

Friends of Himalayan Sherpa People

Knowing what your donation really goes for is an important element of any giving program. The picture below is truly worth a thousand words. The children of Phapre gathered for a grand opening ceremony and a community-wide *Thank You*



for the work we have all done. Instead of a borrowed two room building with no windows, lighting or even floors, they now have a five room school building, thanks to your donations.

Several members of the 2011 trip with 9 new "friends", returned to Nepal in April of this year to celebrate the opening of the new school. The celebration included a formal ceremony (pictured below) cultural dance presentations and speeches. While the building may seem primitive, it is well along the way to becoming a model village school facility.

Like many other developing countries, Nepal is faced with sometimes staggering problems. The lack of a functioning central government, health and sanitation issues and education are but a few of the pressing problems. While we can only help solve some of the issues, the preservation of the beautiful Himalayan Sherpa culture is something we *can* help. Education is the key to empowering future generations with the knowledge that while time and progress march on, they *can* retain their mountain culture.



It is through helping to provide a model school facility and well trained teachers that Friends of Himalayan Sherpa People hope to make a difference in so many young lives and the village as a whole.



The children of Phapre *Thank You* for your interest and support!!

What Does the Future Hold.....

An inspection of the new school building has revealed that our goal of building a model facility is close but not complete. Many of the trades people who helped erect the building were volunteers and have left for paid jobs to support their families. We will be raising additional funds this coming year to put the stamp of completion on the building. This will include floors in two unfinished classrooms, ceilings to help keep the facility warm in the winter, and in all the classrooms: blackboards, adequate benches and tables, bulletin boards and necessary supplies.

A second priority will be to use funds for teacher training and skill enhancement. In the rural villages of Nepal, anyone who completes the equivalent of 12th grade can be a "teacher." An instructor with teacher certification as we know it, is rare in the mountain villages. During our visit this past April, the villagers in Phapre indicated that teacher quality was their biggest need at the school. FHSP would like to send both the teachers from the village school to a 2 month teacher training course in Kathmandu.

Please join us at our next fundraiser event; a showing of images from trekking in the Annapurna and Mt. Everest regions along with a sampling of traditional Nepalese food and music. **July 18th at the Lee Vining Community Center (7:00 PM).** The Bishop event will be **Thursday, September 4th at Jill Kinmont Boothe School.**

The mission of the Friends of Himalayan Sherpa People is to improve the quality of life for the Sherpa people in remote and rural villages of the Himalayan region through education, health care, and protecting natural and cultural resources.

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Tragedy on Everest

April 14th ended up being the darkest day in Mt Everest climbing history. Sixteen ethnic Sherpas lost their lives in a horrible ice avalanche just above Everest basecamp. These proud mountaineers were setting ropes and crevasse ladders for the many expeditions that were to follow.

What followed can only be described as a travesty and breach of faith. It was revealed that the insurance for their surviving families was only \$500. While various climbing organizations have stepped forward to help, the needs are great for their families and the 47 children left behind.

Any donation to the Sherpafund.org would be a gift from the heart.
