

Support a child's education

A good education is an excellent way to escape poverty. We have two child sponsorship programmes that encourage children to attend and do well at school.

The first programme is suited to children whose families need help in paying school fees, buy books and uniforms, often they live in the Kathmandu valley. The second scheme is for very poor families, and allows the children to attend school, have meals provided and all their physical needs met. This is generally suited for children in villages in the rural Terai.

Both programmes are designed to allow the child to complete 10 years at school.

Option 1 €21 per month

Option 2 €35 per month

Thank you. Your contribution will help transform a young life in Nepal.



Pupils from Dhanauji School receive their donated school uniform, bag and books, April 2016

If you would like the chance to journey with families such as these, contact Vera by email at info@nlt.ie or by telephone on 086 2584367

NLT is a signatory to the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages. We welcome feedback about our communications. Contact us at info@nlt.ie



**CODE OF CONDUCT ON
IMAGES & MESSAGES**

Nepal Leprosy Trust Ireland would like to thank all those who support our work. We are deeply grateful to all the donors, churches and individuals who strengthen our mission in a variety of ways. If you would like more information on any items covered in this edition please contact us at, email: info@nlt.ie Tel: 086 2584367. Postal address: 83 Ballygoran View, Celbridge, Co Kildare. Irish Registered Charity No 14810



Nepal Leprosy Trust News

Beating leprosy, breaking stigma and building lives

Summer Newsletter 2016. Issue 16



Kalpana, with her 4 children, March 2016. Main image: Mark Morrison

Hardship and hope beyond imagining

Coping with the stigma and symptoms of leprosy can be a huge challenge in Nepal. Raising 4 children as well, 1 of whom has cerebral palsy, is an unimaginable trial. But thanks to the support of an Irish couple through Nepal Leprosy Trust (NLT) Ireland, along with NLT UK and NLT Nepal, Kalpana, whose name is Hindi for 'imagination', now has hope for the future.

Kalpana married at 15 and lived happily with her husband until her parents discovered he was low-caste. She stood by him and lost her parents' support. On discovering white patches on her skin, Kalpana started attending Lalgadh Leprosy Services Centre for leprosy treatment. The stigma around the disease prompted her to keep it secret. Her husband found out, however. For 2 weeks he forbade her from eating with, or touching, her

children.

'I love and care for them,' she says. 'I told him I would not stop to touch my children and if he beat me, so be it.' Her husband left her when she was 3 months' pregnant without income or home, despite his own diagnosis of leprosy.

Heartbroken and alone, Kalpana faces the double stigma of leprosy and family disability. She now stays at LLSC for treatment and rehabilitation. Hearing her story the couple from Ireland, one of whom visits Nepal regularly, have now bought land for Kalpana to build a house.

NLT UK and NLT Nepal are supporting her in her daily living and helping her to set up a small business, as well as funding her children's school fees so that she and her family can not only survive but thrive.

Educating ONE child
can help lift a
WHOLE FAMILY
out of poverty.

YOU
can be part of that help
with a one-off donation
or sponsorship of a
child from one of
these 2 families.



Bimala with her two children, Janaki on left and Krish on right.

A widow's dream

Education is a right we take for granted in Ireland. But for Bimala Budathoki it's a dream. When her husband died five months ago, she was left homeless and without income. She and her children, ten year old Janaki and eight year-

old Krish, now stay in the room of a relative in Tulasi village in south-eastern Nepal. Bimala knows that education is the key to a better life and dreams of finding outside support so that her children can continue their education.

Sole supporter



Usha with her youngest son.

After seventeen years of marriage, Usha Balam's husband left her to remarry. She opened a snack shop in her village near Lalgadh in south-eastern Nepal, to support their 4 children. Her alcoholic husband returned and beat her if she didn't give him money. Now sick, Usha is living with her mother who struggles with mental health issues and is unable to work. Poverty has forced Usha's 13 year-old son out of school and into menial hotel work. Usha is desperate to send her youngest son to nursery and then school. 'My younger son needs education because my elder son is already spoiled due to my problems.'

If you would like to help Bimala or Usha with a donation or child sponsorship through Nepal Leprosy Trust Ireland, contact us at info@nlt.ie. See more www.nlt.ie

The difference
one donor
relationship can
make in a
child's life



Prakriti, on the right, as she is today and on the left when we first supported her.

Our friend Prakriti

In the late 1950s we were amazed to learn that leprosy was still prevalent in Nepal. Since then we have raised funds to fight the disease and, in 2001, had the opportunity to visit Nepal. We learned about the stigma faced even by the children of those affected by leprosy and decided to sponsor a child. With a very modest donation every month, we have supported Prakriti through school.

Over the years we received her school reports and personal letters which we value highly. It's wonderful to know that her high school education is now finishing and she is a mature girl with greater opportunities than

her parents could ever have had.

Last year we were deeply concerned when the earthquakes hit Nepal and her school, like many others, was damaged. We prayed hard for her. It took some time to discover that she is well.

We are now sending her a photograph album of all of her photos since she was a child, an unusual gift.

A little help can bring big rewards, for the donors as much as the recipients, and it has been a very great privilege to help with Prakriti's education.

By Ray and Breda Moore.

Bible quotation: 'The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor'. Proverbs 22 verse 9, New International Version (NIV)