

आमा
Ama Foundation
Home & Education for Underprivileged Children

Annual Report 2013





The children model race tee shirts donated to us by Destination Races

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,

As we settle into 2014, our thirteenth year, we can still proudly look back at 2013 as a year filled with success stories. A handful of children finished grade 12, a number of children took part in nationally recognized organizations, and three more children passed their SLC (School Leaving Certificate) exam. To cap it off, Sharada, who was one of the first Ama Ghar children, graduated from medical school. What a year!

Of course, now that standards have been set, we expect to strive higher in 2014. But success is only met with hard work. To meet our lofty goals, we will organize a lot of fundraising activities like momo parties, dinner gatherings with friends, prayer flag parties and movie nights, to name a few.

The organization is also partnering with a number of organizations donating a share of their proceeds, enlisting in more corporate matching programs and writing more grant proposals. As always, our "Support a Child" program will be at the forefront of our universal messaging with the aim of getting a supporter for every child at Ama Ghar.

Unfortunately, there are still countless homeless, disadvantaged and abused children in unsanctioned homes throughout Nepal. As one of the most highly rated children's' homes in Nepal, we accept the opportunity and challenge to provide more children with much needed care, support and love. And we will continue to be creative in our goal of raising awareness and donations to keep this great organization thriving.

We set the bar and standards very high based on our accomplishments in 2013. And we thank you for helping us get there. We could not have achieved so much without your support in the form of letters, blog comments, pictures and donations.

Thank you! It is this global community that will help us achieve our primary mission of providing disadvantaged children of Nepal with better lives. Together, I'm positive we will push the bar even higher in 2014.



Rob Sanders, Board Chair, Ama Foundation



Bonnie Ellison and Rob Sanders at the Ama Ghar 12th Anniversary Celebration

Namaste,

2013 found us very involved with Ama Ghar Phase II , meaning our second phase during which the older children begin to go out on their own, many of them to higher education.

Although at Ama Ghar we pride ourselves on our bonds as a family and support of each other, international statistics continue to support the theory that children do best in a real family environment. To bridge this gap between a group home and family, Ama Ghar has spent years keeping the children bonded to any family or village contact that they can relate to in their future. Our efforts are showing results, as we have reunified two boys to a family environment and those going out for higher education are going out with confidence to start their lives away from Ama Ghar. Leaving home is always difficult in the best of circumstances, and those who are not too far away continue to visit Ama Ghar to see their brothers and sisters.

We were fortunate this year to find an excellent group of career and psychological counselors that have experience in group homes ; they have been very helpful in providing regular career counseling and individual counseling for those that need it to help plan their futures.

For example, one of our boys was reunified with his family and is taking computer and networking training, another completed courses in river rafting and mountain trekking guide training and has been reunited with family members. Three of our older children started Bachelor's degree programs this year, one started pharmacy training and another is training to be a health assistant. So in the future we will have some accomplished professionals; these children have set a high bar for their younger brothers and sisters who follow.

The group of younger ones are also working hard in school, enjoying their soccer and the wide variety of activities we provide for the children to learn and grow. Our visitors are a wonderful addition, as they provide us with lots of activities to broaden the childrens' horizons.

We are currently in the process of selecting new children who will join us in the first half of 2014.

All of this progress has been possible due to our very generous and committed donors and volunteer Board Members in the U.S. and Nepal. My sincere thanks to you all.



Bonnie Ellison,
Country Director, Ama Foundation



Bonnie with Sharada KC, our first Ama Ghar Medical School Graduate

Programs

Education and Children's Advancement

Our largest expense continues to be the cost of higher education for the older children. Subash and Biratjan are in their second year of CETVT (an architecture and engineering program); Manisha is in her second year of a Bachelor's in Hotel Management. Ashok and Sajan S. are in their first year of Bachelor's programs, in Management and IT, respectively. Akshaya and Rama are both studying animation, Laxmi is beginning a Bachelor's in Public Health in Pokhara. Kalpana P is studying to be a health assistant and Kalpana T is beginning flight attendant training. Pabitra and Ganga are in Pharmacy and Accounting training. Solo Maya is learning to be an Elder Care Assistant, Parbati is studying jewelry design, and Anish is learning to be a trekking guide.

Pabita, Srijana, Menuka and Krishana are all in Class 12, while Meena and Manju are studying Mass Communication in Class 11. The younger children continue to work hard in their local English-speaking schools, and two – Sandesh and Sharmila – will take the SLC exam on 2014.

Health Care and Counseling

Signed an agreement with Nepal Youth Foundation and Ankur Counseling for regular career counseling, including personality and capabilities assessment. At the age of 12, we prepare a specific Care Plan for each child, which is reviewed and revised as they establish their goals and matriculate in school.

