

आमा  
**Ama Foundation**  
Home & Education for Underprivileged Children

Annual Report 2012





The children light lamps to spell Ama at Laxmi Puja

The Ama Foundation is a grassroots US-based non-profit organization dedicated to providing the most underprivileged children of Nepal with a loving home, education and opportunities to live healthy and secure lives within their community. The Ama Foundation is a California 501(c)(3) non profit corporation, Federal Tax ID #36-4478880.

Dear Friends,

The Ama Foundation has started 2013 with a flurry as Board Members, volunteers, sponsors, donors and more have proven eager to get started. This momentum can be traced back to the successful year we had in 2012. Early last year, we kicked off an organization-wide initiative to sell raffle tickets as a fund-raiser. The lucky winner received a round-trip ticket to Nepal. By May, we were taking part in the festivities at the annual Himalaya Fair. We continued that momentum deep into summer and fall with Board Member events. As throughout 2012, we ended the year continuously thanking our supporters of the organization.

Now that we are in 2013, the Year of the Black Snake, we are excited about the opportunity to provide more children with much needed care, support and love. In fact, the number of children that call Ama Ghar home has increased and will continue to grow. However, with growth come cost increases in education, food and shelter. That is why we are continually looking at new ways of raising awareness and funds to keep this great organization thriving.

We will be placing our "Support a Child" program at the forefront of our universal messaging with the aim of getting a supporter for every child at Ama Ghar. If we accomplish this goal then much of our fundraising will be met for the year!

There are many of us who work, donate, and contribute to the welfare of the children at Ama Ghar. For that, we are forever grateful. Unfortunately, the demand for support keeps increasing and with that will be the idea of turning our efforts towards corporations and other organizations that will make all this work possible and our organization stronger.

This 2013-Year of the Black Snake is meant for steady progress and attention to detail. Focus and discipline will be necessary for us to achieve what we set out to create. We are certainly looking forward to achieving much this year. And we wish all our supporters, donors and volunteers much of the same.



Rob Sanders  
Ama Foundation Board Chairman



**Photo : Rob with Mangel, Akshaya, Laxmi and Samjana**

Namaste,

2012 brought us into our second decade and what I like to call Phase II. The next five years will be years of change, as the staff and I watch many go out into the world with mixed emotions. We will be supportive bystanders as the children struggle to succeed, find their place in the world and re-integrate with any family they might have.

The process of the children going out will also help us to understand what we have done well in the past and where we must make changes in the future to assist these children to be self-sufficient in a society that is still very much based on an extended family. We also need to account for the changing world, which certainly includes Nepal as their societal and technological changes are very rapid.

This past year, four were able to go into higher education, Manisha for a Bachelors in Hotel Management, Subash into Architecture and Sajan Nepali and Biratjan into Electrical Engineering. Biratjan is studying in Western Nepal so has left the Ama Ghar residency program. This coming year seven will be completing Class 12 and will need to choose their direction. So the process of departure continues in ever larger numbers.

As we plan departures we will also be welcoming arrivals to keep us on our Mission. In 2012 we took in five new children: 2 boys, ages 11 and 7 and 3 girls ages 13, 6 and 3 ½”.

The older ones earned the right to be on Facebook and are doing a lot of on-line learning. We are hoping to increase our computer lab to increase these learning possibilities.

With the painting of our fence and many new garden plots we are mostly complete in our exterior improvements. We are enjoying our fresh vegetables and are looking longingly at our growing fruit trees.

As always, our generous donors, volunteers and Child Supporters are the ones that make Ama Ghar possible. Thank you all for your commitment to Ama Ghar. The staff and I are in the enviable position of the daily delight of helping a child grow and mature into a “quality” adult. The joys far outweigh the tribulations, even with so many teenagers! I hope you are following us on the website to share in the JOY!

Bonnie Ellison  
Managing Director , Ama Ghar



Photo : Bonnie with Uma, Laxmi, Santosh and Rama

# Programs

## New Children

We welcomed five new children to Ama Ghar in 2012, including three girls – Pushpa, age 13, Bina, age 6 and Rekha, age 3-1/2 – and two boys – Pawan, age 11 and Bhupendra, age 7.

