



Ama Foundation

Home & Education for At-Risk Children in Nepal



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

ABOUT THE AMA FOUNDATION

The Ama Foundation funds Ama Ghar, a permanent care home for children who have been abandoned, trafficked or have lost their home and family to poverty, drug/alcohol abuse or illness. We are dedicated to providing these children with a loving home, an excellent education, health care and the confidence to become productive, self-supporting adults.

The Ama Foundation is a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, Federal Tax ID #36-4478880.



In 2024, we welcomed four new children to Ama Ghar, celebrated various children's achievements in academics, sports, and music, celebrated holidays together, and supported our neighbors as we all continue to recover from the September floods that damaged much of the region. The following pages, including a letter from our Country Director, Bonnie Ellison, will go into greater details about the year we had.

The mission of The Ama Foundation in the US is to raise the funding that keeps Ama Ghar alive. We incurred some unexpected and rising costs in 2024, but our Ama Ghar staff was nimble and diligent, and we were able to stay on budget. We expect costs to rise again in 2025 due to inflation and the global economy, increased government fees, and the continued rising costs to house our young adults as they transition out of Ama Ghar.

Historically, we have relied on the generosity of private donors and corporate matching programs, but we are continuing to work towards a more aggressive grant-writing campaign and a new Legacy Giving program. Our Ama Foundation endowment continues to be under attentive management with Roshani Pandey, CEO of True Root Financial, and it continues to grow under her guidance.

We deeply appreciate our Ama Foundation donor family, who have made the last 24 years possible, and continue to help us build towards a better future.

Mary Averill
Board Chair
The Ama Foundation

A LETTER FROM OUR COUNTRY DIRECTOR, BONNIE ELLISON

2024 was an up and down year, but Ama Ghar kept moving forward and meeting goals!

Last year brought four new children, two Bachelor's graduations and two young adults starting their life of independent living. The four new little ones are keeping us busy and have brought a noticeable "positive energy" to the house.

Our new little characters are Pasang, age four, a curious and car crazy boy; Sonika, age eight, an excellent speaker and a charming girl; Jen, age four, a very sweet and busy boy; and Soniya, age three, a very animated, verbal little smiley girl. Sonika, Jen and Soniya are siblings.

We also added five new grandchildren for a new total of twelve! Their parents, of course, are thrilled, and so are we. It is emotional and satisfying to see these young people we raised become good and loving parents. All of you should be proud "grandparents", too - it was your support that made that possible.

Managing a house full of tender lives is always challenging and full of changes, and I am proud of the many changes the children and staff have met and conquered. 2024's weather offered up a new challenge for all of us. In last year's report I referred to Ama Ghar's ebb and flow as a metaphor - but in 2024 we were literally in the ebb and flow of our Godavari River in a massive flood. The main compound is on high ground, so we only suffered the loss of our access road, bridge and our sewer wetlands that flooded with mud. We were able to help neighbors upstream to replace their kitchen wares that were washed away.



Bonnie Ellison

We have made a walking path behind the house to a small walking bridge, so we have close walking access from the other side of the river. We made cement steps and a handrail on the rocky path, and the children are now happily carrying all of our supplies into the house. They do it with a smile and the older ones make sure the little ones don't try to carry anything too heavy. The children's togetherness and resilience is always a thrill to watch.

We will be working with engineers to remake the road and bridge in a sustainable way, so a future flood will not take out the road and bridge. We are waiting for the Municipal government to confirm the new location of the river so we can get a new road approved, and I will share more plans when they are available.

Many of the alumni return home regularly, partly because we are still the best and quickest laundry facility available to them, but mostly because the younger ones love to see them and they have valuable lessons to pass along.

We enter 2025 with plans to bring in four new children. Now we have 41 in the house, five in the Youth apartments, and four reintegrated to family that are still under our monitoring. Over 100 children have passed through the doors of Ama Ghar since the beginning, and we will continue to add to our family.