Continued regular checkups: medical, eye and dental. Overall, a good year without any major problems. Mumps and tonsillitis kept us busy for a while, and there were a few temporary soccer injuries. Sushan tried to jump a fence and got a metal rod in his leg, plus we had to cut a stainless steel ring off Maya's finger, which was done by the maintenance department of our local hospital. Both injuries healed nicely.

Photos: Sajan shows off the culinary skills learned during this internship at the Summit Hotel; Rheka, Bina and Maya cool off in the pool.



Events

We celebrated many national and religious holidays and continued the Ama Ghar traditions of badminton, soccer and even chess competitions in our home. We are also active in the Kathmandu Mountain International Film Festival, Circus Kathmandu, Kathmandu Chorale, and many art gallery events. At home, we continue to practice the performing arts of dance and music. Many of the older children are busy with specific events put on by their schools like Eco Fairs and Senior Parties.

We continue rice and potato planting, and are also busy with the Ama Ghar Briquet Factory – the briquets fuel our new oven so we can bake cookies and pizza. Some staff and children took lessons to learn to make quality briquets.

The children saw Santa Claus at Christmas, but they knew it was really Alain from Switzerland with chocolates! Our visitors are a wonderful source of new ideas, games and activities.

Community Scholarship Program

We continued our program of scholarships for children in our village whose parents can't afford to send them to school. We are now supporting 65 children to stay in school and live at home. In addition, we give regular material support for three local schools to be sure the children have uniforms, pencils and erasers.

Exterior Improvements to the Ama Ghar Home

We finally got our exterior fence painted a lovely bright green and had to do some tile repair on the roof after a freak storm. The back workshop is now one half welding shop and the other half briquet factory. Landscaping plants and trees are growing nicely and we got a good harvest of plums this year. We are planting more fruit trees and built a small tomato house next to our other greenhouse.

Administration

This year was busy, with regular meetings with the Child Welfare Board and preparing for our new agreement with the government of Nepal, which is in process and will be signed in early 2014. The staff also took First Aid, Child Protection Workshops and special classes with the counselors to help them do their busy and difficult jobs even better.

Photos: Laxmi and Aruneema on a Gai Jathra outing to Bhaktapur; Team Orange - they won the prize for sportsmanship during the Ama Ghar Soccer Tournament.



Ama Ghar Board in Nepal

We have two new Board Members and are actively looking for new people to be involved in our support of the Ama Ghar children. With the many changes – children reintegrating and leaving Ama Ghar – we have needed to formulate and clarify our policies to keep up with the growth and activities of the young adults in our care.

Financial

The overall spending of the program in 2013 was 11,192,555 Rupees (approximately \$116,103). As the older ones continue their education and some enter their transition year, our 2014 budget will increase by \$45,000 and continue to increase for subsequent years.

This was our last year to work with the Bo M Karlsson Foundation as they have grown and set up their own organization in Nepal.

Future Goals

During this year and the future, we are meeting our mission of raising capable and caring citizens of Nepal. As we say goodbye to our older children, we will continue to bring in younger ones to keep us growing and serving the children of Nepal. In addition to higher education, we want all of the Ama Ghar graduates to have good skills so that they can be self sustaining and move themselves forward in this challenging, technical global world.

Photos: Everyone in the house loves Holi, the Festival of Colors – including aunts and uncles; a celebration for Meena, Anish and Manju, who passed SLC in 2013.



Notes from the Ama Ghar Guest Book

"I don't even know where to begin. The last 5-1/2 weeks have been so completely incredible. Ever since I've arrived, I've felt included as part of the family here. I'm going to miss the braiding hair sessions, the excitement and energy when everyone gets home from school, and just being completely surrounded by this family. Thanks for everyone for the more than wonderful hospitality. I'm excited to watch as everyone grows and enhances their talents – can't wait to see where they will go!"

Paige Dorlac, Colorado, USA

"Namaste,

I am very much impressed with you here. It was my honor that you all gave us the chance to come here. All the best."

Pushpa Basnet, Nepal, 2012 CNN Hero

"We have been so impressed with all Auntie Bonnie has done to open doors and possibilities for all of you. Work hard and your dreams will come true. Explore all opportunities and good luck with your internships! Thank you for making us feel to welcome – each and every one of you – Nepali style. Your smiles warmed our hearts. We have enjoyed our visit to Ama Ghar and the beautiful country of Nepal. We will stay in touch.

Meg & Shannon Duffy, Connecticut and Missouri, USA

"I really enjoyed visiting Ama Ghar and seeing so many wonderful happy children. Good work to all of you for creating a wonderful experience."

Marie Dyer, Adelaide, South Australia

"I nearly forgot to thank the staff in my frenzied praising of the kids. Hat's off to all of you, without your constant compassion, consistency and dedication, production in this factory of love and light would screech to a halt. You are doing a very noble thing with your lives – people across the world should aspire to be like you."

Luka Upadhyaya, Austria



Photo: A young visitor helps to put Rekha in a basket!

