



# Kathmandu Kids Club Newsletter

May 2007

## 100,000 and Beyond!!

Contact [bonnie@kathmandukidsclub.com](mailto:bonnie@kathmandukidsclub.com)

*Greetings! What a year! We got started on April 28, 2006 and by March 14, 2007, we have 62 members, 18 patrons and 149 donors!*

Our amazing team of volunteers, supporters and members have raised over 107,000.00. Although we raise funds to help all of ISIS's Nepal projects, in the last nine months the fund has gone directly towards the running of their ten new children's homes, which care for 136 children who were rescued from deplorable and dangerous conditions.

Thanks for your terrific support and please remember to contact your employer for a matching contribution as we start our process of renewing members.

## Funds Raised

Contact [karen@kathmandukidsclub.com](mailto:karen@kathmandukidsclub.com)

Between April and December 2006, the Kathmandu Kids Club raised a fantastic 76,535 in funds from a collection of supporters in Bermuda and around the world. We raised 50,327 from our generous patrons, members and donors of the club and also an additional 26,208 through the auction and sales at our launch event in September 2006. A huge success overall!

To date these funds have been used to help with The ISIS Foundation's Children's Homes Projects in Kathmandu. These funds have been sent to Nepal and have covered the following expenses:

	US
School & Related	20,159
Children's Homes Office Costs	16,426
Accommodation & Utilities	10,049
Food	9,037
Professional & Care Staff	8,922
Clothing	6,012
Healthcare	5,930
TOTAL	76,535

Help us spread the word about the club and make these figures grow and grow in 2007!!

## News from Nepal

Contact [leonie@kathmandukidsclub.com](mailto:leonie@kathmandukidsclub.com)



Urgen Lama, Home Parent at the ISIS 4 'Nature Club' home with the kids.

I'm typing this while sitting in Kathmandu, in our office in Dhumbarai. It's fantastic to be back in beautiful, mystical Nepal, and even more exciting to see the work that everyone here is doing and what it means for so many disadvantaged kids.

I know that in the last nine months all the Katkids money has gone to support our ten kids homes, so will focus on the news from the homes.

It is so exciting to be here seeing what's happened since I left in August last year, when we obtained custody of the final 91 of the 136 kids we have in our care. At that time, they were hungry, tired, distressed at being moved and both nervous and excited about what their new lives would be with ISIS support.

I wish I could teleport you all here to see what's happened in the intervening seven months. All the homes are really well loved and lived in, with books, drawings papering the walls, slippers outside bedroom doors, and beautiful flowers in the gardens. The kids are all in school and have done really well, exceeding their 'position in class' from last year. They've all been pin cushions for many vaccinations the latest round is rabies, in case of monkey or dog bites! It is just beautiful to see kids blossoming, and that's exactly what's happening here.

Here's some of the amazing achievements of the kids and their ISIS carers here:

- A few nights ago, I watched a beautiful and moving DVD. DB Lama, the Humli man who is trying to find



the families of the children in our ten children's homes, has so far contacted families of 97 of our 136 kids. He has DVD footage of the parents to show the children, and he's set up a phone and office in Simikot, 8,000 feet up into the Himalayas, so that the parents can call their kids to say hi and keep in touch. All the Mums are crying on the video, horrified to find out that their kids have been treated so badly and saying sorry for thinking that the traffickers would be responsible with their kids. The Dads all tell their kids to study well, do what the teachers tell them ! , and to remember that the families are still there and remembering them. DB Lama has now set off on another 60 day journey to other parts of Nepal, to find the families of the remaining 39 kids.

- In February this year Urgen Lama, the Home Parent at ISIS 4 - 'Nature Club' home, won the 'Employee of the Month' award. He looks after 13 little boys, aged 6-9, all of whom came from the awful 'orphanage' we first found in 2004. When the kids first moved in, they were pretty difficult - that's putting it nicely! They wouldn't do what they were told, ran away, shouted a lot, fought frighteningly hard, and were generally pretty miserable and disturbed. Within seven months, Urgen and the team of specialist managers in Kathmandu have worked with the kids and they are now like different children - they are happy, do what their told at least most of the time, and are enjoying life again.
- The first of our kids passed his Year 10 exams, which is the first external examination children sit in Nepal. This young man is fantastic - he comes from the lowest caste in Nepal, the Dalits, which is similar to the 'Untouchable' caste in India, and his family lives in Humla. Everyone is hugely proud of him. He is now on holidays and doing work experience in our office. He'll return to school in a couple of months to begin the last two years of high school.
- We want to make sure the kids in our care are healthier and better educated, but also happier. In looking worldwide at research, we found that nobody had a questionnaire that had been formulated for Nepali kids on happiness. So in an exciting new project, Kimber Haddix McKay, our Anthropologist, along with Soni Singh from Nepal, have developed and validated a new questionnaire and have now begun the process of testing all the children in the ten homes for their level of happiness!

## "A little help, a little hope"

Contact [eve@kathmandukidsclub.com](mailto:eve@kathmandukidsclub.com)

The long awaited Kathmandu Kids Club charity event took place on Thursday, May 17, at Gosling's Wine Cellar. The auction included an extensive collection of donations from the generous heart of Bermuda's community. Items ranged from paintings, sculptures, water skiing lessons, weekend holiday packages and signed Bermuda World Cup cricket shirts. Original African pieces from Uganda were on display including beautiful original pieces of jewelry, arts and amazing Batik wall hangings.

