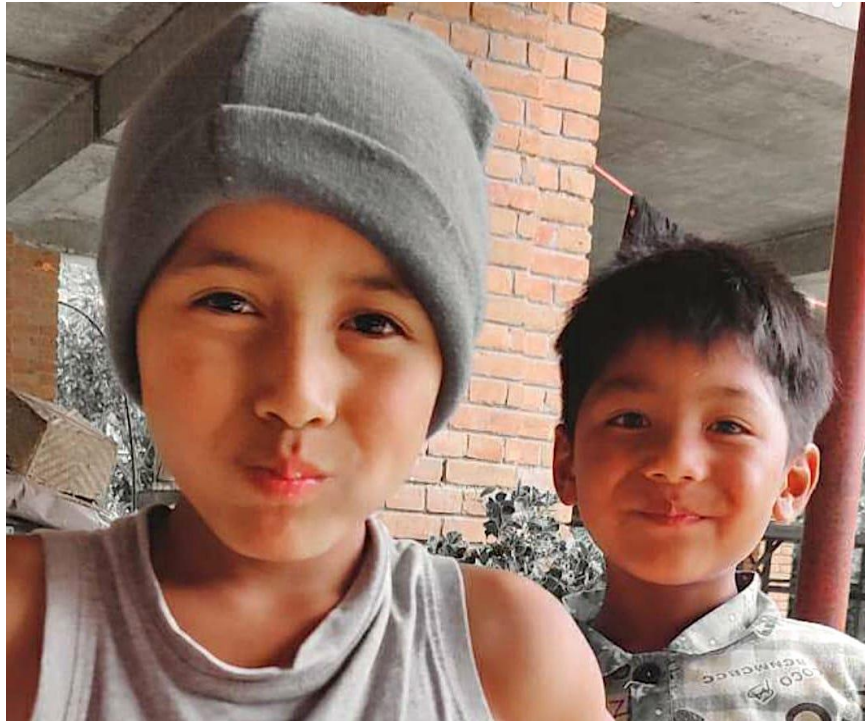


आमा  
**Ama Foundation**  
Home & Education for Underprivileged Children  
Annual Report 2020





The Ama Foundation funds Ama Ghar, a permanent care home in Nepal for at-risk homeless 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) non profit corporation,  
Federal Tax ID #36-4478880

Namaste, Friend –

My letter from the 2019 Annual Report was full of optimism about the future and 2020 in particular. Little did I – or anyone – know what the year would bring. As usual, though, Bonnie and the Ama Ghar staff made the necessary adjustments with grace and brought our children through with flying colors.

For Ama Foundation, the first quarter of the year was frightening. Understandably, donations dropped as people all over the world adjusted to the “new normal” and an uncertain future. We put out an emergency plea to you, our Ama Ghar family, and as always, you responded with compassion and generosity.

We were forced to make our annual fundraiser virtual, which was all new to us, but that turned out to be a huge positive as we were able to reach out and see so many more of you all over the world. The event was a very happy family reunion via Zoom – several of those attended later told us they didn’t want it to be over because they enjoyed seeing the children and so many friends that they hadn’t seen in years! And thanks to you we were able to raise almost as much as we normally raise with the in-person event - it was a win-win.

Financially we didn’t spend our planned budget on school fees, as all schools were closed, but Bonnie reallocated some of those funds to help our alumni who had lost their jobs. We also paid a small amount to the older children who came home to Ama Ghar to teach and tutor; and our amazing staff, who were with us 24 hours a day during lockdown, received a well- deserved bonus.

2020 was my last year as Board Chair, but I will continue as a member of the Ama Foundation Board, and look forward with gratitude and pride to many more years of support for this remarkable organization. Thanks to all of you for making our work possible.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Suyesh Karki'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Suyesh Karki, Board Chair  
Ama Foundation



2020 started with everything in order and everyone focused. The children passed their final exams in March with optimism; then I called everyone to come home to Ama Ghar for a pandemic lockdown. I reacted out of fear, and a selfish desire to have everyone home so that we could meet this unknown challenge; I know from experience how formidable we are together.

Our first few weeks were full of fun and laughter. The older ones who came home helped to set up the Ama Ghar Lockdown School, rearranging our classroom areas and creating a new curriculum with lots of English and extra attention for those who needed help. Each took a teaching assignment and we had a functioning school. I can't say enough how effective and capable the older ones were with their younger brothers and sisters.