2013 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
Sapana Sakya
Alexandra Giardino
Fred Doar
Suyesh Karki
Jui Shrestha
Yasmijn Adhikari
Sarah Pinkin

Ama Foundation Staff

Barbara Moffatt, Volunteer Administrative Assistant
Cathy Clifton, Communications Director

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Richard Hyman – Cover Photo
The Ama Ghar Children

Ama Ghar Board of Directors

Mrs. Vijaya K.C., President
Shekhar Silwal, Treasurer
Pradip K.C., Secretary
Jogendra K.C.
KanchhaKagi Basnet
Laxman Prashad Shrestha
Lalita Thapa
Dr. Neelam Adhikari
Rabindra Shrestha
Ashok Raj Pandey
Sailendra Kumar Shrestha
K.B. Shrestha
Saradha Adhikari

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

Contact Information

Contact Information in Nepal

The Ama Ghar offices are located in the Ama Ghar Home at
Bishankhu Narayan - 9, Godavari, Lalitpur

Mail: GPO Box 8975 EPC 2089, Kathmandu, Nepal

Office Phone: 5561066

Skype: bonnieellison

Email: bonniefromamaghar@gmail.com

Bonnie Ellison, Country Director

Bhesh Nepali, Office Administrator

Contact Information in the U.S.

Mail: Ama Foundation, PO Box 7075, Berkeley, CA 94704

Office Phone: 510-982-6597

Skype: AmaFoundation

Email: info@ama-foundation.org

Cathy Clifton, Communications Director

www.ama-foundation.org

Facebook: Ama Ghar

Twitter: @AmaGharNepal



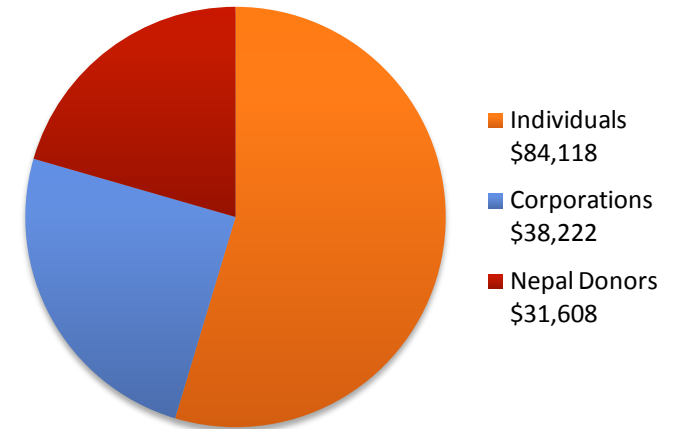
Samjana sharing candy for her birthday – an Ama Ghar tradition

Ama Foundation 2013 Contributions

Revenue Sources

In 2013, individuals, corporations and corporate matching programs made up AF's donor base. In total, they made 418 donations to the AF operating fund. Individuals made 86% (\$84,118) of AF's total contributions. Corporations and their employer matching programs made 14% (60) Of the donations, making up 31% (\$38,222) of total contributions. International donations received in Nepal, accounted for separately, were \$31,608.

Operating Donations	Average	Maximum
Individual	\$235	\$5,000
Organization	\$637	\$10,000



Donation Size

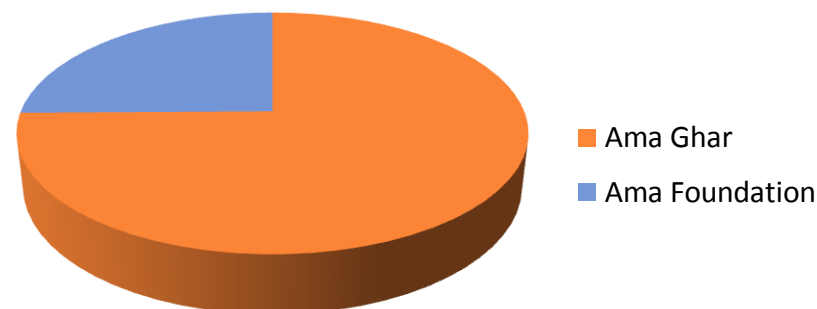
The majority of donations came as single donations from individuals who gave between \$10 and \$5,000 to the operating fund. The average individual donation to the operating fund was \$235 and maximum was \$5,000. The majority of AF's operating revenue comes from donations in the \$50 to \$300 range.

Ama Foundation Statement of Activities

for year ended December 31, 2013

Ama Foundation Revenue and Expenses	
U.S. Operating Revenue	122,600
International donations received in Nepal	31,608
Interest	8,000
Total Revenue	162,208
Ama Foundation Expenses	
Professional Fees	31,629
Office Expenses/Postage/Fees	2,420
Insurance	900
Fundraising	4,180
Ama Ghar Expenses	116,103
Total Expenses	155,232

2013 Expenses



2013 Ama Ghar Expenses

