatments at some of the Island's finest resorts and restaurants.

Tickets (limited in number) cost only \$20 (including open bar) and are available at [www.boxoffice.bm](http://www.boxoffice.bm) or at the ISIS office at Crow Lane.

Hope to see you all there!!

### Our Wonderful Fundraisers

Contact: Alexandra Hasselkuss [alex@kathmandukidsclub.com](mailto:alex@kathmandukidsclub.com)

From a "Grub Day" held at a local school to a fabulous art auction and party to challenging running races, our remarkable fundraisers have provided Kathmandu Kids Club with over \$85,000 in donations over the last several months. I continue to be amazed with the diversity and creativity of events thrown on our behalf and, of course, with the generosity of our fundraisers and their supporters.

### Megan Kempe's Auction & Dinner Party

On April 5, 2008, Megan held a party for friends and family who supported her on her trek to Mount Everest's base camp. During her party, she auctioned off items such as jewelry, wall hangings, and rugs which she had purchased while in Nepal. In the process, she raised over \$8,000.



### Chris Clarke's Road Race

On May 25, 2008, Chris Clarke, who lives in Belgium, ran the Brussels 20-kilometer road race and collected over \$750 in sponsorship donations.

### Bermuda High School "Grub Day"

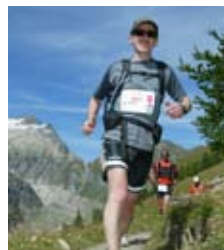


On April 25, 2008, Bermuda High School held a "Grub Day" which raised over \$1,000.

### Lightning Squash Players Tournament

Tim Shave organized a squash tournament held in June 2008 where the players donated to Kat Kids at the end of each event.

### Chris Pedic's Ultra Run



On August 28 and 29, 2008, Chris Pedic, who lives in the UK, completed the North Face CCC Ultratrail run and raised approximately \$1,500 in sponsorship and matching donations. This event is a grueling 98-kilometer run through the Alps.

### Janet Peckett & Jennie Lee O'Donnell's Birthday Party



A rip roaring time was had by all at Janet Peckett and Jennie Lee O'Donnell's "Forty Something" Birthday Party on September 20, 2008 where the scene was the Wild West, the dress code was cowboys and Indians, and the range was ridden by many! Featuring the very talented local musicians, The Go Down Berries, including co-host Tim Peckett, Janet's husband, who donated their time, more than \$6,000 for the Kathmandu Kids Club was raised by the very generous guests in lieu of presents for the lovely birthday girls.



## Aleksandra Henderson's Art Auction & Party



When local artist Aleksandra Henderson drew on her resources to help disadvantaged children in Nepal by auctioning some of her paintings, it raised an amazing \$65,564 for the Kathmandu Kids Club.

As a special thank you, Audette Exel and Sharon Beesley, co-founders of The ISIS Foundation for which the KatKids Club raises funds, recently presented Aleksandra with a framed photograph of one of the young Nepalese children supported by The Foundation.

Sharon said: "It was incredibly generous of Aleksandra to do this on our behalf and we are very moved that she chose to use her amazing talent to help the children in Nepal to whom this money will mean so much. We are delighted to give her this small but heartfelt token of not only our appreciation but that of all the children we help in Nepal."

On April 26, 2008, Aleksandra Henderson very generously auctioned off 18 of her paintings during an exciting night of art, charity, and dancing at The Deep nightclub. Nephila Capital and Fulcrum Limited matched the purchase price of her paintings, which eventually raised more than \$65,000.

Said Aleksandra: "When I first heard the stories of the children saved by The ISIS Foundation, I was really choked up. I knew right away I had to contribute in some meaningful

way. I am still overwhelmed by the tremendous generosity of all bidders. It brings me great joy in knowing that each one of my paintings helped encourage others to give so generously and also knowing that each time my painting is viewed by their owner they will be reminded of how they made such a big difference to the life of a child in Nepal."

## Just For Laughs A Note From The Organisers

Contact: Jennie Lee O'Donnell [jennie@katmandukidsclub.com](mailto:jennie@katmandukidsclub.com)



Just for Laughs Bermuda is back, January 8, 9 and 10 at the Mid-Ocean Amphitheatre in the Fairmont Southampton Hotel. We are thrilled that for the 3rd year, Transact is our Title Sponsor and Digicel our Hosting Sponsor. Once again, we are happy to support the Kathmandu Kids Club, The ISIS Foundation's fundraising arm. In the past we have donated \$30,000 and look forward to contributing more this year.



This is going to be our best show ever! Canadian comedy star, Shaun Majumder will host. Gemini award winner Shaun is best known for his stint on "This Hour has 22 Minutes" on CBC. He recently appeared on the Fox TV Series, "Unhitched".



We're thrilled to announce that Tom Papa will be one of our headliners this year. We've tried to book him since we began Just for Laughs Bermuda. He opens regularly for Jerry Seinfeld, is currently appearing on "The New Adventures of Old Christine" and will appear in the film, "The Informant", with Matt Damon. I saw his one man show at Just for Laughs in Montreal last year and he's hysterical!