I am so proud of the children and even more in awe of our incredible staff. They stayed in lockdown without complaint and maintained their nurturing and caregiving 24 /7 without a break. I believe that the lockdown gave us many positives: more quality one on one time, new forms of bonding between brothers and sisters; lots of positive growth and appreciation for the world outside and blessings that we took for granted.

I can't imagine how so many people survived the lockdowns without the kind of wonderful social interaction that we enjoyed at Ama Ghar. We hope you and yours are well, too, and finding some positives during this very stressful time of new challenges. We thought of you often, and talked often about when we could have visitors again.

As always and especially for 2020/2021 we value you as our "heart family". Each of you must know that you are our lifeline and that Ama Ghar's resilience is in your capable hands. We send heartfelt thanks, positive thoughts and virtual hugs from the Ama Ghar children and all of our staff. With love and appreciation,



Country Director, Nepal  
Ama Foundation



Bonnie at the 2019 Ama Foundation Fundraiser in Northern California.

**Education and Children's Advancement as of 12/31/2020**  
2020 Program Completed

Pabita – looking for a job in Development  
Sajan N. – IT part time job and teaching  
Sabita – awaiting return to Oman as a Hotel Chef  
Srijana - children's clothing designer, Milan  
Uppal – newly married, licensed trekking guide  
Mangel – culinary worker, Kathmandu  
Pratima – married, taking Masters in Australia  
Choppasang – working in restaurant  
Telau – working at hotel  
Manisha – married, taking Masters in Australia  
Pabitra - working as Pharmacist in Pokhara  
Kalpana P.- working as Health Assistant in Pokhara  
Menuka – married, teaching in Pokhara  
Subash – architect, Good Earth Construction  
Rama – working at Credit Union  
Parbati – working in coffee shop  
Sushan – acting in TV show and movies  
Laxmi – taking masters in Sydney, Australia  
Krishna – working as dental assistant, Pokhara  
Sandesh – looking for a job as a teacher  
Ashok – building an IT business, Kathmandu  
Sajan S. – working for NGO in Lamjung  
Rupmala – former child care worker, recently married  
Sharada – medical resident in Chicago  
Anish – licensed mountain guide, married, two children  
Bindu – nurse, married and living in Seattle  
Akshaya – animator, New Zealand  
Kalpana T. – VIP service agent, Qatar Airlines  
Ganga – working for American Standard, Kuwait  
Meena – nurse, Kathmandu

Photo: Anish giving Rekha a climbing lesson.





## Education and Children's Advancement, cont.

### 2020 Transition – living in Kathmandu

Prakash – working as tattoo artist

Pawan – looking for a job

Pushpa – working as an administrative assistant

Ashim – working as an accountant

Manju – completed veterinary training; looking for a job

Sophia – completed aviation training; looking for a job

Sangita – 2<sup>nd</sup> year Bachelors in Humanities; working in a salon

### 2020-21 Higher Education

Sharmila – Final year of Business Bachelors

Samjana - Final year in Travel and Tourism Bachelors

Jenuka – 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Journalism Bachelors

Rupa – 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Lab Technician Bachelors

Akriti – 1<sup>st</sup> year of Travel and Tourism Bachelors

Laxmi S. – 1<sup>st</sup> year Psychology/Social Work, St. Xavier University

Aruneema – 1<sup>st</sup> year Accounting/Banking Bachelors

Santosh – Class 11, Humanities

Samjhana S. – Class 11, Humanities

Photo: Laxmi using her new laptop, one of several purchased through a Friends of Nepal grant. All the children currently in Bachelors programs must have a personal laptop in order to keep up with their studies.





## A Family Album

The next four pages are a family album of work and play – 2020 was a busy and active year, from pen pals to art projects to puzzles and games to harvest time... and school and medical exams, of course!





