

The mission of The Rose International Fund for Children (TRIFC) is to improve the lives of children in Nepal who have a disability, are orphaned, or are disadvantaged. We raise funds through donations, grants, and 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, & environment improvements. We participate in project planning, coordination, and implementation. We raise awareness of the living conditions of these children by documenting and publishing our project work. We believe in sharing resources with those less fortunate.



trifc.org newsletter

note:

We had a phenomenal trip to Nepal this past March and early April. There were exciting meetings, events unexpected, and time spent with our Nepali friends young and old. The need and the joy of our young friends with disability continue to drive and shape our organization as we move forward. Where else could we have such a rewarding experience with such deserving beneficiaries? Thank you to all of our supporters and friends.

-Rob Rose
Executive Director



Backpacks for the Blind /Visually-Impaired A Great Success!

by Gina Rose

Nineteen backpacks were distributed to Blind/Visually-Impaired children in Nepal this past spring via donations to TRIFC.org. The backpacks contain a Braille slate and stylus, a Braille watch, Braille ruler, math kit, folding white cane, and abacus – everything needed to be successful in school! Contact us if you would like to sponsor a backpack as we will be continuing this high-impact program. ♥

Flying Fingers

by Robert Rose

The door opens, a red ribbon is cut, and a rush of people holding white canes enter. Anxious arms reach out to feel for the Braille books on the table. There is a hush in the room as words in Nepali language shift over to quietly spoken English in tandem with fingers moving swiftly across the raised dots that make up Braille words, sentences and paragraphs.

That was the scene on March 26th, 2010, at the offices of the Nepal Association For The Welfare of the Blind, or NAWB. In cooperation with NAWB, TRIFC.org, and the Rotary/Rotaract Club of Kathmandu we officially inaugurated the National Braille Book Library in Kathmandu, Nepal!



My longtime friends and inspirations, Ms. Nirjala Gyawali and Ms. Sita Gyawali, both women with blindness, were present to help us celebrate the start of what we hope will be a very long, fruitful relationship: bringing English and Nepali Braille storybooks and novels to many readers with fingers at the ready, just waiting to learn, envision, and dream.



printed or available in either Nepali Braille or English Braille. Blind/Visually-Impaired (BVI) students begin learning English Braille in 5th grade.

There was no official Braille library in the entire country until now! Over 1,000 boxes of Braille books have been shipped (for free!) to the new library in Nepal. ♥

Virtually all of the Braille books here in Nepal are textbooks. There are few storybooks and novels

Communication Reinvented

by *Robert Rose*

In early April on a sunny after-noon we took a group of thirteen of our TRIFC.org sponsored kids with deafness to the Kathmandu zoo. Along for the ride was our project coordinator and sign-language interpreter Balram Dongol. We were also fortunate to have along

nine Rotaractors, five from the Dillibazar Club and four from the Patan Rotaract Club to help keep track of everyone.

Many of these children have been sponsored by TRIFC.org since our formal inception in 2006 and all were so excited to see me and our volunteers!

We gathered all of the children in a hired bus and headed to the zoo, about a 20 minute drive...if we were lucky with the traffic.

After arriving at the zoo, we took a quick head-count and determined that we had a total of forty, including the Rotaract volunteers and a few parents and siblings. Everyone introduced themselves (with sign-language interpretation). We partnered up one or two kids with each Rotaractor and began our journey through the zoo. I was amazed at how quickly friendships were forged as we went from enclosure to enclosure and how swiftly communication developed through ways other than speaking.

Having the Rotaractors spending one-on-one time with these kids was priceless. Our sponsored kids loved the attention and I could tell that they enjoyed the challenge of communicating with someone who knew little or no sign-language. The kids were gentle, patient, and facially very expressive as they worked to explain whatever point they wanted to make and the Rotaractors were equally patient and kind.

We decided to order noodle soup for everyone at the little café in the zoo. I think the café staff may have been a bit overwhelmed by the order for forty bowls of soup and forty juice boxes, but they went right to work on it! As the soup arrived and we began to partake, I noted that whether you can hear or not, ramen-type noodle soup is meant to be slurped. The girls at my table were very cute, trying to be quiet and polite, but there's no way to do that with noodle soup. You know, after you are with these kids for a while you stop noticing that they have any disability; you just play with them like you would play with any kid.

It was a very special afternoon for all of us. I had rave reviews from all of the Rotaractors as we dropped our young friends off to be picked up by their families. They hadn't ever had this kind of volunteer opportunity before and they were totally energized by it.

Communication isn't all that difficult if you work together and care about the other person. In this particular case, actions were more important and powerful than words. Kindness, patience, and understanding provide the medium for the feelings to be shared between



Defying Description

Disabled Newlife Center Children's Trip To Chitwan National Park – Part One

by Robert Rose

After last year's Nepal trip we set a goal to take all 28 kids from DNC (Disabled Newlife Center) in Kathmandu to Chitwan National Park. This is the 'jewel' of Nepal's wildlife parks and we wanted to give the children the opportunity to visit the jungle and experience what they had only read about in their schoolbooks. It finally came together at the



very end of this year's stay in Nepal. The morning after the kids' final school exams were over, our busses picked them up at their residential center. We left our home in RR & Chandra's car and met them all at a prearranged location. I boarded one of the busses and we were off!

