

Ghar Sita Mutu

House with Heart

**JUNE 2014
NEWSLETTER**

by Beverly Bronson, Founder & Director

I am back in New York, once again wearing my fundraising hat—a hat that always competes with my Mummy hat.

When I am apart from the children, I rely on technology to stay in touch. Skype is particularly helpful. The kids are fascinated by the computer and giggle and smile and chat about their day. It is also useful for keeping in touch with staff members Rajina, Hem, and Samista Auntie, who keep me apprised of what is going on in the House.

This is such a contrast to when I first went to Nepal in 1999. There was no road to where we lived—only muddy footpaths. Just getting an email out required a walk across the fields to get to an Internet café in the village. Even then, there was no guarantee there would be power.



Beverly, Manisha, Sujita, Rajina (co-manager), Sangita, & Sushmita.

Now we have Internet in our own home. It's temperamental with the power cuts and when the rains and winds come, but when we're connected we are most grateful.

I am happy to report Manu and Dil Babu recently sat for their school leaving certificate and both passed. Manu hopes to be a doctor and Dil Babu has decided to study Hotel Management although his heart is in music and he wants to be a rock star.

GHAR SITA MUTU - HOUSE WITH HEART
is a home for abandoned children, a training program for
destitute women, and a support program for needy families in
Kathmandu, Nepal



A drawing of our house by 12-year-old Sujita.

Welcome to the Newest Family Member!

Before I left Nepal we took in a new family member—tiny 25-month-old Sujita Gole. She was extremely malnourished

(only 6 kg or 16 pounds) and very scared. She lived in a remote village with her mother and two brothers. The mother is mentally incompetent and since their father died a year ago, the children have been completely neglected.



Sujita arrived frightened and malnourished.

In just a very short time, Sujita has made great progress. She has gained weight and is alert, playful, and a bit bossy. She is very possessive of her favorite toy, the calculator. Perhaps GSM has its first math genius onboard!



Sujita has shown so much improvement in just a month.

Breaking

NEWS: Sujita's brothers, Lakpa Gole (11 months) and Dorje (age 7), were placed just days ago with Shangrila children's home. Dorje is living in our house temporarily. Unfortunately, we cannot take the boys in on a permanent basis because current government rules require a separate building for boys.

We found out the mother of Lakpa, Dorje and Sujita is the father's second wife. He married her when he was in his 50's because his first wife had given him four daughters and he

See "Breaking News" on page 3.

Breaking News

Continued from page 1.

wanted a son. The four oldest sisters are all daughters of the first wife. Both wives still live together in the same house, but on different floors with everything separated.

Lakpa's mother, who rarely speaks, has always had mental health issues according to the villagers. She works in people's fields everyday and gets food in

return, but she would never feed her baby. The first wife sometimes fed him, but only sporadically. Lapka spent most days in a dark room all by himself. With no one to respond to his cries, he is now a baby who cries very little.

We arranged to have the Shangrila staff

rescue the children, and many people in the village gathered when the Shangrila staff arrived. They were happy the two children would be taken to a new home. They said that while the mother could not look after her children, she would be able to fend for herself.



All of the information we have about Sujita, Lapka & Dorje comes from the villagers.



Lakpa (l) is a severely malnourished 11-month-old baby. His brother Dorje (r) at 7 years, is smaller than our 2 1/2-year-old toddler Abhaya.



It was nice to see Dorje and Sujita, brother and sister, reunited at the GSM House.

Donors allow us to reach far into the community...

The new toilet block is complete at Shangri-La School! By experiencing good hygiene at school, the children are more likely to bring these practices to their homes. Many thanks to the folks who donated.

We have also met our goal of \$5,500 for kindergarten room renovations at this same school. The room repairs will include plastering and

painting, installing electricity, and repairing the ceiling and floors. The work on the rooms will begin when I return to Nepal at the end of the summer. In addition, an anonymous donor pledged \$3,000 for learning materials.