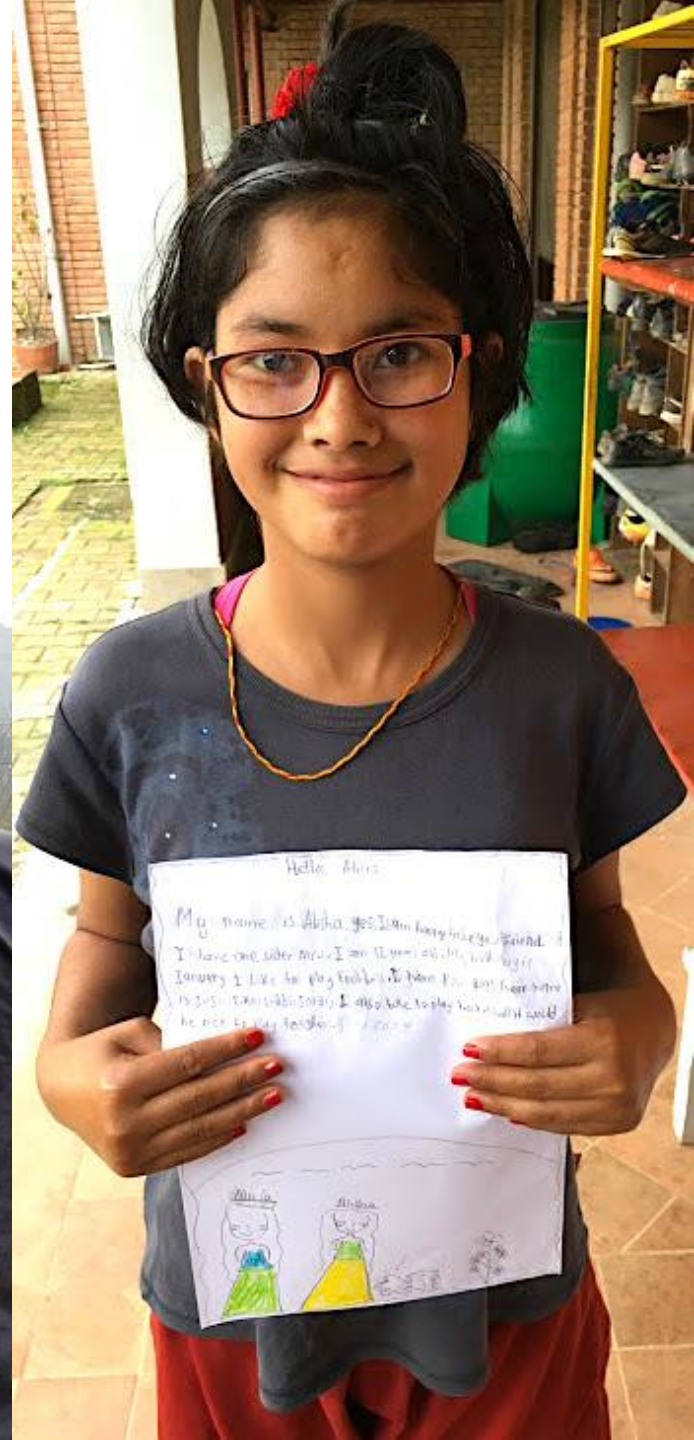


Ganga Maya helps with the potato harvest, the amazing mandala that the boys designed and painted to beautify their area of Ama Ghar.





The older kids lead the whole house in a series of trust exercises – we learned a lot! And at right Alisha shows off the letter she is about to send to her special PenPal in the USA.







Our older children who came home to Ama Ghar during lockdown learned something new about themselves – they are great teachers! Their creativity, fun teaching methods and the one on one attention that they were able to give made school more fun and kept our kids up to speed when it was time to take their exams.

This year we had fewer medical needs, which saved us money over prior years, but we did have the quarterly checkups required by the government. Our counseling sessions were held via Zoom, which was actually more efficient than in-person and equally effective.

Sadly, we lost an important member of our Ama Ghar family this year – our beloved Dr. Neelam Adhikari, who has been the children's pediatrician since the beginning. We will miss her loving care and kind face, but we have been able to find a replacement who was trained by her, so we feel very lucky.





## Activities, Outings and Holidays

At Ama Ghar, we celebrate Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim and Newari holidays as well as a winter holiday celebration that is all about peace on earth. Our children enjoy activities like chess, Tae Kwon Do, soccer, badminton and lessons in art, drama and dancing. We help them to develop their skills in anything that is of interest to them. Because of the pandemic we couldn't venture far afield, but we outdid ourselves with a huge production for Ama Ghar's 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Everyone in the house participated, with singing, dancing, poetry reading and even gymnastic exhibitions.

