



November 2010

ISIS PROJECT UPDATES

The Himalayan Innovative Society

ISIS' work with The Himalayan Innovative Society (THIS) is to facilitate the reconnection, reunification and repatriation of the children from ISIS homes in Kathmandu to their families and villages in Humla. To date, they have found the parents, or at least established links back to the families, of all but one of the ISIS kids. During 2008 and 2009, ten kids were successfully repatriated, and almost half of the kids have returned home to visit their families at least once. They have also installed a satellite phone in the region so parents can call their children, and they work very hard in the homes to maintain the kids' awareness of their culture, and their ties to their villages and families.

Earlier this year, the team from THIS spent two months in Humla visiting the households of the children being kept in the care of The ISIS Foundation in Kathmandu and delivering letters and photos of the children to their families. The team also collected letters and photos from the childrens' families to bring back to Kathmandu and gathered feedback on The ISIS Foundation and its care of their children. The team faced some unexpected challenges on their long trip, including travel complications caused by the monsoon rains and difficulty locating some of the parents who were away harvesting their crops or tending to their cattle, but they persevered and had a very fruitful trip.

During the trip, THIS was successful in helping them to reintegrate another 7 of the ISIS kids with their families (from Nepalgunj and Kailali) and in repatriating one child to his family in Surkhet. In gathering feedback, THIS received overwhelmingly positive responses to their work from the parents of the ISIS kids in Kathmandu. Indeed, many of the parents were incredibly emotional, and expressed huge gratitude to THIS and ISIS – some went as far to tell THIS that ISIS and THIS are the real parents to the kids. It is so important to our ongoing work with the kids that they build happy and healthy relationships between them, their parents and all at ISIS. This trip proved to be a huge success in furthering this aim.



Tibetan Medical Service

ISIS was pleased to announce that their Tibetan doctor, Dr Kelsang, who travels throughout Humla for up to eight months of the year, providing basic health care to the villagers of Humla, will shortly be an official employee of The ISIS Foundation. Until now, Dr Kelsang had been working on a consultant basis but they will shortly be welcoming him into the ISIS family!

THE ISIS FOUNDATION DISCRETIONARY FUND

The ISIS Foundation has set up a discretionary fund which allows for funding of items that do not fit neatly into the specific mandate of the Foundation in Nepal and which are one-off requests where urgent help is needed. Here are two examples of how this discretionary funding pool has been used in Quarter 1 and 2.

Sunita Sunar's Story

Sunita Sunar is 55 years old and is from Simikot, Humla. A year ago, she went to Kathmandu with her daughter Ema (and Ema's husband and two children) to care for Ema and her family because Ema had to have a heart operation. Unfortunately, during her stay Sunita had a bad fall and displaced both her hips. Ema's doctor put her in touch with The ISIS Foundation and she went to ISIS for help. Using the discretionary fund, they have been able to support the Sunar family during their time in Kathmandu, helping the family to set themselves up in Kathmandu and cope with the recuperation of both Ema and Sunita. Now, after a year in Kathmandu, Sunita is keen to return home where she can support herself and won't be a burden to her daughter's family. But without any means to return to Simikot (a huge financial and physical undertaking at 21 days hike from the nearest road) Sunita again appealed to ISIS and they will be providing financial assistance to help Sunita return home.



Sunita with her grandchildren, and with a walking stick shortly after the accident.

Raju and Asim's Story

Raju Shahi and Asim Shahi are siblings aged 11 years and 6 years from Saya in Humla, and two of four children in their family. When their mother passed away in 2004, their father was bereft and neither he nor their uncle were physically, emotionally or financially able to cope with the four young children. Under advice and with help from a relative in Kathmandu, Raju and Asim were sent to the city and were admitted to an organization called Huplo Nepal, a hostel where the kids would receive food, clothing, care and education. For a few years the kids did well there; they seemed looked after and were studying hard.

However this year, the Madam of the Hostel told Mr. Shahi that the kids need to be withdrawn, especially Raju, as he had become very naughty and had on one occasion tried to run away (he was brought back to the hostel by police). At this point, Mr. Shahi asked his daughter Ms. Rangamati to go to the hostel to see the Madam. Ms. Rangamati works for a non-profit organization in Kathmandu called the Women's Peace Society and had helped her father bring Raju and Asim to Kathmandu back in 2004. When Ms. Rangamati visited Huplo Nepal, she was appalled to see that under the new Madam of the hostel, the kids had torn and tatty clothes, were being given very poor food and according to Raju, Asim and some of the other children, were being repeatedly beaten and were not being sent to school.

Ms. Rangamati has since arranged for Raju and Asim to be repatriated to their village in Humla with their father and their two sisters and for them to be enrolled in a local government school there. She appealed to The ISIS Foundation for financial assistance to help her do this and they have been able to support their move back to Humla as well as buy them a set of clothes and shoes each. ISIS Nepal Country Manager, Pralhad Dhakal says this case perfectly illustrates the ill-effects of sending kids to the city and will be used as an example to help our ongoing education against child trafficking.



Raju and Asim looking clean and happy in new clothes from ISIS.