You may remember that last year we renovated the other classrooms at the school. The teachers and principal report a major boost in morale.



These are the new toilets at the Shangri-La School, which will significantly improve the comfort and hygiene for girls.

New products being produced

This past fall we offered a textile art and painting class to 15 women. I was pleasantly surprised by how lovely their work turned out. With little chance to beautify their otherwise dismal living conditions, the women were eager to paint tablecloths and sheets and were very happy with their results. Samista, our House Auntie who is a talented artist in her own right, taught the class. She will also be teaching glass painting, a popular art form in Nepal, that will sell well in local shops.

See "Women's Training Program" on page 3.

Thank you to our visitors & supporters!

Medical Doctors Visit

UK doctors **Sophie Lewis** and **Kate Skinner** volunteered at GSM in April and gave physicals to our children, our staff, the women in our training program, and the children in our Learning Centre. The Learning Centre children had multiple cavities so we took them all to a dentist. Happily, no one had any serious medical problems; however, some of the women were found to have a prolapsed uterus—a major problem here in Nepal. This is just another reason why I hope to find the funds to open a maternal health clinic.



Doctors Sophie Lewis and Kate Skinner with the students in our Children's Learning Centre.

Good Samaritan

Jason Mandl from *The Wandering Samaritan.org*, visited us and made a donation to our education fund and funded the repair of the floor in our Women's Training Program. Jason also donated eyeglasses, pens, and pencils that he carried to Nepal from New York. Good luck with your project, Jason.



Volunteer Jason Mandl, right, tried his hand at breaking apart the flooring in the Women's Training room.

Solar System Expansion

Thanks to a generous donation by **Machteld Price**, we were able to install two new batteries and extra solar panels that help us get through the long dark nights when we have no electricity. Thank you so much, Machteld.



We rely heavily on solar power at Ghar Sita Mutu. Machteld Price made it possible for us to significantly upgrade our system.

Swimming!

Our girls love to swim and were recently treated to a day at a pool at a nearby hotel. The outing—a rare luxury—was paid for by one of our generous donors, **Margie Rodgers**. Margie specifically asked that her donation go toward a fun activity. The kids were thrilled, Margie!

Women's Training Program

Continued from page 2.

The felt products and other sewn items the women make continue to sell very well outside of Nepal. We are well stocked with lovely crafts, so **if anyone knows of a shop that would like to sell our products, please let us know**. We will arrange to have items shipped. Proceeds from the sale of our products go directly back into the training program.



Ghar Sita Mutu
151 First Ave, #74
New York, NY 10003

Connect with us



Visit us online:
www.GharSitaMutu.org

How can you help?

Ghar Sita Mutu relies on the generosity of friends like you. All donations are **tax deductible** in the US and go directly toward running and expanding our programs.

Please make all checks payable to our fiscal sponsor:

The Candy Jernigan Foundation for the Arts
and note "Ghar Sita Mutu" on your check.

Mail checks to:
Ghar Sita Mutu
151 First Ave, #74
New York, NY 10003

You can also give online at
www.GharSitaMutu.org
www.HousewithHeart.org

Thank you!

For more information,
call Beverly at 212-529-0832.

A LITTLE BACKGROUND



Babu & Krishna, ages 2 & 5

My name is Beverly Bronson. I own a small antique shop called A Repeat Performance in New York City. In 1999 while working as a volunteer in Nepal, I found two abandoned children named Babu and Krishna, ages two and five. After searching for a loving home for them I had no choice but to put them in boarding

school. Safe but bleak. The school appointed me as guardian and I went back to New York with plans to raise money to establish a centre to house abandoned children and help destitute women.

I returned to Nepal later that year with enough funds to rent a house. We opened Ghar Sita Mutu - House with Heart in 2001 and have been expanding our outreach to the community every year. We moved into our own home in 2004. I split my time between New York and Nepal.