

2009 Highlights & Achievements

- **Pen-Friend Project**

During 2009, TRIFC.org provided a cultural exchange experience to two local high schools involving 92 students. These two schools- Forest Ridge in Bellevue and Meadowdale in Edmonds engaged in an integrated program with two partner schools in Nepal as students shared letters, photographs, and life-experiences. Students in both countries learned about language, customs, and economic conditions in their pen-friend's country thus developing understanding, empathy, and tolerance through this exchange.
- **Scholarship Program**

TRIFC provided educational opportunities to 15 students with disabilities through personalized scholarships- thirteen deaf/hearing-impaired children and two children with blindness. Families within the greater Seattle area sponsored these children in Nepal, paying their school fees, housing and educational support. This year we are expanding this program to include an additional 15 deaf/hearing-impaired children at a school for the deaf in Bhairawa, Nepal.
- **Support for DNC (Disabled Newlife Centre), Kathmandu**

We continue to provide funding to this residential center for 30 children with varying disabilities. Our funding provides orthopedic surgeries, educational support, facilities support, physical therapy and nutritional support. We are also currently supporting one young paraplegic woman for her college fees.
- **Kavre School for the Deaf**

Partnering with the Rotary Club of Kavre-Banepa we have provided funding for teacher support, academic support and facilities support. Our funding purchased two computer stations for the school (their first computers) and extensive kitchen equipment as all of the children are given lunch each day. Prior to our support, they were cooking for 44 children on a one-burner kerosene pump stove.
- **Hearing Aid Partnership with Rotary**

In partnership with Rotary, Rotaract and the Starkey Hearing-Aid Foundation TRIFC was a lead NGO to provide the coordination and program management oversight so that 758 people in November, 2008 received hearing aids.

- **TRIFC Support of Bellevue College's Trip to Nepal**
Over spring break a group of students from Bellevue College's Rotaract Club traveled to Nepal to join with their partner club- Patan Rotaract Club to work on a 'hands-on' projects to help children with developmental disabilities. TRIFC provided financial support, organizational support prior to the team's departure and logistical support while the team was in Nepal. Two of the BC team members have developmental disabilities so this was truly a ground-breaking event for them as well as for the children and young adults they were helping in Nepal. This was a very empowering experience for this entire group.

- **Disability Awareness Partnership with Rotary International**
As a project-partner in the Rotary USA/Nepal Disability Awareness Campaign, TRIFC is providing administrative oversight and expertise to create an attitudinal change in the perception of people with disabilities in new initiative covering up to 15% of the country over seven districts. The project began with research, including focus groups, to identify cultural practices and barriers people with disabilities currently faced in Nepal. Based on this research, a marketing strategy was launched with the assistance of J. Walter Thompson agency, to attack negative messages that alienated and oppress those with disabilities. Strategies include village based plays where people act out current practices and show alternative messages, media and loudspeaker messaging and a leading Nepali actor has agreed to be the spokesperson for this 3-year initiative.