



21st Issue – July, 2013

Building a world where all people can be happy

The Foundation's first newsletter was issued in July 2008, so perhaps it is appropriate that this "coming of age" issue is published on the newsletter's 5th birthday. In that first issue we congratulated ourselves for the accomplishments of our first few months. After 5 years, thanks to our many donors and supporters, our portfolio has really blossomed. More importantly, thanks to you, there are families in the developing world who know where their next meal is coming from, who have money to pay for their children's education, and even have savings accounts and plans for a brighter future.

As a Foundation we have been learning a lot. Life is complicated and progress is difficult to measure. In our 2012 Annual Report we published our first ever impact study. As part of our due diligence we ask grant recipients for metrics with which we can measure the impact of our investment. As we did our analysis we realized that metrics really don't tell the whole story. How does one compare the impact of 1 child attending school, to 1 teacher getting advanced training, to 1 family creating a kitchen garden, to 1 patient treated by an emergency care practitioner? How much time can trainers or nurses afford to spend collecting metrics? **Friends of Nepal Pariwar Foundation** is one of the smallest organizations we have supported. Our funds have provided extra nurse/midwives to rural clinics in Nepal. This is their reply to our request for additional metrics, "At least 70% of births take place in the home, according to



government of Nepal statistics, without a skilled birthing attendant. Both government and NGO services are trying to get these women to come for antenatal checkups and preferably deliver in the clinic with a skilled nurse-midwife. It would not be uncommon for a pregnant woman to come to one of our community clinics for prenatal checkup and then deliver at home or in another clinic or hospital. Clients come from a distance of 4-6 hours walk from clinics and follow-up is not possible unless the patient makes a repeat visit to the clinic. One of our clinic nurses told me last visit that she refers complicated cases to a hospital or health center for deliveries but she has no confirmation (unless someone from that village tells her) if the delivery takes place at home, or in another clinic or hospital." Clearly there is no simple way to measure success; individual accounts may be hard to quantify, but perhaps they are a more accurate measurement.

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Indego Africa in its blog recently offered these comments from their artisan partners about how they used the money they earned from a completed order: 1) I paid farmhands to work on my farm, I bought a mattress, food, clothes and I put the rest into my account, 2) I paid school fees for my children and bought health insurance for 7 people, 3) I bought windows and doors that I installed in my house. I also bought food and clothes for myself and my children, 4) I put all the money in my account. I plan to put aside more so that I can buy a plot of land.

Updates

After a recent visit by a team led by Andrew Carlson, the **Kossoye Project** gave an update of their on-going kitchen garden programs in Ethiopia. They visited an excellent demonstration garden at the Dara elementary school which is maintained by students and teachers. The only assistance from the Project was the seeds and the training. The school is growing chard, cabbage, kale, and lettuce which are all doing well. Once again they were both amused and frustrated by the failure to be able to maintain the carrots. The sweet young carrots are too tempting and continue to be eaten by the young students before they can be officially harvested. They were pleasantly surprised to learn that a teacher who attended last year's training started a demonstration garden at a high school where she teaches. Again the only inputs were training, seeds, and encouragement. It is clear that Kossoye's recent modifications to their strategy (smaller, easier to manage 5x5 gardens) are working and their programs are moving toward sustainability in many of the communities they have been working with.



New Grant

Malayaka House is an orphanage in Entebbe, Uganda. Their program includes some interesting, entrepreneurial aspects. For instance they run a homemade cheese business and pizza restaurant, a craft shop, small farm, guest house, and an organic coffee business. They also encourage vocational training by enrolling children in electronics repair and bio-gas installation programs outside of their facility. The \$5,000 grant from *AllPeopleBeHappy* will fund a reintegration program for medically traumatized youth like Mary (pictured both right and left). Over the next 3 years Malayaka House will grow their program to facilitate medical assistance, after school tutoring and counseling, and eventually assimilate some of these young people in small business enterprise programs.