Kiwoko Hospital

At the last KatKids event, funding raised from the sale and auction of African goods were sent to Kiwoko Hospital in Uganda.

The most exciting news from Kiwoko Hospital is that the building of the new maternity and neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) wards at Kiwoko is now finished. This May, The ISIS Foundation and Aspen Reinsurance (one of ISIS' donor partners) had the great pleasure of attending the official opening of the new wards at the hospital. The opening was a huge success and a testament to the ongoing partnership between Aspen, ISIS and Kiwoko. Three times the number of mothers and babies will now be able to access high quality maternal and child health care.

Aspen's Bernie de Haldevang (Head of Political Risk Insurance) as well as Aspen Ambassadors from previous years made their way to celebrate the success. They were delighted to read this in a letter from him upon his return to London: "What you have achieved is a milestone for Africa, not just for healthcare, but in terms of project management. It seems to me, based on my own experience of setting something up in sub-Saharan Africa, that you have a blueprint for effective project management in Africa, which manages to deliver to those that need it and empower and create ownership among the locals along the lines of the principle of subsidiarity. Thank you for welcoming me and the other Aspen members. I was inspired by the visit and the very African nature of the day itself."

KatKids money has been specifically earmarked to cover the cost of several new midwives and maternity nurses for the new wards.



The new building and Medical Superintendent Dr. Rory cutting the celebratory cake with local dignitaries.

Names in our ISIS project updates have been changed to protect privacy.

ISIS UPDATES

Susan's Trip to Humla

Susan Biggs, ISIS' new Executive Officer, visited Nepal in March 2010 to get to know the Nepal team. She trekked the mountains in Humla and participated, alongside Pralhad, in consultative meetings with the community. The 2011-2013 Humla Plan is being put together and they will be imminently sending through submissions for continued support to our current donor partner. Apart from spending time with the Humli staff and villagers along the way, Susan's personal highlight of travelling to Humla was the hot water springs at Kermi. After a few days of trekking with only cold water washes along the way, Susan says, "The highlight of Kermi has to be the hot springs. We walked a couple of kilometres to get there and had to scramble over rocks but then I was able to sit in my own personal hot spring under the hot falls and was finally able to get clean all over! The view was snow capped mountains framed by trees – it was the best bath in the world!"



Susan and her 'room with a view' in Humla.

Bodhraj Pant

On July 30th, The ISIS Foundation recruited a new Humla Programme Manager - Bodhraj Pant. Bodhraj will spend at least half of his time in Humla and the rest in Kathmandu and will be key in setting up the ISIS Humla operations. They are incredibly excited about his appointment as he has a wealth of knowledge of Humla and masses of community development and project management experience in the region. Previous to coming on board with ISIS, Bodhraj was Programme Manager of RIDS-Nepal and prior to that spent 15 years with Technical Education, Vocational Training and Social Services of Nepal.



Pralhad, Bodhraj and Kimber, in Nepal earlier this year.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Key Financial Details for six months ended June 30, 2010

Income

- In Q1 and Q2 of 2010 a total of **\$14,519** was raised.

The majority of the funds raised have come from events as well as from the fundraising efforts of the ISIS Trek for Kids participants.

This represents a 48% decrease in funds raised when compared to the first half of 2009, in which \$30,024 was raised.

Expense

- The total expenses for this 6 month period were **\$63,788**.
- \$10,453 was sent to The ISIS Foundation, Nepal towards supporting the INGO for their work with the Child Welfare Board, building partnerships, monitoring project outcomes and for the discretionary fund.
- \$5,457 was provided to AMRIT Tibetan Medical Centre, to cover the costs of primary medicine for the people of Humla.
- \$28,660 was sent to the Himalayan Children's Society in Yalbang, Humla, towards the infrastructure and operational costs of the school.
- \$3,825 was sent to Hands In Outreach, in Kathmandu, towards support staff salaries and provision of health care (regular check-ups, dental care, treatment for injuries and disease, vaccinations, and surgery when required), on an as-needed basis, for children under HIO sponsorship.
- \$2,052 was given to the Himalayan Medical Foundation, in Kathmandu for their work in providing free health care to disadvantaged communities in and around Humla.
- \$13,341 raised from the sale and auction of African goods at the KatKids Christmas Market 2009 was given to Kiwoko Hospital in Uganda for maternity ward salaries.

Balance

- As of 30th June 2010, the balance of funding available in KatKids accounts was **\$302,863**, which is earmarked for ISIS projects going forward.

KATKIDS UPDATE

Our Wonderful Fundraisers!

When Sebastian Cronin celebrated his 8th birthday with several of his friends he asked everyone to make a contribution to KatKids instead of giving him a birthday present. Everyone took part and Sebastian collected \$300. The boys had a great day and they were happy knowing that the donation was going to such a good cause!

SOS - Volunteer Marketing Manager Wanted!

KatKids is looking for a creative individual who can fill the position of volunteer Marketing Manager. You will have a background in marketing and are capable of leading sub-committees and delegating work. You will have good interpersonal skills, enthusiasm, be proactive and a desire to make a difference to the lives of children in serious need.

