In November 2021, the Olgapuri kids enjoyed fresh, nutritious tomatoes from the greenhouse at Olgapuri Children’s Village. Meanwhile, our SAAET Project is teaching women in Nepal’s fertile plains region how to use similar tech to build booming vegetable businesses at home!

The past two years have given me a chance to think more deeply about NYF and all we do. One thing which makes me proudest is NYF’s unwavering steadfastness: what we start, we finish. Take the cases of four young boys we met through the New Life Center—Santosh*, Bijay*, Ashok*, and Deepak*.

NYF’s New Life Center (NLC) is a facility where children diagnosed with HIV receive special, life-affirming treatment. Almost all of them arrive at the NLC acutely malnourished and terribly sick. Here, they are provided with medical treatment, nutritious meals, and psychological counseling. Ninety percent return home at a normal weight, with their HIV under control (with the remaining children making strong progress). And their mothers—usually also living with HIV—are trained in practical strategies to bolster the health of their children.

Over the years, four boys have come to the NLC whose parents later died of AIDS. Such is the stigma of HIV in Nepal that no relative would undertake their care. We had no residential facility for children with such severe, chronic illness, but we felt a responsibility to help them, so one by one, they took up residence at the NLC. A hospital is not a good place to grow up, and these boys needed a home where they could live a more normal life. We decided to integrate them into Olgapuri Village, at first to protect them from COVID-19—but soon, it became the obvious long-term solution. For the first year, they had a special caretaker to assure that they were taking their medication properly, sticking to the special diet that keeps them healthy, and not overexerting themselves—and to ensure that they and their new Olgapuri siblings could coexist safely.

The Olgapuri children welcomed them as brothers. They go to school, play, and take their meals with the other children, and they are under the loving care of the house parents.

Our job is not finished. Bijay is about to graduate from high school. He is a very smart kid—second in his class in the good private school he attends—and we will have to find safe and friendly accommodations for him while he attends college. Not an easy task in a society where HIV is still so vilified.

What we start, we finish! In 2022, we are so proud to be rolling out new initiatives to help children living with HIV and their families in Nepal. Thank you all for the remarkable support that makes this possible!

Joyfully,

Olga Murray

Founder & Honorary President

* Names have been changed
Introducing Industrial Tailoring at OVS

Friends, this newsletter only highlights a few of the ways NYF is using lessons learned during the COVID pandemic to better serve the young people in our care. Thank you for your loving support—especially during the past 2 years!

I am especially excited about a vocational training course launched during COVID and held in lockdown at Olgapuri Vocational School: Industrial Tailoring. Hundreds of young women are on the waiting list for this training—most of them Freed Kamilaris*.

Trainees learn to make wearable garments in 3 months, then enter a 3-month paid apprenticeship phase with a quality local manufacturer.

Once this training is complete, they become full-time employees with stable hours, regular work, and fair wages for their efforts! One hundred percent of our graduates are employed—so we are eager to scale the program.

One graduate, Dhan Kumari Tharu, recently told us, “As I started earning money, my confidence grew stronger. The more we earn, the more we can ‘think big’ and look forward to doing better in life. Eventually, I should be able to establish my own garment workshop. I have full confidence and trust in my ability.”

These women have come so far since being sold as children. I am filled with pride as they make the most of every opportunity, encouraging one another and building on new skills and experience.

Money earned gives each woman new options—and watching them consider those options is a privilege I treasure.

*The Freed Kamilaris are young women NYF helped free from childhood indentured servitude between 2000-2020. To learn more, please visit https://nyf.news/kamilaris-2021-study

PASANG: In the Shadow of Everest

Pasang Lhamu Sherpa is a Nepali heroine - the first Nepali woman to summit Mount Everest. Hers is a story of courage, determination, and the impact one person can have on a generation.

This remarkable story has now been translated to the big screen, and NYF is so proud to be a nonprofit partner of the film.

The film premiered at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival on March 3rd, 2022, and is touring other festivals before a broader release.

To learn more, visit our information page at https://nyf.news/pasang-movie. Keep an eye on NYF’s website and social media for updates on festivals and screenings that may come to your area!

Staff Spotlight: Sunita Rimal, Nutrition Coordinator

Sunita Rimal is NYF’s Nutrition Coordinator, leading the Nutritional Rehabilitation Homes (NRHs) and New Life Center (NLC)—as well as Lito for Life and the COVID-19 Isolation Center.

This year, Sunita is celebrating 15 years at NYF! We are so proud of the work she has done and is still doing.

Sunita and her team are now launching new HIV/AIDS Advocacy & Awareness projects in 5 districts near Kathmandu to help combat stigma and match families with home health resources. It’s an ambitious project. NYF is grateful to have experts like Sunita leading the way.

Born in a remote village in eastern Nepal, Sunita is familiar with the hardships facing the children she serves. She is also inspired by the resourcefulness and dedication of her parents. Sunita’s parents were the “problem-solvers” in their community. Their home often served as a meeting space where solutions were found and plans were made.

Sunita’s parents established a small school in their cow shed, housing 2 teachers from India in their home free-of-charge. At first, local parents only sent their sons. Sunita’s parents urged their neighbors to send daughters as well.

As a little girl, Sunita spent whole days with the older charge. At first, local parents only sent their sons. Sunita’s parents urged their neighbors to send daughters as well.

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Sunita Rimal credits her parents - village leaders in their remote community - with inspiring her career.

First Annual Legacy Tea

In early March, Legacy Circle members met for a short & sweet virtual tea with Olga—part of NYF’s commitment to thanking these special supporters. If you’d like to learn about NYF’s Legacy Circle, please contact Eric at 415-331-8865 or info@nepalayoutfoundation.org

Olga Deserves a Medal!

Help us nominate Olga for the Presidential Medal of Freedom

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the highest civilian honor in the US, reserved for those who make great contributions in areas like world peace and cultural change.

Recipients include artists, scientists, inventors, activists, writers, diplomats, pioneering figures, politicians, athletes, journalists, philanthropists, and more - including beloved friend of NYF Isabel Allende!

Isabel thinks Olga deserves the Medal as well - and so do we!

In March, Isabel reached out to Congress to tell them about Olga’s work in Nepal and to recommend her for this special honor.

Now, we need your help to share Olga’s story with senators, Vice President Harris, and President Biden.

If you are a US citizen or resident and agree that Olga deserves this prestigious award, please write to your senators to tell them so! Detailed instructions (and a temp late letter to download if desired!) are available at: https://nyf.news/medal-of-freedom

If you choose to participate, please let us know so we can notify you of any response we receive!

NYF is proud to announce that we can now accept these donations at: Crypto for Charity (a 501c3 nonprofit) makes this possible by converting your crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm crypto gifts will come from them...- but a warm ...