## Education and Children's Advancement

Eight of our children took the SLC (National Academic Qualifying Exam) in 2012. This is a test in Nepal that determines whether or not a child is accepted into higher education, which starts at Grade 11. Six of the Ama Ghar children who took the test finished in First Division, one in Second Division, and one failed. Four children will take the SLC in 2013.

Our largest expense in 2012 and for several years to come will be the cost of higher education for the older children. Subash, Sajan N. and Biratjan joined CETVT (an engineering program) for three year courses; Biratjan is studying in Daharan and has left the residence program. Manisha is enrolled for a Bachelor's in Hotel Management. Ashok, Sajan S, Kalpana P, Kalpana T, Pabitra and Ganga enrolled in class 12 in various colleges in Kathmandu; Menuka, Pratima, Srijana and Krishna are enrolled in Class 11.

Akshaya and Rama are receiving vocational training in Animation. Akshaya, Biratjan and Subash learned welding and Sajan N had some practical training in basic electrical work.

## Health Care and Counseling

All children received their annual medical, dental and eye check-ups, and the overall health of the children is good.

Pushpa and Pawan (brother and sister) suffer from a genetic bone disease that has no cure. We will manage their pain and provide future surgery if needed. Bhupendra came to Ama Ghar very malnourished and is taking various vitamins to help him catch up.

As the children demonstrate behavior changes, they receive additional counseling to help them in their decisions. A few of the children are regularly monitored for depression as they have difficulties in school and with family members.

**Photos:** Bhupendra lighting a candle at the Garden of Dreams; Manisha during her internship at the Summit Hotel in Kathmandu.



### **Events**

During the year we celebrated all of the major Nepali holidays, went to movies, plays, and visited hospitals with gifts. In addition, our children were invited to participate in a 6- week drama workshop with the School of Performing Arts Kathmandu and a special art day sponsored by CCAS (Community Childrens' Art School) in Kathmandu. Five of the paintings completed by Ama Ghar children that day will be entered in the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Kanagawa Biennial World Childrens' Art Exhibition in Japan .

### **Scholarship Program**

We continued our program of scholarships for children in our village whose parents can't afford to send them to school. In 2012, we helped children to attend three local schools by donating book bags, stationery, and material for uniforms.

### **Exterior Improvements to the Ama Ghar Home**

Many new garden plots have been prepared and more fruit trees planted. The older boys made a jungle gym and four swings for the playground. They also made permanent small goal posts for the soccer field. We made a new seating area next to the Stupa and a sandbox for the little ones. And we received a wonderful gift from our supporters – a new table tennis table!

### **Administration**

The annual audit was completed, and we finalized our Mid Term Evaluation with the Social Welfare Council. We were given very high marks on the management of Ama Ghar and the care of the children. In addition, SWC has asked for a more defined and specific future strategy document, which is in progress. Staffing remained consistent this year – we have enjoyed the excellent work of our loving Nepali aunties and uncles, with no change in personnel.

**Photo: Rupa on the jungle gym made by her brothers.**



## **Ama Ghar Board in Nepal**

A “working committee” structure has been adopted in order to involve all Board Members. Plans have been made to increase the number of Board members to increase productivity. The board will be more involved in the key areas of Ama Ghar such as Management, Education/Transition Planning, Fund Raising and Child Selection. All committees were ratified and their responsibilities have been clarified. The Child Selection Committee was especially busy this year. Workshops were held to address policy review and New Board Members.

## **Financial**

The overall spending of the program in 2012 was 10,434,075 Rupees (approximately \$125,711). In addition to the operating account funded by Ama Foundation (see Ama Foundation financials), we received funding from the Bo M Karlsson Scholarships, earned interest, and received donations in Nepal from local and international visitors. Administration costs accounted for only 5.6% of our budget. We have a strong group of supporters and donors in Geneva, Switzerland who have set up an Ama Ghar website in French, which will increase our exposure in Europe.

## **Future Goals**

In 2012, we got settled into our new environment and community. We are now planning for future changes, improving our organization, and providing opportunities for all the children, from our new little ones to our older transitional students. 2013 will be similar, with continued emphasis on research and planning for vocational and technical training and job placement. Re-integration programs for those leaving Ama Ghar will be a top priority.



