

## **Annual Report 2022**





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) nonprofit corporation, Federal Tax ID #36-4478880

2022 was a year of big changes once again. Bonnie's letter and the following pages will share the good news at Ama Ghar - our thriving children (including eleven new arrivals), new staff members and the amazing accomplishments of our graduates. In 2022, our partnership with the Ama Ghar board in Nepal and their new chairperson, Lalita Thapa, who works hand in hand with Bonnie on policy issues and government requirements, has grown even stronger as well.

Here at The Ama Foundation US, our mission is to raise the funding to make it all possible. We are lucky that the US dollar remains strong against the Nepali rupee, but costs continue to rise, particularly for tuition for the older children. Historically, we have relied on the generosity of private donors and corporate matching programs, and this year we are adding a Legacy Giving program and a more aggressive grant-writing campaign. Our Ama Foundation endowment is under new and attentive management with Roshani Pandey, CEO of True Root Financial, and it has already grown.

We are so lucky to have gained two bright young board members as well. Jacole Douglas is a PhD candidate in Educational Policy and Leadership at UMass Amherst who lived and taught in Nepal from 2008-2010 and was also a 2019-2020 Fulbright Student Research Fellow in Nepal. Jacole has years of experience at Ama Ghar, knows the children and staff well, and is giving us a head start on our grant-writing campaign.

Matthew Mason graduated with degrees in Psychology and Political Science before earning his J.D. at Duke University. Several years later, he quit his job to travel the world. He visited Ama Ghar in 2015 and came back several more times after falling in love with the children. Currently, he works in logistical planning and operations management for an events startup company and manages operations for an organic farm in Watsonville, California. His legal background has been a great help with contracts and updates to our corporate bylaws.

What hasn't changed is our deep appreciation for our generous Ama Ghar donor family.

Mary Averill/Patricia Ellison Co-Chairs The Ama Foundation



Mary Averill



Patricia Ellison

Like everyone else, we had a busy year in 2022 just getting back to normal after the Covid lockdown. At Ama Ghar that means welcoming new children, sending everyone back to school, getting new jobs and planning outings and more outings!

Eight new girls and three new boys, ages three to 11, joined our big family this Year. All are settling into our daily schedule and enjoying games, music, dance, Tae Kwon Do lessons and spending time with our three very loving dogs. Our new three year old, Amitra, will start Nursery in April and all of the others are already In the swing of school programs and an exhibit fair. They are full of energy and thrilled with it all!

We also added to our staff in 2022: Apsana is a lovely young woman who is busy with the little ones and Sandesh, an Ama Ghar alumni, is our new house father who is helping to keep the boy's unit in order. We are so happy to have them!

As in any family, saying goodbye to those who grow up and leave us is always hard, because we miss them. But we are proud of the two who left this year: Sharmila has married and has gone to Sydney for her Masters in Business, and Samjhana S. has finished her training and gone to live with her sisters.

2022 brought challenges and changes, as always, but we view change as essential for keeping up with the world we live in and the individual interests and challenges of each person in our care. As we make subtle changes, we never waiver in our commitment that a loving, healing environment is the best medicine for a traumatized and abandoned child.

The incredible Ama Ghar staff continues to manage the nurturing of our children knowing they have the support and appreciation of our global family. We are Ama Ghar because of your continued generosity – thank you.

Bonne

Bonnie Ellison Country Director, Nepal



#### Education and Children's Advancement as of 12/31/22

#### 2022 Program Completed

Pabita – Working for Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival

Sajan N – Married, father of a young son, Part-time IT and teaching

Sabita – Social Worker for Our Sansar, a women/children rescue organization

Srijana – Taking a Masters in Fashion Design in Milan, Italy

Uppal – Married, mother of a young son, licensed trekking guide.

