

Hello to Everyone in Mayo!

Hands of Hope is the overall name for three projects:

- ***Linh Son Children's Home***
- ***Books for Children***
- ***Tibetan Refugees***

My daughter Rosemarie and I decided on this name in June 2008, as we felt it was an apt description of what comes about when people help people through donations of money or items.

Under *Hands of Hope* we have these three projects:

Linh Son Children's Home is specifically to help the 22 orphans have food, clothing and an education. You have provided so much help and made their lives much more worthwhile. Books have entered their lives and that's a very big thing.

Books for Children pays for books for children in their own language as well as English. Generally English language books are donated. Many were last year. Rosemarie and I bought Nepali books for children in Kathmandu and transported them back to the orphans to add to the library that you helped set up. In India, we purchased books in Delhi (a different sponsor) and bussed them North to Dharamsala and donated them to a beggar school about an hour away from Dharamsala. The school is for children of beggars. These children help their families survive by begging, working in the garbage dump, and other little jobs. The school is a concrete square with a tarp for a roof. The



Girls writing letters to Mayo January 2008

Hindi books are for the children.

The ***Tibetan Refugees*** are individuals and families who have escaped from Tibet over the Nangla Pa pass near Mount Everest. Sponsors here support the refugees so children can attend school, elders or families can have housing and better food. We have more than forty people that are supported in this manner.

Thank you again for supporting the Linh Son Children's Home in 2007 - 2008. Will you be able to take this on again?

At Linh Son Children's Home the children are doing well and attending school. Presently there is relative peace in the area.

During June of this year life was difficult for everyone in Nepal. Since the Maoist party won the April election it had been struggling to form a government. There was a good deal of discussion, debate and divisiveness between the various parties. Domestically, Nepal was at a standstill. No one knew what

to expect. There was warring and there was a transport shut down. At one point, there was no diesel or gas for travel or cooking. Bus drivers were frantic as they couldn't get fuel. People were stranded and the bicycle rickshaw drivers were busier than ever. Additionally there were bus strikes and several day curfews with only a few hours off to quickly shop. A curfew in Nepal means no one can be out on the street. There



Kids reading in the library

is no food to buy and no way to get from point A to point B. Life was difficult for everyone.

Despite that, money sent to the Children's Home was received and used for additional food and also educational expenses for the orphans. When life was difficult because of the road strikes and curfews a local monastery brought some food to the orphans and they also sent me a message that everyone was well.

Since then the Prachanda government appears to be settling down to trying to govern Nepal with recent meetings in Delhi regarding the India-Nepal relationship which includes everything from India Nepal border disputes to the economy. Nepal is so very dependent on India as it must import so many items including fuel. At all times the border has a line up of fuel trucks and other transport vehicles hauling goods to Nepal. Sometimes the line up is kilometers and kilometers long.

More recently I received an email that the following work has been done at the Children's Home and at the school:

Upgrade and build kitchen area including a proper gray water drain.

Build two trash incinerators

Clean up river area behind school

Clean up trash and bricks near kitchen area

Life continues and work continues on. The wet and hot, ever so hot summer season is coming to an end and it will be easier to work, play and study. Of course, for us, plus 20 to plus 30 is still very warm, but when it's been plus 40 and rain, twenty looks pretty good.



Two Linh Son workers and night guard fascinated with the books, too.

Monsoons that caused severe flooding in southern Nepal and the Indian state of Bihar in August missed the Lumbini area where the Linh Son Children's Home is located. Not that they didn't have rain or high water.

In a few months it will be down to nine or eight above in the morning and everyone will be wearing as many layers as is possible. There will be little tiny fires made with charcoal, twigs and dry animal droppings that didn't make it to the fields, to warm chilled fingers and toes. People will be wearing hats, shawls and even socks!

The money that was raised by the Kids Helping Kids Club has inspired others. A young girl in Whitehorse decided not to accept presents for her birthday party this year. She asked her friends to donate money for the Linh Son Children's Home.

A person in the Department of Education will help with fund raising as well.

Financial:

Total Funds Raised for Nepal: September 2007- September 2008 \$2850.00

Total Spent to date: \$1650

Donators (both financial and donated items):

Kids Helping Kids Club
Terry Markley Dept Education
YTG

Michael McGinnis
Sister Angela Shea
Nancy Fowles
Salvation Army
Margaret Mundell
Ken & Liesel Briggs
Kids Helping Kids Club
Hal Ferris
JaneWilson/M Prawdzik
at daughter Megan's birthday party

Donated Items Included: Toys/
Clothes/ Lights /calculators

Money was spent on:
Winter Clothing /Blankets/
Building of Library/Window
Glass Electrical work / welding
Linh Son Library
Books/Food
Food/Education

Money sent this month is for: Food and Education expenses

Money to send in December/08 will be for food and education expenses.