



Sailung TriNetra Newsletter
January - July 2009

The start of yet another year. I must be getting older as the years seem to fly past. The first half of the year has been rather eventful in the life of Sailung TriNetra - So here's your catch-up on the latest developments ...

In Nepal...

Toast Bakery and Restaurant

Despite power cuts and water shortages particularly at the beginning of the year, Toast Bakery and Restaurant in Boudha has been doing well. At the start of the monsoon season - June, Nir decided to give the kitchen a complete make-over. A new washing area was built to better segregate the kitchen from the cleaning and preparation area. To keep the kitchen more clean and hygienic the floor was concreted and walls tiled. A new gas system has been installed to serve our new tandoori oven, as well as a bigger and better stove which Nir designed and helped build him self. After 3 weeks the doors opened again and very soon we will be serving the very best tandoori chicken in Boudha!

We now employ 10 people to work at Toast - baking bread and delicious pastries, dishwashing and waiting on customers. With Nir at the helm, it will

continue to go from strength to strength. We just hope that the power stays on and the raw food prices don't spiral completely out of control.

In the Villages

I visited the Centres in late June and July and was very happy with how things are going. The facilitators are working hard with the children to get them into the routines of the day such as washing hands and feet when they arrive, learning the welcoming and end of day song and learning how to read and write through creative play. The children appear to have a lot of fun singing along as they learn to tell the time or understand the different seasons and weather. The new uniforms, which we had tailored in the local market town, look great on the kids - they seem really proud to wear them. Inside the Centres the facilitators are covering the walls with the children's work and posters - It looks really inviting and colourful.

The local community is becoming more and more familiar with the Centres and now everyone understands the importance of sending the children along. The facilitators are also giving advice to the mothers about hygiene, nutrition etc. Local women now come once a week to each of the Centres to wash the children's uniforms and tidy up. It really feels like they OWN the centres - which was a major objective of the project.

There are a few things which we need to finish off such as the toilets and the water supply, and that will be the focus of the Committees and the villagers in the coming months.

We will also organise for the children to have a checkup by a doctor after the monsoon. At this time we will give them vaccinations, vitamin shots etc and a general health check.

In the villages, we now employ 8 people to work as facilitators/teachers and 4 people to help with the children, prepare lunch and keep the Centres clean. We have also employed two local men who will act as Mobilisers - these people will 'mobilising' the community to support the Centres, supporting the facilitators and ensuring the Centres are running smoothly.

This year we are providing an education for 123 students.

In Australia

In April we held our second Nepali Banquet, approximately 35 people came along to lunch at the Nepali Kitchen on Crown Street, Surry Hills. We were served a selection of traditional Nepali dishes and everyone left completely stuffed. We raised over \$1,500 - so a big thank you to everyone who came along. Watch this space for more fundraising activities in the coming months!

In the UK

A big thank you to the people who through monthly direct debits continue to support Sailung TriNetra. Your ongoing donations are invaluable. This year your money has been used to compensate one farmer for land we used to build one of the Centres on; pay for new uniforms for all of the children (a lot of them are wearing this uniform out of school as they have few other clothes and they seem to like wearing it!); pay a small amount to all of the villagers, approximately 300 people who helped build the Centres and pay for extra paint as we under estimated just how much we were going to need to paint all of the interiors and exteriors of the Centres.

So what now?

Now we need to raise money to complete the Centres, in terms of the toilets, water supply, fencing, walls and general landscaping (although not in the Western sense!) We would also like to provide funds for some outdoor sports equipment at each of the Centres. At each of the Centres we need to provide materials including pens, paper, art and craft supplies for the coming year.

We are now working with the local government schools in Salme and Karpani to improve the primary level provision. With this in mind, we will be supplying cushions, tables, white boards, flooring materials and additional school supplies like books and stationery. We will also be paying the salary of a teacher in Salme to teach Grade One, Two and Three.

Hence the need to keep the donations coming in and organise more fundraising activities. So the next event is the inaugural Sailung TriNetra Art Exhibition. Some of the children at the Centres have created their very best art work and writing, which is now for sale. You can view the art on our website www.sailungtrinetra.org . If you see something you like get in touch with me at clmartin69@hotmail.com or Claire@sailungtrinetra.org. I can then sort out payment and send out your original Nepalese art!

And finally, please get in touch if you have any ideas for any other fundraising events - I need some new ideas!!

Lots of love etc
Claire