Top right: Bonnie and Akriti were tour guides for our private historic bus tour during Dashain – a safe and creative pandemic outing! Below left: Rupa honors her brother Badi at Bhai Tika. Below right: Cast Photo from the Anniversary Celebration Show.





## Notes from the 2020 Ama Ghar Guest Book

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my visit and the experience and meeting the wonderful children and staff of Ama Ghar. The staff and children have shown me nothing short of the warmest welcome to their home. I look forward to when I can return and spend more time with everyone here."

Ben Emanuel, Bozeman, Montana, February 2020



"Dearest Ama Ghar family - Thank you for welcoming us into your loving and inspiring home. We only spent one week here but we loved every minute of our experience and we wish we could stay longer. From basketball games, table tennis, "Bomb" dodgeball, amazing food, milk tea, dance lessons to reading time, we will never forget you. Christina Sister loved getting her hair braided by Bina and Niru and Steve brother loved the full contact basketball game with all the kids. What a special home and special family. "

Christina and Steve, USA, February 2020

"I had a wonderful experience being here and talking with the girls about menstrual hygiene and management. I am very happy to share my knowledge among these girls. They are very cooperative and enthusiastic. Everyone here is very nice, caring and humble. Love the environment and people."

Rewa Shrestha, Kathmandu, February 2020

"This is my first visit to Ama Ghar. Such a wonderful place and it is great to see the children growing in such a positive place. Everyone here are humble and nice."

Saniya Singh, Kathmandu, January 2020

"I came to Ama Ghar for my thesis research on Children's Homes in Nepal. I have visited other children's homes in Kathmandu also and I have to admit Ama Ghar is one of a kind with its excellent architecture with spacious and ventilated spaces. Staffs are really friendly and the purpose of this building is excellent. I am glad children with no proper financial support or love has a place to go which is Ama Ghar."

Akriti Pokhrel, Kathmandu Engineering Student, February 2020

Photo: Samjhana was able to test her guiding skills with visitors Ben and Jacole in February.



## 2020 Virtual Fundraiser



As with everything else in this pandemic year, we had to rethink our annual fundraiser for 2020, so the photo above is an example of what attendees saw – videos about our lockdown school, a salute to our staff and a fun and exciting auction.

Instead of our usual dancing, hugging, catching up with old friends and enjoying good food and wine party, we had a virtual conversation with Bonnie and the Ama Ghar kids, Nepali music from Surya Chataut and our founder, Shrawan Nepali. Some attendees even had their own momo parties at home while they watched.

It all turned out to be a wonderful success – 116 attendees from 16 states and four countries... and most importantly we raised almost as much as we raise at our in-person fundraisers. We depend on this event for about 40 percent of our income, so that was a great relief – and a great testament to the love and loyalty of our Ama Ghar family. **Thanks to all who attended!**

## **2020 Staff and Boards of Directors**

### **Ama Foundation Board of Directors**

Shrawan Nepali, Founder  
Suyesh Karki, Board Chair  
Yasmijn Adhikari, Treasurer  
Bonnie Ellison, Country Director  
Rob Sanders  
Poonam Mudvari  
Sarah Nikles  
Jane Ellison  
Leslie Brown  
Nick Ray  
Andrea Osbon  
Stacy Hersher

### **Ama Foundation Staff**

Barbara Moffat, Volunteer Administrative Assistant  
Cathy Clifton, Communications Director

### **Ama Ghar Board of Directors**

Mrs. Vijaya KC, President  
Shekhar Silwal, Treasurer  
Pradip KC, Secretary  
Jogendra KC  
Kanchhakagi Basnet  
Laxman Prashad Shrestha  
Lalita Thapa  
Rabindra Shrestha  
Ashok Rai Pandey  
K.B. Shrestha  
Saradha Adhikari  
Bandana Shrestha  
Ashok Shrestha  
Pabita Basnet

### **Ama Ghar Staff**

Bhesh Nepali, Manager  
Kymuna Khadka, Office Assistant  
Uma Singh, House Supervisor  
Dhana Adhikari, House Mother  
Tan Bahadur Pun, House Father  
Bindhu Ghising, House Mother  
Anita Khadka, House Mother  
Ganesh Tamang, Assistant House Father  
Radhika Silwal, Laundry Woman  
Pashupati, Gardener