The DNC children (and all of the volunteers for that matter) were so excited with anticipation of this trip! This is a trip that the kids would dare not even dream of; it would be so unlikely to ever happen.

The bus ride to Chitwan is about a five hour ride, if there are not many traffic problems along the way. We had been on this same road a week earlier to visit a city called Pokhara and a five hour trip became eight hours due to slowdowns, blockages, a hailstorm, and miscellaneous traffic-related mishaps. But this is the only way to get to Chitwan, so you're subject to "traffic-karma." There are a lot of up and down hills and invariably there are various beat-up trucks stuck on the side of the road, in the road, or that have run off the road!

The closer we got to Chitwan the hotter it became. We had all of the windows open and the air blowing in was like a giant hair-dryer. Fortunately, we had lots of water and fresh fruit for the kids (and me!). I later checked the temperature for those days we spent in Chitwan and it was around 110°F. I don't think I've ever experienced that kind of heat!

We left the main road and barreled along a dirt road past small homes and villages, dusting everyone and everything in our path. Adults and children stood by the side of the road to watch us pass by and many waved enthusiastically. Finally, we came to the end of the road. We got out of the busses and read the signboard- 'Welcome to Island Jungle Resort'. 🍀



For part two of the story—an elephant safari and more—please visit our blog at: www.trifc.blogspot.com

events:

Save The Dates!

07/18/2010
We are having a Nepali Dinner 'Fun-Raiser' at Everest Kitchen in Seattle on Sunday evening, July 18th at 7pm - only \$25 per dinner!

09/11/2010
We'll have our annual dinner fundraiser on Saturday, September 11th at Blakely Hall in the Issaquah Highlands...more details to come.

Visiting TRIFC.org Sponsored Children at the Purwanchal School for the Deaf

by Gina Rose

Rob and I took a short flight to the border city of Biratnagar in southeastern Nepal and met up with our good friend with blindness, Nirmala Gyawali (sister of Sita). After visiting some Rotary projects in the area we traveled to Purwanchal Deaf School in Dharan. Through the kindness of donors to TRIFC.org, 15 deaf or hearing-impaired students are being sponsored for their tuition and school fees. We visited with the children and provided all 55 of them with beanie-babies, chocolates, pencils, pens, toothbrushes, and toothpaste that had been donated by TRIFC.org supporters. They were so excited to welcome us and presented us with traditional and western-style choreographed dances.

You wonder how they could keep time despite not hearing the music. Well, isn't that what dancing is about, keeping time with the beat of your very own, different drum? It was wonderful to see the joy in their expressive eyes as they clearly were happy to dance for us! I would wish that someday each of the sponsors could visit with their student so they can see first hand how they have provided the opportunity for these kids to live and study in such a loving and nurturing environment.



We had box-lunches brought in for all of the children, toured the classrooms and hostel, met with Principal Renuka and played games with all of these wonderful children. Seeing the children in person really brings home the need and our ability to have a meaningful impact through TRIFC.org.



What to do?

by Sita Gyawali

Teacher of the Blind & TRIFC.org volunteer



We were heading out to visit the Janajyoti Higher Secondary School in Rimwa, Nepal where 13 visually impaired students were studying together with sighted students. Rob, myself, my sister Nirmala, and Jayanti Bhatta from the Rotary Disability Awareness program were planning to go.

We arrived at the Bhairahawa airport after our 30-minute flight from Kathmandu and then drove more than five hours to my family's home in Gulmi in a jeep that we had hired for three days. As Rob had stomach problems, he barely ate a single bite of anything though he drank several bottles of water during the drive.

The next morning we started out for our trip to the school in Rimwa. After two and a half hours driving on the very bumpy, jumpy road, we were able to reach the school. All the school staff and Blind and Visually-Impaired (BVI) students were waiting for our arrival with great anticipation.

As it was my first visit to the school, everything was unfamiliar to me. First, we introduced ourselves and the children introduced themselves. After introductions, everybody gathered in the main schoolroom, which is both bedroom and resource room due to the lack of space for the BVI students. Out of 13 students, five were first or second in their class, out of many students, sighted or not! We asked each child if they had any other activities or talents they would like to share and many of them could play a musical instrument and they all enjoyed singing for us.



After a short discussion with the resource teacher for the BVI students, we felt that there is so much need in every sector of this program for the blind students. With our limited funds from TRIFC.org, we were able to provide money for Braille paper for a year as well as a backpack from our *Backpacks for the Blind/Visually-Impaired* program. The principal and students gave us tika (a red dot on forehead as farewell and good fortune) and mala (a flower marigold necklace) as is the custom in Nepali culture. Then came the time for us to say goodbye and we left for home.

The situation at those schools for the blind/visually-impaired drew my mind back and forth with worry and concern for the children's future.