Pratima – Married, taking Masters in Psychology in Australia

Choppsang – Working in restaurant, living with sister

Telau – Working in hotel, living with sister

Manisha – Married, Completed Masters in Hotel Management-Australia

Pabitra – Working as Pharmacist in Pokhara

Mangel – Culinary worker, Saudi Air Catering

Krishna – Working at Shine Dental, caring for Ama Ghar children

Shanker – Culinary worker, Dubai

Po-Po - Executive Secretary at QFX Cinema

Jenuka - Entertainment reporter for The Himalayan Times

Samjana Sanu - Living with her sisters, looking for a job

Sharmila - Married, taking a Masters in Business in Sydney, Australia

Kalpana P- Working as Health Assistant in Pokhara

Menuka - Married, with a new son, Primary Teacher

Rama – Working as a Tutor

Parbati – Coffee barista

Sushan – Acting on a TV show

Laxmi – Completed Masters in Public Health in Australia

Sandesh – Assistant house father at Ama Ghar

Ashok – IT Business, Kathmandu – Tech Assistant support for Ama Ghar

Sajan S.- Working for women's empowerment NGOin Lamjung

Rupmala – Married, living in Kathmandu

Sharada – Married, Cardiology Resident in Chicago

Anish - Married, father of two, licensed Mountain Guide



Menuka, shown above with her sister Jenuka and her baby boy, is happily married and a primary school teacher in Pokhara.

#### Education and Children's Advancement, cont.

Ashim - Supervisor of Housekeeping at Cancer Hospital
Prakash – Working in Hair Salon in Jhapa, hobby as Tattoo Artist
Pushpa – Working in an Employment Agency in Patan
Pawan – Working in a Textile Factory in India
Sangita - Working in Hair Salon in Jhapa
Manju – Dog Trainer, Veterinarian Assistant

#### Transition

Samjhana T. – Seekiing internship in Travel & Tourism

#### 2022-23 Higher Education

Rupa – Fourth year of Lab Technician Bachelors
Akriti – Fourth year of Bachelors in Travel and Tourism
Laxmi S. – Second year of Bachelors - Psychology/Social Work
Aruneema – Second year of Accounting/Banking Bachelors
Santosh – First Year Bachelors in IT Engineering
Bhupendra – Class 12 Management in IT

Manju, Meena and Pabita are all living and working in Kathmandu, so they can see each other often – and visit Ama Ghar often, too.



#### A Family Album

At Ama Ghar, we have so many things to celebrate! Birthdays, holidays, awards, harvest, graduations, weddings... and even our daily activities! Here's a snapshot of "the best of 2022!"



#### Top L to R:

First comes rice planting and playing in the mud... then comes rice harvest on a sunny day in the fall!

Both are fun for the kids and a good lesson about growing what we eat.

#### Bottom:

In April we celebrated Bonnie Aunties birthday with signs, songs and best of all – ice cream and cake!







#### Notes from the 2022 Ama Ghar Guest Book

"Thank you so much for the privilege of staying at Ama Ghar and sharing all your love and joy. Until I am back again..."

-- Melissa - California, USA

"Being a part of this big, crazy and lovely family is definitely one of the most memorable experiences of my life so far. I felt so welcome already from the beginning and being called sister has been so nice. I'm impressed about the work all of you and the staff do. Many kids live in this house, but still you manage all of them so well. You give them love, support and happiness... They have taught me a lot and I hope I have done the same for them. Thank you so much for having me here. I really hope to come back."

-- Stina - Sweden

"First trip in Nepal for me, but third for Yvan. We heard so much about you but nothing compares to reality. What great moments we shared with you. We are already planning to come back. Thanks for everything, the games and funny moments, we will miss you!

-- Godle & Yvan -- Geneva, Switzerland

"My experience at Ama Ghar was an experience unlike any I had seen before. It was unique to see the different living situations, and the different experiences really portrayed the family bond of Ama Ghar. I really enjoyed the experience and I cannot wait to come back once again."

-- Rohan -- Kathmandu, Nepal

Top: Melissa and Sunil loved playing skill games together, with much hilarity! Below: Stina taught the girls a fun Swedish clapping game.





This October 6 event, held at Mill Valley Community Center, was a true family affair. We honored our longtime supporters and friends Niley Shrestha and Dave Carey, and thanks to our superstar auctioneer, CK Swett, and our generous attendees, we raised over \$100,000 for the Ama Ghar kids – that's about half of our annual budget. Thanks and love to all!

