Love Frees

NYF is deeply honored and gratified to announce that the Empowering Freed Kamlaris program is now self-sustaining! This 20-year program designed to abolish the practice of kamli child bondage in Nepal’s Terai region and to free, educate, and empower these young women now operates under the control of the freed women themselves through the Freed Kamlari Development Forum (FKDF).

Soneeya*, age 17, helps out on the family farm while schools are closed due to COVID-19. The land is theirs—something made possible through a microlending group run by the FKDF.

Love Heals

During our most recent year, our Kathmandu Nutritional Rehabilitation Home (NRH) treated 184 children for moderate to severe malnutrition. Caregivers received classes in cooking to maximize nutrition, health, hygiene, childcare, personal care, and family health.

We hosted six Nutritional Outreach Camps before the pandemic. Our team assessed 4,392 children and educated 3,400 caregivers on nutrition and good hygiene.

Bishal*, age 5, plays outside the NRH before the pandemic. After weeks of nutritional care, he has gained weight and is bright, alert, and active.

Love Shelters

During this challenging year, NYF has kept our promises to the children living in our care. Olgapuri Children’s Village served a total of 80 children (40 boys and 40 girls), with 76 of these children remaining in our care at the end of the year under a cautious lockdown. And our Kinship Care stipends are ensuring safe shelter with loving extended family for 228 kids!

Chirasmi* was afraid she would not be able to continue caring for her grandson, Naresh*, age 11, after her husband passed away. But with a NYF Kinship Care stipend, she is ensuring he is fed, clothed, and educated.

Love Educates

This year, NYF provided scholarships to 833 students, including those in Kinship Care, Day School, Boarding School, College and University, and our Disabled Student Scholarship program.

An additional 795 young adults received Vocational Training, at Olgapuri Vocational School, in Technical School, and in special Empowering Freed Kamlaris programs.

Heena*, above, age 16, believes that education is the path towards empowerment—and NYF agrees. Her scholarship is giving her the accommodations she needs to study with blindness and paraplegia.

*Names changed for privacy
Responding to COVID-19

Thanks to the generous support of the NYF Family, our passionate team in Nepal has been able to develop and launch excellent responses to the pandemic in locked-down communities.

-Ankur Counseling Center has expanded its reach by offering tele-counseling services for frontline workers and providing crisis training to local women’s service centers. Pop-up Community Nutrition Kitchens have served 5311 hot lunches to approximately 135 children and 23 adults in urban areas. Our Lito for Life program has distributed 2100 packages of vitamin-packed “super flour” Lito to hard-working families without access to nutritious food. The Emergency Lifeline Halfway Home for Women has provided 38 women with a safe, comfortable space to complete their mandatory 14-day quarantine periods after returning to the country from abroad, so they can safely return to their families. The space has also served an important role as an isolation facility for women sick with COVID-19.

Finally, NYF has launched 50 Access to Education satellite centers, restoring educational opportunities to 5000 children and activating 380 government-paid teachers in rural Nepal. Each COVID program will run as long as needed as we continue supporting Freedom, Shelter, Healthcare, and Education for Nepalese children during this global crisis.

Above, NYF’s Nutrition team gathers in the NRH kitchen to prepare and package hundreds of pounds of nutrient-rich “super flour” (Lito) for distribution in locked-down communities at risk of malnutrition. During this time of uncertainty and anxiety, team members are calmed and comforted by the knowledge that each packet makes a tremendous difference in the lives of their neighbors.

Love-based Programs Create Lasting Impact

We have been incredibly gratified to discover that many graduates of NYF programs go on to give back to their communities. For example, young women from our Empowering Dalit Daughters program (active from 2006 to 2013), earned degrees in business management, medicine, journalism, social sciences, and more—and they report many ways they have found to reinvest their success back into their communities. Hema is supporting female entrepreneurs in the tourism industry. Reblka coordinated health education projects in remote regions. Manju is sponsoring the educations of children experiencing the same casteism she encountered as a child. Smita is a schoolteacher in a remote village who supports health-focused NGOs.

Coming in 2021

At NYF, the work changes year by year as needs shift—but we are always striving to improve the ways we provide our services to the children of Nepal.

In 2021, we will continue to meet this incredible moment with programs designed to bring Freedom, Shelter, Healthcare, and Education to children throughout this pandemic.

And as we respond to this crisis, we will build towards the future: revisiting existing programs with a focus on sustainability, accessibility, and capacity building. NYF has learned a great deal over the past 30 years, and in the years to come, we are determined to continue transforming lives—ensuring that your #LoveWorks.