



How we make a difference at our children's homes

Sai Home

With sponsorship funds growing, we have acted to improve education for some of the children at this home at Sai in Kathmandu.

We have made a conscious decision to send the girls to an English speaking school before we send the boys.

Nepal is a male-dominated country. Without a good education a girl has little chance of getting ahead in life.

The boys will also start at an English speaking school in April 2009. The ever-resourceful Narayan, meanwhile, has arranged for a Nepalese volunteer to teach English to all children at the home on four days a week. As in so many countries now, English in education makes a critical difference, and in Nepal opens up employment opportunities.

Not all will know of baby twins who Dharmik President Mark rescued in January in a starving condition and convinced the guardians to allow them to go to the Sai home. This had resulted from a simple lack of funds for infant milk formula, a highly expensive import. In mid-2008 the twins had to return to CCRC but this caused such grief to the Sai foster parents and children at the Sai home that foster parents of Sai children are considering fostering the twins officially. Since then, they have returned to the Sai home and are thriving among the home's extended family.

Dharmik Vice President and Volunteer Nicia spent a few months for Dharmik including spending valuable time at the Sai home overseeing roofing, painting, making a study area and enclosing a concrete floor room to use as a kitchen so the cooking could be moved from the girls' bedroom.

By such basic changes to our children's environment do we measure progress that will change their futures.



Photos show before and after Nicia and Jason's painting job and Nicia's farewell yoghurt feeding!

CPWD

(Centre for Promotion and Welfare of the Disabled)

This home we support in targeted ways. Some special chairs have been made recently and we have lived up to our ambition to have a volunteer physiotherapist visit the children regularly.

The home has also moved to a nearby location which costs less for rent and is in a much nicer environment.

CCRC

This home has also moved to a new and much better environment than when Dharmik first became involved. The children's new home is cleaner, bigger and more able to cope with the growing number of children who are rescued.

This home is run by a Nepalese committee with whom we often have difficulty in agreeing what to do for the children. However, Dharmik has now become directly involved in hiring new Didis (carers) and overseeing food supplies for this home. Providing funding for adequate nutrition is part of what we aim to do.

Dharmik's funding of each new Didi not only employs a woman in a male-dominated economy – giving her an otherwise unlikely opportunity – but makes a difference to her children and the education and welfare of her children and her extended family. This flow-on effect of employment will be very important in Nepal for many years to come.



Ganga and Jamuna, now thriving at Sai home with Bursa their “mum”