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Newsletter : January 2010

Namaste,

To begin this new year, we have a great news! After leaving their hometown for about 8 years, children will be able to return to live in Humla, in their culture, close to their families... It is a great happiness for everyone, although some children worry a little about this change...

Enjoy this newsletter and, as usual, don't hesitate to contact us if you have any question!

For Karya,
Christine and Farid.

➤ Karnali house relocation



*Santosh and Krishna, two of the youngest victims.
They were trafficked as they were only 4 years old...*

Victims of trafficking in 2003, the children we serve in the house Karnali have all learned to grow away from their own, adapt to the culture of the capital, learn Nepali. Adjusting was not easy, especially for youngsters, who were only 4 years old. The experiences they have faced have not made the task easier. They were forced to beg, to work, they were beaten, suffered a psychological and moral torture. Some of them even had to adopt a new identity.

Children were in a pretty bad shape when we got them back, but time allowed us to earn their trust.

Since, they were relieved from a heavy pressure imposed by the trafficker. Although children may have found some stability with us, there is still a void that no one came to fill: the absence of their family, the loss of their culture and traditions. We spent a lot of time looking for their families in order to recreate a link that had been broken for many years.



Jala and Kabita receive a picture and a letter from their family...the first in 5 years.

This way, children could put a face on their parents, write letters and send pictures. This project to reconnect was an important step but not yet filled the needs of children: reconnect with their culture. Some were complaining about having forgotten their dialect, their parents, landscapes and traditions of their village. That's why, in November 2008, all efforts were put together in order to allow children to return to their home during school holidays.

Krishna and Kopila are back with their family



after 7 years.

This project has been a very emotional success for everyone. Imagine the delight of children who were reunited with their parents and the entire community (for details, you can refer to November and December 2008 newsletter).

Back at Katmandou, some children expressed their willingness to go back home. Although far from the comforts of the capital, they have enjoyed in the remotest villages of Humla happiness they had forgotten, that of being at home, surrounded by their family. We can not afford to get children back to their villages every school holiday for both financial and organizational reasons. One solution has been considered: moving the children's home from Kathmandu to Simikot, the head of the district of Humla.

After several months of hard work, the project will materialize. Some children will be able to return to live within their culture, while continuing to study at Simikot school. A house big enough was found and will be ready to accept children as early as April.



The new house and its wonderful view on Himalaya !



The news has been recently announced to children. Not all of them are concerned. After much consideration, we decided to leave the 8 older children in Kathmandu because they have a high school level and they have to take the SLC exam this year.

In the long term, for the older children, the idea remains the same: we will accompany them as long as we can during their studies so they can return home to help their community.

After their last stay in Humla, vocations are born, and some of them work very hard to help their families and their entire villages to get out of the poverty in which they have been immersed for too long.

As for the younger, the idea is different. What they need the most is to be close to their family so they can spend as much time as they can with them. They welcomed the news with joy while some had some misgivings, which is normal. They spent so much time far from this region. But at the end of the conversation, children could imagine themselves running into the fields, swimming in the mystic Karmali river!

Children will keep studying at Simikot public school, which is the school that Karya has chosen to conduct a project to support education. We received 1 300 euros from the League of Education (Fortnight of Public School 2009), which will allow us to implement projects like laying out the school, teachers training, and so on...

We wish to thank especially Julien and all the local team (Bertille, Sanjup and Samjyor) without whom none of this would have emerged!



➤ Press review

Reintegration process, an agreement signed between government, Maoists and the UN:

Approximately 200 children indoctrinated soldiers by the Maoists during the conflict come to leave camps to rejoin their families. They are the first of 3 000 recruited (1/3 of child soldiers are girls). (BBC News of 7/01/2010, IRIN of 2/02/2010)

Health: Médecins du Monde's report #97

Nepal has the 3rd highest infant mortality rate in the world. In some districts, 95% of women deliver at home without any care.

Food crisis:

In some rural areas of the mountains, over 600 000 villagers are struggling to get enough to eat. « Some children leave for China or India as workers to help their family ». (New Tang Dynasty 02/02/2010)

➤ Actions in France :

« Sari Soldiers » movie:

The movie has been played during the International Human Rights Film Festival in Haute Savoie. Karya participated to the after show debate.

This remarkable movie tells the story of 6 Nepalese women, victims of either Royal Army or Maoist Army.

Here is the movie's website:

<http://sarisoldiers.com/>

Lhossar, Tibetan New Years Eve, at Les Houches (74) on 19th, 20th and 21st of February:

This year's theme is Nepal. Karya will be there with exhibitions and slideshows during this long weekend.

The complete program can be seen on the « lionsdesneigesmontblanc » website.

➤ Our partners :

At the end of 2009, Karya has been able to move deeper in its projects, thanks to 3 new partnerships.

KARYA / NGN convention:



We have officialized our partnership with Next Generation Nepal, an USA-based association with which we've been working on reunification projects. This partnership allows Karya to benefit from the aid of an international NGO, based in Nepal.

KARYA / NGN / TDH convention:



A partnership has been signed in Nepal between Karya, NGN and Terre Des Hommes in order to mutualize their efforts on Humla region's children protection.

KARYA / CME Savoie Mt Blanc convention:



The Crédit Mutuel Enseignant of Savoie Mt-Blanc committed to support Karya's actions. The bank made a 400 euros donation in 2009.



How can you help these children?

Karya depends on donators and sponsors in order to complete its projects.

Here is what your money allows us to do for children ...

- **Food** for a kid for a month: 23 €
- **Scholarship** in a private school for one year for one a child: 120 €
- **Complete care** of a child for 1 year: 625 €
- **Water needs** for 25 children for 1 month: 60 €
- **House rent** for 1 month : 180 €

Each and every euro gets much more value in Nepal ! To help us:

Check : payable to Karya. Send it to:
KARYA,
57 Route de La Plaine,
74300 THYEZ, France.

Fund transfer: please contact Karya

Please visit our website, or contact us to have more information on our actions.

Thank you for your support!!!