

The mission of The Rose International Fund for Children (TRIFC) is to improve the lives of children in developing countries who have a disability, are orphaned, or are disadvantaged. TRIFC raises funds through donations, grants, and hands-on fundraising activities. With the funds raised, we provide financial support to existing non-profit organizations in Nepal that share our goals and vision.

Our focus is on providing support in the areas of education, medical needs, nutrition, facilities, and environment improvements. We participate in project planning, coordination, and implementation. In addition, we raise awareness of the living conditions of these children by documenting and publishing our project work. TRIFC believes in sharing resources with those less fortunate.



trifc.org newsletter

TRIFC.org Supports Students With Blindness at Rimwa School

by Nirmala Gyawali

Just seeing the word "Rimwa" in the headline should remind TRIFC.org's Rob Rose of a scary but unforgettable road trip he made to this area last year! If you are a close friend of Rob, or The Rose International Fund for Children (TRIFC.org) you might have had an opportunity to see the video of that unbelievably awful road to Rimwa!



Nirmala Gyawali inspires teachers and students at Rimwa School.



The treacherous road to Rimwa!

TRIFC.org has been supporting the students with blindness at the Shree Janajyoti High School of Rimwa in western Nepal for the past two years. Rob and Carey Rose had planned to visit this school for children with blindness on their recent visit to Nepal but were unable to make the trip to Rimwa due to the long and continuous political strikes. After that, my own trip to the school had to be



Nirmala presenting a nice warm blanket to a child with blindness at the Rimwa School.

cancelled four times, due to the political turmoil in my country. Finally, we succeeded visiting Shree Janajyoti High School of Rimwa and handed over educational materials, kitchen supplies & stoves, clothes, and assistive devices as per need to support these students with blindness.

Every road-trip to this school has been a challenge for us and this time was no different. On this trip there was a bulldozer that blocked our way and scared me again! We had to wait for almost two hours to get past that bulldozer and considered ourselves fortunate to get through! Added to this was the fact that it was the rainy season in Nepal. You never know what to expect in the rainy season and exceptionally bad dirt roads like this one can turn to incredibly slick, slippery mud in minutes.

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Check out the videos on our new TRIFCdotOrg YouTube page at: www.youtube.com/trifcdotorg We have some great projects and programs that you can actually see, hear, and experience at this website. You can also do a great favor for TRIFC.org by visiting the site and then sending the link around to your friends, relatives, and business associates! This is an easy way to help us help more needy children in Nepal.

KIRO/Seattle Channel's Penny LeGate Helps TRIFC.org

Nepal. The name reverberates through the mind like an echo resonating between its stupendous peaks. I found myself jetting off to Nepal for the first time in February at the invitation of TRIFC.org founder, Rob Rose. The Seattle Channel was interested in a story about Rob's ambitious campaign in Nepal to uplift people with disabilities.

Before arriving, I envisioned beautiful people, colorful garb, Namaste greetings, exotic temples, wafting incense, mind-boggling mountains--a tiny nation that has much to offer the world. Nepal did not disappoint. It was all those things and more.

The Nepali people are truly special--welcoming and friendly. Their piety and daily pujas (prayers) were inspirational. I was mesmerized wandering through ancient cobblestone plazas, exploring



Cameraman – Len Davis
See: PangealityProductions.com



an array of ornate and spectacular temples, gates, and carvings. Various citizens would wander up and ask what I was doing in Nepal. Where was I from? Was it my first trip there? How did I like it? When I exclaimed how thrilled I was to be there, they inevitably broke into a wide grin, obviously pleased with that answer.