You have been a major part of this accomplishment, so give yourself a pat on the back. **To give someone a childhood and a chance in life is one of the greatest gifts anyone can give.**

Our best to you and yours,

Bonnie



The aftermath of the floods: The road to Ama Ghar has been washed away.

EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S ADVANCEMENTS

Ama Ghar Children in Higher Education:

- Maya Samjana – Class 11, Art School
- Sunta – Class 11, Humanities
- Bina – Class 11, Humanities
- Ajay – Class 12, Art School
- Sabin – Class 12, Management
- Laxmi S – Third year of Bachelors, Psychology/Social Work
- Aruneema – Third year Bachelors, Accounting/Banking Bachelors
- Santosh – Second year Bachelors, IT/Engineering
- Bhupendra – Second year Bachelors, Travel and Tourism
- Meena – First year Masters, Nursing in Canada

Ama Ghar Children Transitioning from Education to Employment:

- Rupa – Working in a Lab
- Akriti – Working at a Travel Agency



Rupa's graduation day.

EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S ADVANCEMENTS CONT.

Ama Ghar Alumni - Employed & Self-Sufficient

- Manisha – New mother of young son. Working in resort in Australia.
- Mangel – Working in Mauritius.
- Krishna – Working at Dental School in Kuwait.
- Po-Po- Working at Homestay in India
- Jenuka – Personal Assistant to CEO of new Dog Chew company.
- Samjana Sanu – Living with mother, working in a coffee shop.
- Rama – Working at a cleaning company in Dubai
- Sajan S – Office Assistant at Ama Ghar office.
- Sandesh – House Father at Ama Ghar.
- Sangita – Working for lawyer's office that specializes in citizenship cases.
- Samjhana T – Finished one year internship in Park City, Utah.
- Shrijana – Working in fashion in Milan, Italy



Shrijana celebrating her graduation

2024 IN PHOTOS

2024 was full of celebrations: Holidays, academic promotions, new Ama Ghar grandchildren, and more!



Tihar group photo at Ama Ghar



Meena's farewell party



Solomaya, Bina and Sunita's SEE Exam celebration



Pasang decorating Christmas cookies



Group photo for Holi 2024



Teej 2024



Ama Ghar aunties meeting Solomaya's baby boy

2024 IN PHOTOS

We strive to ensure that Ama Ghar children have a full, enriching childhood experience, which includes arts, sports, and fun outings together and in groups.



Group photo at Kathmandu Fun Valley



Akshar & Jeevan playing with farm equipment



Maya holding a rabbit during a farm visit



Roshni & Sushan having fun with 3D art



Ama Ghar boys musical performance



Anjana, Bipana, Sarita and Aarati before the Teen Talent Show Performance in Kathmandu. Each of our participants earned awards, with Bipana taking home the prize for Best Vocals.

2024 IN PHOTOS

Holidays, birthdays, celebrations, and extracurricular activities are important, but we cherish all the every day moments together. Here is a peek at our family album from the past year.



FROM OUR GUEST BOOK

Wow! A beautiful haven for all these young children. Initially overwhelmed by the smiles all around, the happiness inside and the love and passion is felt and visible. Thank you for allowing us to visit. I wish you all the best with the upbringing of these lovely characters.

Jodie — United Kingdom

Thank you so much for the immense support and for letting me visit your home. It was more than just a visit to meet and know such beautiful children, their knowledge and attitudes. The house and environment looks very impressive.

Dr. Nisha KC — Kathmandu, Nepal

Dear Ama Ghar Family,
Ten years after our first visit, we are so happy to be able to be back to spend time with you, to see you growing, to meet new sisters and brothers and have nice talks with you. Lots of love, lots of hugs and really hope to be back again!

Dominique and Christophe (Mo-Mo Family) — Geneva, Switzerland

We are so grateful that 2024 brought more visitors from around the world, and from within Nepal, back to Ama Ghar.



The Ama Ghar children with a group of Princeton alumni, who visited with longtime Ama Foundation supporter, Fred Doar.