Guests enjoyed complimentary wine and refreshments while browsing through a market style auction and African sales stall where authentic Ugandan jewellery and artisan crafts were sold. Everyone also enjoyed learning a bit more about the Kathmandu Kids Club not only from the compelling displays and testimonials from actual team members in attendance, but also from a brief update by ISIS Co Founder Sharon A. Beesley on the foundation's work in Nepal and Uganda.

Thanks to the dedicated volunteers, generous contributors, the dazzling hosting style of the brilliant Ed Christopher and the hard work of the Katkids Event Team and Katkids Managers, almost \$40,000 was raised! Proceeds from the sale and auction of African goods about 16,000 will go to the The ISIS Foundation projects in Uganda while the balance will be sent to support The ISIS Foundation's projects which help severely disadvantaged children in Nepal.

*"All a kid needs is a little help, a little hope and someone who believes in them"* Earvin 'Magic' Johnson

## BHS raises funds for KatKids

Contact [leo@kathmandukidsclub.com](mailto:leo@kathmandukidsclub.com)

Students from Bermuda High School recently held a Grub Day to raise money for the Kathmandu Kids Club and Habitat For Humanity. Our share of the proceeds was an amazing 822.79 well done, girls!



Pictured: Primary 6 students presenting the cheque to Léo

BHS students have been corresponding with the children in Nepal thanks to a pilot programme run by the club's Schools Liaison Manager Léo Rouja, who is a teacher at the school.

In our next newsletter, we will have a story about the fantastic work a former BHS student has been doing for our Club.

## Raise 300k for Katkids and stand on the roof of the world

Contact [pia@kathmandukidsclub.com](mailto:pia@kathmandukidsclub.com)

How tough are you? How tough is your company? Need a challenge? Need some motivation? We'll give you both.

Join the Base Camp Everest Charity Challenge team in 2008 on an outstanding trek to the base camp of the world's highest mountain - and make a difference in the lives of Nepali children in serious need.

Soak in the scenery as you pass deep gorges and glacial lakes; trek through lush valleys, exploring villages and monasteries; sample sherpa hospitality; and finish with a breathtaking panoramic view of surrounding peaks and glaciers. Eight of the world's fourteen peaks that exceed 8,000m in height are situated in the Nepalese Himalayas. The highest of them all, standing at 8,848m, is Mt. Everest. Your challenge - Base Camp.

In 2002, 16 employees from ACE Limited conquered Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa, climbing 5,895 m to the summit and raising more than 300,000 for The ISIS Foundation. In 2007 or 2008, you too can take the challenge of this fantastic leadership opportunity. Better yet, your company may also want to sponsor the trek by matching employees' donations.

## Just for Laughs give Kathmandu Kids Club plenty to smile about with a 12,000 donation

Contact [chris@kathmandukidsclub.com](mailto:chris@kathmandukidsclub.com)

We had plenty to smile about following the Just For Laughs comedy shows at the Fairmont Southampton Princess in January when event organiser and Chief Chuckler Richard Simon handed the Kathmandu Kids Club a cheque for an amazing 12,000!

Richard had pledged to donate up to 10,000 in part proceeds from the four shows that saw international comedians Alonzo Bodden, Rocky LaPorte, Jeremy Hotz, John Heffron and Frank Olivier, along with Bermudian star Nadanja, reduce packed houses at the Fairmont Southampton to fits of laughter.

Richard commented: "The event was such a success, we're delighted to be able to give an even bigger donation to such a worthy cause. As our event is an international one, it made sense for us to support a charity that has an international impact. The Kathmandu Kids Club and The ISIS Foundation are doing tremendous work that is really having a positive effect on young lives and we're delighted to be associated with them."

Club members acted as ushers at each of the four shows and manned an information booth about the Club in the foyer at the Mid Ocean Amphitheatre.

The money raised has gone directly to the 10 children's homes run by The ISIS Foundation in Kathmandu. Approximately 10,000 will pay for all the food, clothing and medical expenses for one home for a whole year, while 3,000 can fully support one child for a year.



Pictured left to right: Finance Director Karen Esdale, Chief Chuckler Richard Simon, Chairman Kim Carter and Events Manager Eve Paterson.

For more about Just For Laughs Bermuda, visit [www.comedyevent.bm](http://www.comedyevent.bm) or call 292 7232

## Contact and Donation Details:

- The ISIS Foundation and The ISIS Foundation UK , 35 Crow Lane, East Broadway, Paget, HM 20, Bermuda,
- Ph: 1 441 232 9001; Fax: 1 441 236 1999
- Registration: 508 Bermuda ; 109 8152 UK
- Websites: [www.isis.bm](http://www.isis.bm) or [www.kathmandukidsclub.com](http://www.kathmandukidsclub.com)
- Donate by Cheque: By sending a cheque to the address above, made out to The ISIS Foundation or The ISIS Foundation UK
- Donate by Credit or Debit Card: On [www.donations.bm](http://www.donations.bm) or [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com)

*Cherishing children is the mark of a civilized society.*  
-Joan Ganz Cooney