But there are deep and troubling problems in Nepal, many of which are in plain view: Polluted air and water; Congestion; Poverty; Government instability; Lack of services; Inequality in education. With Rob as my guide, I was able to understand some of these and other complicated problems by spending time with his many friends and contacts. I learned some shocking truths: that men can divorce their wives if they become disabled but women are not afforded the same rights; Women with disabilities face twice the discrimination of men; People with disabilities are rarely educated; They are shunned, ignored, feared; There are no handicapped access ramps, no chirping stoplights, no physical therapy clinics, very few wheelchairs, canes, prosthetics; It gets worse. Sometimes the parents of a disabled child will hide him or her in a back room, even feeding them there so the child cannot participate in family gatherings.

But in the midst of this tragic situation is TRIFC.org and some incredible individuals with disabilities who display tremendous courage and spunk. They are leading the way so a whole new generation will hopefully, one day, rightfully receive respect and opportunity: Jamuna, Nirmala, Namrata.

These are people who refuse to wear the stigma that society wants to drape over them. Each one knows the value of education and receiving a simple hand up. Each is tremendously talented, intelligent, and capable. And each has overcome not only the overwhelming challenges of living with a disability in Nepal (blindness, losing both legs) but has blossomed and thrived. They have come out of the darkness of stifling ignorance to share this simple message: all things are possible. Hopefully, with their leadership and TRIFC.org's support, the day will soon arrive when no child is left behind in a back room.

-Penny LeGate

Penny LeGate's story on TRIFC and the Disabilities Awareness Campaign is slated to air on the Seattle Channel in mid-September 2009. (Channel 21 on Comcast) The program is called "City Stream." The segment was shot and edited by Len Davis, a talented local photographer who was an exchange student in Kathmandu and speaks fluent Nepali. If you do not get this cable channel, the program will be streamed online. More info can be found online at : seattlechannel.org/citystream

Penny will also be sharing her Nepal trip experiences at our TRIFC.org Fall Dinner Event at Rich & Marilyn Herzberg's home on Hunt's Point Wednesday, September 2nd. Please put this date on your calendar!

*Sponsors needed for Deaf/Hearing Impaired Children
After many months of searching for just the right
sponsorship opportunity, I have found an organization
with fifteen deaf and hearing-impaired children needing
sponsorship. The school is named, "Purwanchal Deaf
School" in a village of Sunsari, Nepal. There are fifteen
children awaiting sponsorship to allow them to begin or
continue their education. This is a life that will forever
change for the better through your help. Yearly sponsorship
costs are only \$200 per child and include not only school
fees, but also room and board! Please consider helping a
child in need.*

-Rob Rose



Rotary Disability Awareness Program Launches

On Monday, June 29th, 2009 the Rotary USA/Nepal Disability Awareness Campaign was officially launched in Kathmandu, Nepal at a ceremony attended by over ninety major media representatives and Rotary dignitaries. TRIFC.org is a project partner in this effort to help change the negative perception attached to having a disability in this country and TRIFC.org board member Rabendra Pandey coordinated and MC'd the 'kick-off' event. Our agency partner, J. Walter Thompson, introduced and played the three TV public-service announcements produced for this campaign as well as four radio spots. Project spokesman, Mr. Rajesh Hamal was in attendance and talked about the importance of treating 'People with Disability' with kindness, compassion, and dignity. Mr. Hamal is considered to be the 'Brad Pitt' of Nepal and is known



by virtually everyone in the country through his work in the Nepal movie industry. In his nineteen years of acting he has made well over 200 films! He is donating his time and talents to our efforts to change the world for people with disabilities in Nepal and we are grateful for his assistance.

-Rob Rose



L to R: Rob Rose (TRIFC.org), Rajesh Hamal (Nepali movie superstar & awareness project spokesperson), and RR Pandey (TRIFC.org).

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My Uncle, Jhabindra Gyawali and my mother, Chunakumari Gyawali had helped us bring all of the donated items from Kathmandu to Taksar. From Taksar there is only one four-wheeler jeep that can make it all through to Rimwa- our final destination. Sometimes even this vehicle cannot make it through due to slippery roads, mechanical problems or any number of other reasons. So keeping these circumstances in mind we also brought along five additional volunteers from Taksar, who could help to carry the heavy Braille papers and other materials just in case we couldn't make it through by jeep!