If you have these skills and are keen to join a friendly and vibrant team please contact KatKids Chair, Kim Carter (kimcarter@logic.bm) or KatKids Volunteer Manager, Lorraine McConachie (lmconachie@northrock.bm) for more information. Thank You!

Membership—Renew/Join Now!!

Win an Aromatherapy Massage!!!

We are excited to be able to tell you that KatKids is now able to offer a new and much improved system for joining our club, renewals and donations. KatKids now has an on-line payment facility directly through the payee system of Bank of NT Butterfield, (please place your full name when you are prompted for an account number). In addition, you can join or renew your membership directly through our website, on our new online payment page at <https://donate.kathmandukidsclub.com/>.

As we embark on our membership drive please consider renewing or joining for the first time! If you would like more information you can check us out on our website, www.kathmandukidsclub.com. If you join or renew for a full year membership (\$360.00 – less than one dollar a day) or patron (\$1,000.00) before our KatKids Christmas Market, simply print out your receipt and bring it to the door on the evening of Nov 19, 2010 and you will be entered into an exclusive draw for renewals and new members only, which will be drawn on the night of the Christmas Market.

In addition, if you join between now and the Christmas Market, your membership will be active until December 31, 2011, giving you one and one half free months of membership.

If you have any questions at all, please contact our membership manager, Bonnie McGlynn, at info@kathmandukidsclub.com. We look forward to welcoming you into the club!

SAVE THE DATE KatKids Christmas Market 2010

Friday, November 19th from 5.30 p.m. to 11 p.m at Mount Saint Agnes School Auditorium.

The KatKids Christmas Market is only days away and is the perfect opportunity to make a start on your Christmas shopping, with all proceeds from the evening going directly and undiluted to The ISIS Foundation projects.

The Christmas Market will have plenty of stalls filled with arts, crafts and jewelry all from Nepal and Uganda. So for all the shopaholics out there, guilt free shopping awaits as it's all for a very worthwhile cause! Browse through our stalls filled with beautiful beaded jewelry, hand crafted clothing and alluring art work. Let the aroma and flavour of traditional Nepalese food inflame your senses, to be washed down with the happy hour drinks all night. Allow yourself to be entertained as top comedian Nandanja Bailey hosts the live and silent auction, which will feature a number of unique one-off items. There will also be plenty of live musical entertainment on the night, provided by the Bermuda School of Music, Bermuda Donquili and not forgetting The Knock-Ons, who are sure to rock the night out with your favorite tunes.

For all that's on offer, the \$10 cover charge makes this night an absolute must attend. Tickets can be bought online in advance on www.premiertickets.bm, while there will also be tickets on the door from 5.30 p.m. on the 19th for cash only. However, it is recommended to buy in advance to avoid disappointment as tickets are limited.

We hope to see you all there!

ISIS Trek for Kids Humla 2010

The trek team members arrived home triumphant on October 15, 2010 after a whirlwind two weeks of amazing trekking experiences and poignant visits to the children of ISIS Children Homes in Kathmandu and ISIS projects throughout Humla. The team's first group experience was to visit the offices of ISIS Foundation, Nepal in Kathmandu and to meet the children of ISIS Children's Homes. Prahlad Dakar, the ISIS Country Manager for Nepal introduced the team to the amazing and caring staff and managers of the ISIS Children's Homes and the team watched the children perform dances and shared a meal with all.

Jennie Lee O'Donnell, KatKids Vice Chair and ISIS Trek for Kids organizer says "Trekking in Humla was spectacular. As the team hiked from village to village villagers were busy preparing for the long cold winter ahead and Humla was in the height of harvest. Everywhere we saw Humli women hauling staggeringly heavy looking burdens of hay they had hand cut to dry and store for their animals' winter feed and threshing by hand millet and other grains on the flat roofs of their village homes. Along the trail we dodged large herds of goats being rushed by their goatherds down the trail all the way from Tibet through Humla toward southern Nepali towns and cities where the goats were all doomed to be sacrificed and feasted upon in the upcoming Hindu festival of Dashain. Village children, home from school because of the Dashain festival school vacation, rushed out to greet us with grins and cheerful cries of "Namaste!" The kids cried out "Photo, Photo!" asking to have their pictures taken and to be shown their likeness on the trekkers' camera view finders. The trekkers were shown smokeless stoves, ISIS clean community water faucets, an ISIS solar oven and a micro hydroelectric power unit. The trek team visited Yalbang School, a local school at 10,000 feet, supported by ISIS. Between the villages the trails were steep and rough so that not all the team members were able to complete the trek route. Tragically on the third day of the trek, trekker Calista Todd stumbled and broke her leg and required evacuation by helicopter. Today Calista sports 12 pins in her right leg above the ankle but is recovering nicely."

"Fundraising for the trek has gone wonderfully and the current total raised is **\$213,000** which has surpassed the original goal of \$200,000. "Despite some unplanned adventures, the ISIS Trek for Kids was an unparalleled success and it was a distinct honor to see ISIS in action in Humla."