My Producer is over the moon that we have signed Scottish comic, Danny Bhoj, to perform this year. His solo show sold out a 3 week run at the famous Edinburgh Festival and 10 shows at Montreal's Just for Laughs Festival. Additional performers will be announced shortly.

On Thursday, January 8th at 8 pm we'll have our Opening Night Gala Performance. For the first time, we'll have an intimate "Comedy Club" atmosphere with round tables of 4, 6 and 10 available. Drinks (not included) will be served at your table! This show will have less than half the capacity of our regular weekend shows so book your tables early! Price is \$100\* per seat. You will choose your specific table from our SeatMap. You must purchase an entire table.

For Corporate Hospitality, seats are \$125\* each and include lanyards with plastic passes and a free Just for Laughs t-shirt. It's a great way to entertain clients or motivate your employees.

Our regular weekend shows are Friday at 8:00 pm and 10:30 pm (no intermission for Friday shows) and Saturday at 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm (with a short intermission for Saturday shows). Over 80 seats have been removed from each performance to give you more seating room. Tickets are \$75\* each.

Just for Laughs Bermuda tickets make a great holiday gift for friends and loved ones. You can also purchase Just for Laughs gift certificates in \$150 and \$200 denominations.

The Fairmont Southampton is once again offering special 3 course dinner packages at Bacci and Waterlot Inn for attendees. Please make your reservations directly with the hotel on 238-8000. They are also offering a special "Take the Elevator Home" rate if you wish to stay at the hotel. More information on our website at [www.comedyevent.bm](http://www.comedyevent.bm).

If you think you're funny or know someone who's funny, consider participating in our 2nd Annual Digicel Fresh Faces of Comedy contest. Contestants have 3 minutes to

wow the judges and an audience of 120 at the Daylesford Theatre on Wednesday, January 7th. The winner takes home a \$1000 cash prize and will open our Thursday night Gala performance! If interested, send contact information to [info@comedyevent.com](mailto:info@comedyevent.com).

Okay, here's how to get tickets/gift certificates:

- 1) Online beginning November 9th at [www.bdatix.bm](http://www.bdatix.bm). You may choose to "Print at Home" or collect at the show.
- 2) In person\*\* beginning November 10th at Transact, Internet Lane, Reid Street. Enter via The Walkway next to Trends Shoe Store. Tickets also available to Picture Perfect, Heron Bay Plaza, Southampton, across from The Marketplace.
- 3) By phone\*\* beginning November 9th by calling 232-2255 in Bermuda or 1-800-309-8497 in Canada and the USA. There is an additional charge of \$3 per ticket.

This event has sold out in our first two years. Don't be disappointed- buy your tickets early!

Richard Simon  
Chief Chuckler  
Just for Laughs Bermuda

### Calling Volunteers!

Contact: Jennie Lee O'Donnell [jennie@katmandukidsclub.bm](mailto:jennie@katmandukidsclub.bm)

The Just for Laughs organizers are once again donating a generous portion of the proceeds to The Kathmandu Kids Club, so we can help more kids in Nepal through ISIS's work. In return, KatKids has agreed to take on the responsibility of providing volunteers for ticket taking, the door, ushers, and the will call ticket booth. The show is on January 8, 9 and 10. KatKids will be recruiting ten volunteers for each show with two shows on Friday and Saturday night as well as a volunteer point person. It's a fantastic way to support KatKids, see the show for free and get a cool free t-shirt! Please contact Jennie Lee O'Donnell [kjlodon@logic.bm](mailto:kjlodon@logic.bm) as soon as possible if you are interested in volunteering.



## Membership Corner

Can you believe its Christmas Market time again? Another year is fast approaching. What a great opportunity to come and visit the membership table and renew your membership.

If you just haven't had the time, we will make it easy for you, using our new credit card machine. Hassle free and quick!

Also, for all those hard to buy for friends and family that have everything, why not consider a gift membership for the Kathmandu Kids Club for Christmas? For the price of less than a cup of coffee a day, you can give a gift that will help children achieve an education and obtain shelter and food. What could be better?

Please look for us at our Membership table on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and we will be happy to help!

## Contact and Donations Details

- The ISIS Foundation and The ISIS Foundation (UK)  
5 Crow Lane, East Broadway, Paget, HM 20, Bermuda.  
Ph: 1 441 232 9001 Fax: 1 441 236 1999
- Registration 508 (Bermuda). 109 8152 (UK).
- Websites: [www.isis.bm](http://www.isis.bm) or [www.kathmandukidsclub.com](http://www.kathmandukidsclub.com).
- Donate by cheque: By sending to the address above, made out to The ISIS Foundation or The ISIS Foundation (UK).
- Donate by credit or debit card: On [www.donations.bm](http://www.donations.bm) or [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com).