**Photos: Top – A group of the older girls at a performance by the Kathmandu Chorale Bottom - Srijana and Pabita with Community Scholarship recipients**

## Notes from the Ama Ghar Guest Book

“There is so much to love and respect here that it is difficult to describe. Even far away in Geneva, we feel like we’re at home again! Wish you all the best, guys.”

Julien Brother, Geneva, Switzerland

“Thank you for the wonderful reception and your warm and inviting hospitality. You have truly created an amazing home and opportunity for the children of Nepal – you are an inspiration! We look forward to returning and seeing the children grow and progress.”

Federico, Colorado, USA

“I applaud the work you do here for these precious Nepalese children and know they will blossom in the love and care they receive here. I look forward to bringing more “chocolate” and socks next time.”

Kaye Johnson, Florida, USA

“It was a wonderful experience visiting Ama Ghar. I saw a commitment in all the family members, including Mothers, Aunties, Uncles. They are really doing something big for humanity. The kids we met were happy like any other kids in the world. Keep up the good work!”

Zahid Salban Jaelan, WWF Pakistan

**Photos: Above – Vance, a visitor from Omprakash, with Tan Bahadur, Anita and children. Bottom – Sarah, a frequent visitor from Switzerland, with Bhupendra**





Dear Family & Friends,

Namaste!

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you all for your love and support to our children at AmaGhar. As of August 2012, our program has completed 11 years of service of taking care of some of the most underprivileged children of Nepal! We started with 12 children in a rental building and we have now grown to 50 children and built our own building two years ago where our children will always have keys to come home.

You all have chosen many creative ways to give to our program. I am particularly humbled by a fine young boy, Anish Dhakal of California, who chose to invite his family and friends to give to AmaGhar children a meaningful financial gift instead of receiving gifts on his 6th birthday. Sandeep Giri, a long time supporter and contributor just completed the Napa Valley Marathon for our cause and raised close to \$5,000!

We were very fortunate to have the leadership of former Ama Foundation chairmen like Dave Fulton, Paramesh Adhikari, and John Shinner! I am very thankful to our current board chairman Rob Sanders and AmaGhar chairwoman Vijaya KC. I am equally grateful to our past board members and current members and all our dedicated staffs!

As I attended "A Night in Nepal" fundraiser in Oakland, CA organized by three Head-Royce high school seniors, namely Sarah Atkinson, Lauren Boranian, and Prianka Misra wrote this note--" We spent two weeks at AmaGhar, we built amazing friendships and came away with a new global perspective. Now, for our senior project, we would like to give back to this wonderful community."

Lastly, thank you all for transforming the lives of children from deep difficulty to a bright future at AmaGhar. Thank you in believing in our mission of providing home and education for some of the most underprivileged children of Nepal.

Sincerely yours,



Shrawan Nepali, Founder



# 2012 Staff and Boards of Directors

## **Ama Foundation Board of Directors**

Shrawan Nepali, Founder  
Rob Sanders, Board Chair  
Liddy Clark, Secretary  
Jane Ellison, Treasurer  
Bonnie Ellison, Country Director  
Poonam Mudvari  
Richard Hyman  
Sapana Sakya  
Alexandra Giardino  
Lynda Johnson

## **Ama Foundation Staff**

Barbara Moffatt, Volunteer Administrative Assistant  
Cathy Clifton, Communications Director

## **Photo Credits:**

Sean Gelbaugh  
Mary Averill  
Richard Hyman  
Yuvak Tuladhar  
The Ama Ghar Children

## **Ama Ghar Board of Directors**

Mrs. Vijaya K.C., President  
Shekhar Silwal, Treasurer  
Pradip K.C., Secretary  
Bal Ram K.C.  
Jogendra K.C.  
KanchhaKagi Basnet  
Laxman Prashad Shrestha  
Lalita Thapa  
Dr. Neelam Adhikari  
Rabindra Shrestha  
Ashok Pandey

