



# HIMALAYAN CHILDREN'S CHARITIES

## Fact Sheet

Himalayan Children's Charities was established to address the Nepali orphan crisis through a new paradigm utilizing education, nurturing care, and innovative mentorship, that empowers at-risk children to live lives of dignity, self-sufficiency, and community leadership.

### **Nepali Children in Need**

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world, and children represent the most vulnerable segment of the population. Problems faced by children, especially from rural areas and marginalized communities, include: child marriage, child labor, trafficking, lack of access to education, and gender and caste discrimination. Nepali children average only 8 years of schooling, and as of 2012, only 25% of children who enroll in the 1st grade complete grade 10<sup>1</sup>. Many children are forced to leave school to work and, according to UNICEF, 33.9% of Nepalis between the ages of 5-14 are involved in child labor - including in hazardous conditions, forced labor, and child trafficking and sexual exploitation<sup>2,3</sup>. As of 2015, 15,811 children were living in orphanages<sup>4</sup>, many of which are overcrowded with inadequate facilities and insufficient or lacking education, nutritious food, proper clothes, or adult supervision.

### **Purpose and Mission of Himalayan Children's Charities**

Our **purpose** is to transform the lives of orphaned, abandoned, and at-risk children in Nepal by breaking cycles of poverty, creating opportunities for self-reliant futures, and encouraging a culture of giving back.

Our **mission** is to empower children through nurturing care, education, and mentorship so that they may live healthy, happy lives and become leaders in their communities.

### **Children Served by Himalayan Children's Charities**

To date, HCC has directly served **200** orphaned and abandoned children in Kathmandu and the surrounding rural districts. HCC has had an indirect impact on a further **3000** children through its numerous outreach programs. In March 2016, HCC graduated its first group of 10 students - eight students graduated with university degrees, and all 10 have secured employment or are pursuing further education, in such sectors as digital animation, psychology, MS in pharmacology, and MS and MA in business administration and finance.

<sup>1</sup> UNESCO & Government of Nepal - Education for All: National Review Report 2001- 2015; <sup>2</sup> UNICEF - The State of the World's Children, 2015 Statistical Tables; <sup>3</sup> U.S. Dept. of Labor - 2015 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor; <sup>4</sup> The Government of Nepal, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare: Central Child Welfare Board - State of the Child Care Homes in Nepal, 2015 Report

## Programs

**Signature Program in Kathmandu:** Founding program provides education, nurturing care and innovative mentorship for orphaned and abandoned children coming out of the state-run orphanage system and other identified at-risk children.

**Life Skills Program:** Prepares the HCC students for life on their own after they leave school. The program teaches basic budgeting, cooking and house cleaning, purchasing, job interview techniques, computer and internet proficiency, advanced English classes, and other skills important to life on their own.

**Mentorship Program:** Mentorship inspires self-awareness and gratitude, by encouraging each student's individual talents, skills and passions. The program teaches communication and leadership skills, emotional management, and team building within a community. Most importantly, HCC mentorship encourages a mindset of "leaders training leaders", allowing the child to experience the feeling of empowerment and gratification through giving back and helping others.

**Higher-Learning Education Fund:** Students who wish to continue into higher education can apply for college, university or technical school education. Tuition and board is provided based on merit, motivation and academic dedication.

**Earthquake Orphan Scholarship Program (EOSP):** Initiated in response to the devastating earthquake of April 2015, the EOSP (which includes the Dhading Children's Initiative and the Rural Education Empowerment Program) provides educational scholarships, family support, and supplemental programs for children in the earthquake-affected districts of Dhading, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha.

**Library Project:** LiFE - Libraries For promoting Education in Nepal, is an HCC youth-led initiative that has collected 2,000 books and funds to establish two new public school libraries in the rural districts of Gorkha and Sindhupalchowk. Early childhood literacy programs are also under development.

**Anti-Trafficking Campaign:** Distribution of material to raise awareness and curb the alarming rate of child trafficking. Currently, 10,000 more educational comic books are in the printing phase for distribution to children, families and schools throughout the vulnerable central hill regions of Nepal.

**Wifi Program:** Internet initiative that has established WIFI connections for schools of underdeveloped communities in rural Nepal. Currently, the project covers 6 schools in the Dhading district for 2,200 students and teachers. HCC is providing teachers' training, in collaboration with Deerwalk IT Academy, in Internet navigation, access to resources and

materials for classroom lessons, as well as teaching techniques for computer practicum courses. The project plans to test the effectiveness of pre-recorded, e-learning classes within the rural classrooms, and the possibility of distance learning.

### **Funding**

Himalayan Children’s Charities values the support it receives from both its generous private sponsors and the corporate and foundation community in the United States. In appreciation, HCC offers its partners recognition and association with a highly regarded nonprofit organization holding the Guidestar Gold Seal, one of the world’s most recognized nonprofit awards. There are many ways donors, large and small, can partner with HCC to provide vital programs and resources that impact the lives of our children on a daily basis. Partnership opportunities include monetary donations, items that can be used by our children in school and university, and in-kind support of items for fundraising events, and collaborative projects.

### **Organization**

HCC is a nonprofit organization incorporated in September 2000 under the laws of the state of Florida. In July 2009 HCC transferred to a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the state of Georgia. Himalayan Children’s Charities carries out its purpose in collaboration with its NGO Nepali partners, HCC, Nepal and Creating Possibilities, Nepal.

### **Recognitions**



The GreatNonprofits Top-Rated Awards is the one and only people’s choice award where volunteers, donors, and people served by nonprofits are asked to share stories of inspiration, express their appreciation, and potentially help nonprofits earn a spot on the prestigious GreatNonprofits list of Top-Rated nonprofits.



GuideStar gathers and disseminates information about every IRS-registered nonprofit organization, and provides information on each nonprofit's mission, legitimacy, impact, reputation, finances, programs, transparency, governance, and more.

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