

# Bellevue photographer Rob Rose returns from Nepal

March 31, 2009 – Joe Kennedy for Bellevue Business Journal

## Photo exhibit features places and faces of children



As an exchange student in Calcutta, India, in 1975, Rob Rose's passion for the people of the region began to unfold. The stark contrasts in rich and poor coupled with a social fabric so different than his own has had a profound influence on the direction his life's work has taken. Rose, owner of Bellevue's Brant Photographers and well known for his exclusive fine portraiture, has turned much of his attention since 1997 to volunteer work to benefit children's charities in Nepal.

His new photography exhibit, called "**Photography for Good – Portraits of Nepal and India,**" is a collection of photographs taken on his many trips to the region. Rose's exhibit features photographs of children with disabilities that his non-profit foundation, The Rose International Fund for Children, helps support. The show will open April 11, 2009, at Pogacha of Issaquah, 120 NW Gilman Blvd, where it will run until May 23. On May 24, it will move to Pogacha of Bellevue, 119 106th Ave NE, where it will run until July 11, 2009. One hundred percent of proceeds from sales at the exhibit will benefit the foundation.

Rose captures on film both the soft and hard edge of life in Nepal. The faces in his photos are warm, wonderful and friendly, but their lives are so hard. Rose tries to convey the beauty, the difficulty and the hope. The exhibit will also feature photographs taken by Rose's son, Carey, a photo-journalism major at Western Washington University, who served as his technical assistant on his most recent trip to Nepal.

The mission of The Rose International Fund for Children is to improve the lives of children in developing countries who have a disability, are orphaned, or are disadvantaged. The funds raised provide financial support to existing non-profit organizations in Nepal that share the foundation's mission. Through a partnership with the Bellevue Rotary and Rotary clubs in Nepal, Rose has been able to secure funding for programs that have included provision of hearing aids for 750 hearing impaired children in Kathmandu, Braille paper and slates for vision impaired children, and computers and kitchen equipment for schools for the hearing impaired. A three year project funded from a \$330,000 Rotary grant will launch April 30 to help Rose achieve his goal to "change the perception of people with disabilities and inspire them to believe that they can have useful and productive lives."

**About the Artist:** Robert Rose, of Bellevue, has been taking photographs since he was a child. He took over his father's Bellevue photography studio, Brant Photographers, in 1985. Open since 1949, Brant Photographers is one of the oldest existing businesses in Bellevue. Rose began traveling and photographing scenes of children in Nepal in 1997. He began as a volunteer photographer with the Nepalese Youth Opportunity Foundation, a non-profit agency that provides education, housing and medical care for children in Nepal. Mentored by its director Olga Murray, Rose established his own foundation, the Rose International Fund for Children, in 2006. Through his work and strategic partnerships with Rotary and other non-profit organizations, Rose has been instrumental in improving the lives of orphans and children with disabilities in Nepal. For more information, go to [www.TRIFC.org](http://www.TRIFC.org)