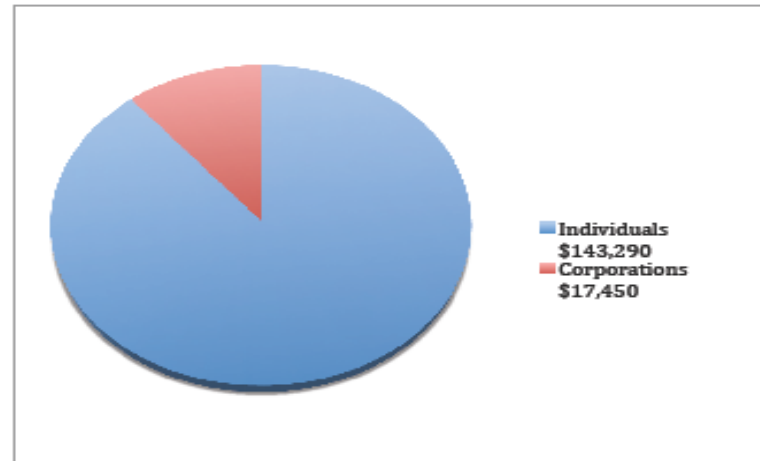
## **Ama Ghar Staff**

Bhesh Nepali, Administrator  
Uma Singh, House Supervisor  
Dhana Adhikari, House Mother  
Tan Bahadur Pun, House Father  
Bindu Giri, House Mother  
Anita Pandey, House Mother  
Radhika Silwal, Laundry Woman  
Pushupati, Gardener

## Ama Foundation 2012 Contributions

### Revenue Sources

In 2012, individuals, corporations and corporate matching programs made up AF's donor base. In total, they made 343 donations to the AF operating fund. Individuals made 95% (325) of donations, which made up 89% (\$143,290) of AF's total contributions. Corporations and their employer matching programs made 5% (17) of the donations making up 11% (\$17,450) of total contributions.



Operating Donations	Average	Maximum
Individual	\$35	\$50,000
Organization	\$1,026	\$10,000

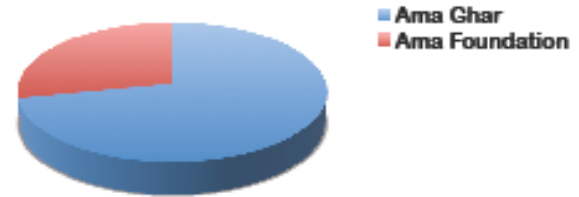
### Donation Size

The majority of donations came as single donations from individuals who gave between \$10 and \$50k to the operating fund. The average individual donation to the operating fund was \$35 and maximum \$50,000. The majority of AF's operating revenue comes from donations in the \$50 to \$200 range.

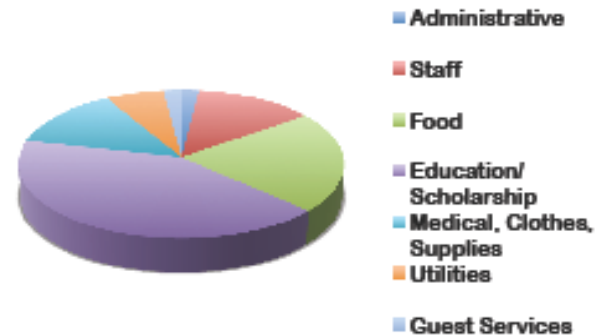
**Ama Foundation Statement of Activities  
for year ended December 31, 2012**

<b>Ama Foundation Revenue</b>	
Operating Revenue	162,000
Interest	8,500
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>170,500</b>
<b>Ama Foundation Expenses</b>	
Professional Fees	30,000
Office/Postage/Freight	2,676
Printing	5,193
Insurance	900
Fundraising	2,277
<b>Ama Ghar Expenses</b>	<b>105,562</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>146,608</b>

**2012 Ama Foundation Expenses**



**2012 Ama Ghar Expenses**



## Contact Information

### Contact Information in Nepal

The Ama Ghar offices are located in the Ama Ghar Home at Bishankhu Narayan, Godavari, Lalitpur

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**Skype:** bonnieellison

**Email:** [bonniefromamaghar@gmail.com](mailto:bonniefromamaghar@gmail.com)

Bonnie Ellison, Country Director

Bhesh Nepali, Office Administrator

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**Office Phone:** 510-982-6597

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Cathy Clifton, Communications Director

[www.ama-foundation.org](http://www.ama-foundation.org)

Facebook: Ama Ghar

Twitter: @AmaGharNepal



Sangita, Prakash and Pawan at the CCAH Art Festival... we're growing!