#### 2022 Staff and Boards of Directors

#### Ama Foundation Board of Directors

Shrawan Nepali, Founder

Mary Averill, Board Chair

Patricia Ellison, Co-Chair

Yasmijn Adhikari, Treasurer

Jacole Douglas, Secretary

Bonnie Ellison, Country Director

Sarah Nikles

Suyesh Kharki

Jane Ellison

Nick Ray

Andrea Osbon

Stacy Hersher

Matthew Mason

#### **Ama Foundation Staff**

Barbara Moffat, Volunteer Administrative Assistant Cathy Clifton, Communications Director

#### Ama Ghar Board of Directors

Lalita Thapa, President
Bandana Shrestha, Vice President
Rabindra Shrestha, Treasurer
Samjhana Nepali, Joint Treasurer
Ashok Shrestha, Secretary
Shekhar Silwal
Jogendra KC
Kanchhakagi Basnet
Laxman Prashad Shrestha
Ashok Rai Pandey
Saradha Adhikari
Pabita Basnet
Jenuka Dodhari

#### **Ama Ghar Staff**

Kyamuna Khadka, Manager Uma Singh, House Supervisor Dhana Adhikari, House Mother Tan Bahadur Pun, House Father Bindu Ghising, House Mother Anita Khadka, House Mother Apsara Gurung, House Mother Dil Maya Majhi, House Cleaner Radhika Silwal, Laundry Woman Pashupati Tamang, Gardener Udmila Dhutraj, Gardener



L to R: Lalita Thapa, Ama Ghar Board President; Bonnie; Principal of Kitini School – all attending the social audit.

#### **Contact Information**

#### In Nepal

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

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**Office Phone**: 984-015-4448

**Skype:** bonnieellison

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kikigc99@yahoo.com

Kyamuna Khadka, House Manager bonniefromamaghar@gmail.com

Bonnie Ellison, Country Director

#### In the U.S.

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POBox 7075

Berkeley, CA 94707

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

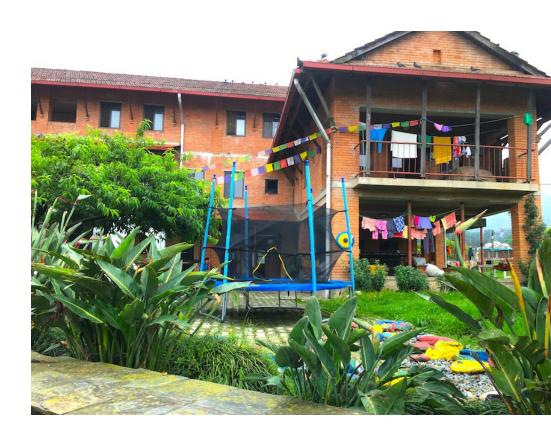
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Email: info@ama-foundation.org

Cathy Clifton, Communications Director

www.ama-foundation.org

Facebook: Ama Ghar Twitter:@AmaGharNepal Instagram: amaghar\_nepal



### Ama Foundation 2022 Contributions

#### **Revenue Sources**

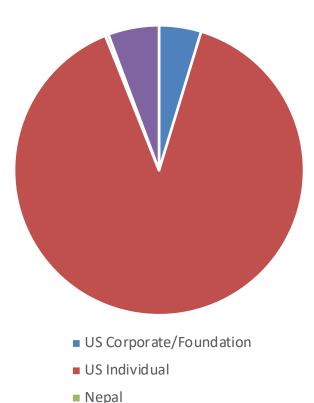
In the U.S. in 2022, individuals, corporations, foundations and corporate matching programs made up AF's donor base. In total, they made 245 donations to the AFchildren's fund. Individuals made up 95% of AF's total U.S. contributions. Foundations, corporations and their employer matching programs made up 5% of total U.S. contributions.

The average individual donation was \$1,504 and the average corporate or foundation donation was \$350.

Individuals made donations ranging from \$10 to \$100,000.

International donations received in Nepal, accounted for separately, were \$1,300. Donations from Ama Ghar Suisse were \$20,478.

#### **2022 Donations**



Switzerland

# Ama Foundation Statement of Activities

for year ended December 31, 2022

AMA FOUNDATION REVENUE & EXPENSES	
Ama Foundation U.S. Operating Revenue	338,529
Interest/Dividends	3,253
Total U.S. Revenue	341,782
Ama Foundation U.S. Operating Expenses	
Professional Fees	37,130
Office/Technology/Postage/Fees/Insurance	5,275
Fundraising	30,779
Funds sent to Ama Ghar (not included in pie chart of Expenses)	182,000
Total U.S. Expenses	255,184