## Contact Information

### In Nepal

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

**Mail:** GPO Box 8975 EPC 2089, Kathmandu, Nepal

**Office Phone:** 977-1-517-4096

**Skype:** bonnieellison

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

Bonnie Ellison, Country Director

[bheshnepali@hotmail.com](mailto:bheshnepali@hotmail.com)

Bhesh Nepali, House Manager

### In the U.S.

**Mail:** Ama Foundation, PO Box 7075

Berkeley, CA 94704

**Office Phone:** 520-255-3556

**Skype:** AmaFoundation

**Email:** [info@ama-foundation.org](mailto:info@ama-foundation.org)

Cathy Clifton, Communications Director

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

Facebook: Ama Ghar

Twitter: @AmaGharNepal



## Ama Foundation 2020 Contributions

### Revenue Sources

In the U.S. in 2020, individuals, corporations, foundations and corporate matching programs made up AF's donor base. In total, they made 345 donations to the AF operating fund. Individuals made 88% of AF's total U.S. contributions. Foundations, corporations and their employer matching programs made up 12 % of total U.S. contributions.

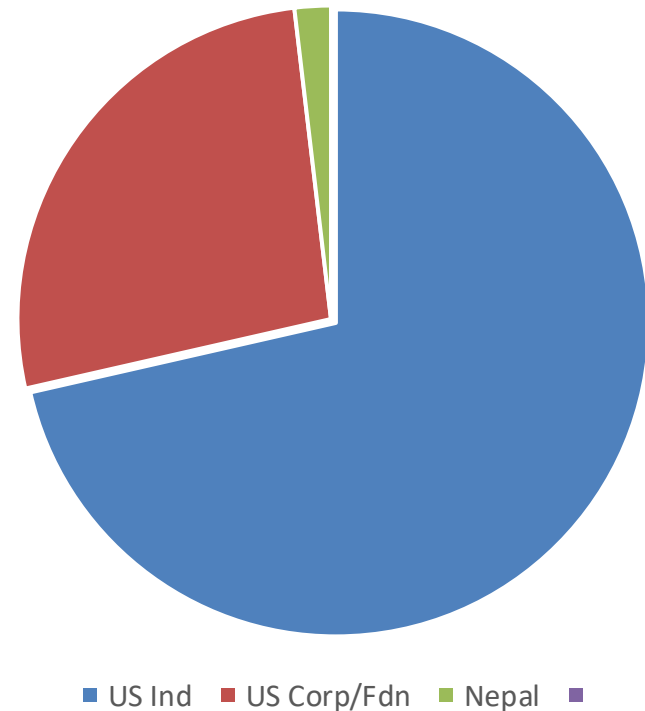
Average Individual U.S. Donation - \$490

Average Corp/Foundation U.S. Donation - \$1,287

The majority of U.S. donations came as single donations from individuals who gave between \$10 and \$15,000 to the operating fund. The majority of AF's operating revenue comes from donations in the \$50 to \$500 range.

International donations received in Nepal, accounted for separately, were \$3,880.

### 2020 Donations

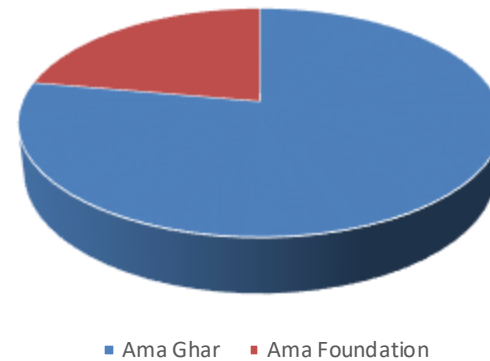




# Ama Foundation Statement of Activities for year ended December 31, 2020

Ama Foundation U.S. Revenue and Expenses	
<b>Ama Foundation U.S. Operating Revenue</b>	<b>203,578</b>
Interest	8,916
<b>Total U.S. Revenue</b>	<b>202,844</b>
<b>Ama Foundation U.S. Operating Expenses</b>	
Professional Fees	31,800
Office Expenses/Postage/Fees	2,475
Fundraising	16,582
Funds sent to Ama Ghar (not included in pie chart of Expenses)	91,000
<b>Total U.S. Expenses</b>	<b>141,857</b>

2020 Combined Expenses



Ama Ghar Expenses 2020