Amazing place with amazing children. A testimony to what love and persistence can achieve. Long may Ama Ghar live to nurture the children of today and be there for the children of tomorrow.

Martin Lankey — Princeton, NJ, USA

It is very clear to us that this is a house with much love. This day will remain in our hearts and minds for the rest of our lives. God Bless all.

Bill and Marley Farrell — USA

2024 A NIGHT IN NEPAL FUNDRAISER



This year, we honored our longtime supporter and friend Matthew Heffelfinger. Thanks to our generous community and sponsors, we raised over \$145,000 for Ama Ghar. This is nearly half of our annual budget!

2024 STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ama Foundation Board of Directors

Shrawan Nepali, Founder
Mary Averill, Board Chair
Yasmijn Adhikari, Treasurer
Jacole Douglas, Secretary
Bonnie Ellison, Country Director
Jane Ellison
Patricia Ellison
Suyesh Kharki
Matthew Mason
Sarah Nikles
Andrea Osbon
Nick Ray
Pooja Sherchan

Ama Foundation Staff

Stacy Hersher, Communications Director
Cathy Clifton, Administrator
Barbara Moffat, Volunteer Administrative Assistant

Ama Ghar Board of Directors

Lalita Thapa, President
Bandana Shrestha, Vice President
Jenuka Dhodari, Treasurer
Samjhana Nepali, Joint Treasurer
Ashok Shrestha, Secretary
Pabita Basnet, Joint Secretary
Rabindra Shrestha
Shekhar Silwal
Kanchhakagi Basnet
Ashok Raj Pandey
Saradha Adhikari
Vijaya K.C.
Pradip Kumar K.C.
Pradip P Upadhyay
Chandni Ghimire
Sanu Bhai Tamrakar
Chij Maya Gurung

Ama Ghar Staff

Kyamuna Khadka, Manager
Sajan Shakya, Office Assistant
Uma Singh, House Supervisor
Dhana Devi Adhikari, House Mother
Bindu Laxmi Tamang, House Mother
Anita Khadka, House Mother
Apsara Gurung, House Mother
Ram Bahadur Bohara, House Father
Sandesh Shrestha, House Father
Dil Maya Majhi, House Cleaner
Radhika Silwal, House Cleaner
Amrita Tamang - Laundry
Pashupati Tamang, Gardener
Urmila Dutraj, Gardener

CONTACT INFORMATION

In Nepal

The Ama Ghar offices are located in the Ama Ghar Home at
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Social Media:

Facebook: [@amagharnepal](https://www.facebook.com/amagharnepal)

Instagram: [@amaghar_nepal](https://www.instagram.com/amaghar_nepal)



AMA FOUNDATION 2024 CONTRIBUTIONS

Revenue Sources, Operating Fund

In the U.S in 2024, individuals, corporations, foundations and corporate matching programs made up the Ama Foundation’s donor base. In total, they made 311 donations to the AF Operating fund. Individuals made up 91% of AF’s total U.S. contributions. Foundations, corporations and their employer matching programs made up 9% of total U.S. contributions.