The time that I was able to spend with all the students with blindness at the school was very stimulating. I was able to share so much useful information with them. They have so little, they expect so little and are so appreciative for what we brought them. In case you don't know, I am also a woman with blindness and it was very satisfying to see all those hardworking, energetic, enthusiastic, future pillars of Nepali society. They are inspired by my own life-story...it gives them hope and that in turn inspires me to continue my efforts. I would like to thank all of you who have put forth your best efforts to make a difference in the lives of all these visually-challenged students in this remote part of Nepal. ♥

Editor's Note- Ms. Gyawali is currently employed by the International Office of Migration in Jhapa, Nepal as a cultural trainer for Bhutanese Refugees migrating to the United States. She, her sister Sita (also a woman with blindness) and Uncle Jhabindra are dedicated volunteers for TRIFC.org and also advocates for the 'differently-abled' in Nepal.



Pogacha Artist's Opening AND Upcoming Events

On June 14th, we had an exciting (and tasty) opening party to showcase the photographs and Nepal trip-experiences of Rob & Carey Rose at Pogacha Restaurant in Bellevue. About one-hundred interested visitors, friends, and family attended.

Remember to put Wednesday, September 2nd on your calendar. We have our annual fundraising dinner at the spectacular Hunt's Point home of Rich and Marilyn Herzberg.

We are extremely grateful for our talented and dedicated partners:

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Bellevue College Team Experiences Nepal

This March a team of six students and two advisors from Bellevue College (formerly Bellevue Community College) made a trip to Nepal as part of a Rotary/Rotaract Disability Awareness program and one-year internship. TRIFC.org is proud to have provided partial sponsorship of this trip. To the right are some impressions of Nepal from three of the participants:



Preparing to fly 'prayer-flags'

Zafar Haq

This trip helped me to broaden my outlook about the world both inside and outside the classroom. It granted me the opportunity to become a Global Citizen. For all of the natural wonders and architecture and shopping for exotic items that different nations have to offer, when you get down to it, *people* are the most interesting and wonderful product a country (or region) produces. Disability Awareness is important to me because I have found so much inspiration and talent among people who have shown me what is truly important in life. I plan to share this story with other students and faculty members on campus through awareness events.

Katie Mckeown

The trip that I went on meant a lot to me. It made me feel good that I was able to help a person who is differently-abled by putting a smile on their face or just being there with them. This trip was very special to me and I will cherish the memories in my heart forever. My perception of third-world countries was very different before I went to Nepal. I originally thought it was going to be a very hard trip for me, but I was wrong. Nepal is a very beautiful country. Disability awareness is very important to me because I have a disability but it does not show. I learned that it is all right to be different. I have learned to accept myself for who I am. Disability awareness is also important because I want to help people become stronger individuals and to stick up for themselves and show them that they are just like everyone else, only differently-abled!

Nell McInerney

The trip really expanded my appreciation for things I have & receive in life. For example, I have fresh food & water every day. I don't have to boil or cook things to make sure it's safe or to get it heated. I also made fast friends and strong bonds with everyone I met on this journey. I am so grateful to have had this experience and proud to have made a positive impact on Nepal. Disability awareness to me means to be aware of people who are 'differently-abled' then you are. This is important to me because I have lived my whole life being differently-abled. I and those around me know what it has been like to be made fun-of, picked-on, and misunderstood. I don't want others to go through that. I want to help people understand the world through 'differently-abled' minds. That is part of what the Rotaract club is for me. I'm helping people make a difference in people's lives. 🍀

Rotaract is an international organization for young men and women between the age group of 18-30 who believe they can make a difference. Rotaract club provides an opportunity to young adults to enhance the knowledge and skills that will assist them in personal development, to address the physical and social needs of their communities and to promote better relations between all people worldwide through a framework of friendship and service.



Members of the "Wheelchair Club"



Zafar Haq shares his artistic skills