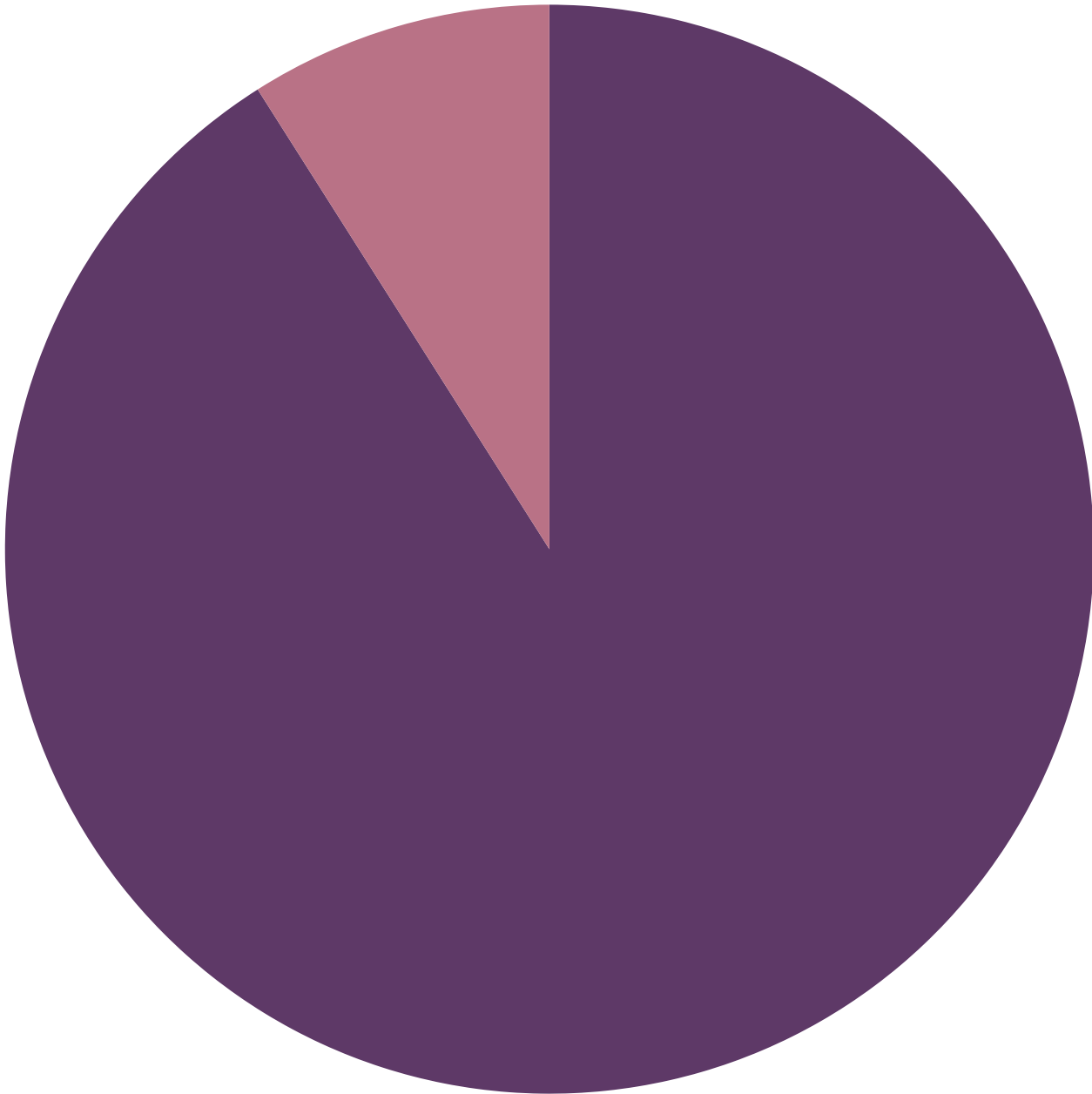
The average individual donation was \$857 and the average corporate or foundation donation was \$1,180.

Individuals made donations ranging from \$10 to \$20,000.

International donations received in Nepal and Switzerland (Ama Ghar Suisse), accounted for an additional \$17,995.

In addition to the operating fund, Ama Foundation’s endowment account totaled \$1,248,331 at year end.

● US Individual ● US Corporate/Foundation



2024 Donations, Operating Fund

AMA FOUNDATION 2024 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Ama Foundation US Revenue

US Operating Revenue	\$273,243
Interest/Dividends	\$19,063
Total US Revenue	\$292,306

Ama Foundation US Expenses

Professional Fees	\$101,248
Fundraising	\$53,421
Office, Technology, Postage, Fees & Insurance	\$2,725
Funds sent to Ama Ghar	\$167,000
Total US Expenses	\$324,394

2024 Ama Ghar Expenses

