



# HIMALAYAN CHILDREN'S CHARITIES

## Who We Are

### **Bruce Keenan**

#### Co-founder and President

Bruce co-founded Prosys Information Systems in 1997 and served as its CEO from 1997 through July 2008. He grew Prosys from inception to \$450M in revenue and 420 employees in nine years without outside investors or capital, and delivered a profitable base line every quarter. Prosys was sold in 2006 to Bell Microproducts (BELM). In the same year, Prosys was awarded top computer reseller in the US by VAR Business magazine, the foremost publication in the field. Since 2008, Bruce has worked as president of Himalayan Children's Charities (HCC) which he co-founded in 2000 along



with his wife Susan. In response to the devastating earthquake in Nepal in April 2015, Bruce, Susan and HCC helped developed the Dhading Children's Initiative, aimed at providing education to children in the most earthquake-ravaged districts of rural Nepal. To date, HCC programs have directly helped over 200 at risk children escape poverty and receive a quality education, and indirectly helped hundreds more children across Nepal through implementation of new initiatives within schools, communities and families. Bruce also founded The Keenan Foundation in 2006, which is dedicated to the care and education of children throughout the world, to advance medical alternatives for people who have exhausted solutions from classical medicine and support at-risk animals. Bruce graduated from The Ohio State University with a BS in Theoretical Mathematics in 1976.



### **Susan Keenan**

#### Co-founder and Director

Susan co-founded one of Atlanta's premier convention services companies and served as president for over 12 years, delivering event production and personnel services to national corporations and associations. She discovered her passion for helping young people succeed in life when she volunteered at a non-profit organization from 1993-99, mentoring students to access their inner resources and develop leadership and communication skills. After a trip to Kathmandu in 2000, Susan witnessed the challenges and terrible conditions faced by abandoned children in Nepal, and

with her husband Bruce, established Himalayan Children's Charities. As co-director, she has worked to

provide educational and life-skills training opportunities to serve the needs of at-risk children in Nepal. She has fostered effective scholarship and mentoring programs for HCC students, including a program to bring wifi technology and e-learning to remote schools, and the most recent initiative, the HCC International Youth Council, connecting US and Nepali-based high school students via social media to promote a stronger understanding of each other's cultures. Currently, the HCC International Youth Council has two sites in the US, in Atlanta GA and in New Paltz, NY with the Maya Gold Foundation. Students in the HCC International Youth Council develop relationships with their HCC Peers in HCC's Signature Program, developing global partnerships between students to collaborate on strategies to support at risk children. Susan graduated with a BA from the Newhouse School of Communications, Syracuse University.



## **Dinesh Sapkota**

In-Country Director, Creating Possibilities, Nepal

Dinesh was born in Bhojpur, an Eastern hill district of Nepal. He graduated in 2005 with his masters degree in English Literature from Tribhuvan University and now lives in Kathmandu with his wife and two sons, 11 and 4. Dinesh serves as HCC's In-country Director in Nepal and has been working with HCC since 2009. His work includes ensuring the smooth operation of all aspects of HCC's work in Kathmandu, and overseeing HCC's financial operations. He also plays a major role in the lives of HCC students, providing much needed emotional and physical support

and advocacy throughout their childhoods and into young adulthood. His passions include travel, spending time with family, and working on behalf of the underprivileged children and women in Nepal. He believes in teamwork and cooperation.



## **Hira Sapkota**

Director of Student Programs and Hostel Services

Hira Niraula Sapkota is HCC's Director of Student and Hostel Services and has been working with HCC since 2009. She is the house mother at Khushi Ghar, HCC's youth home in Kathmandu. She looks after the day to day needs of the home, plans different activities for the children, and most importantly, serves as a counsel and guide to them as they grow and develop into adults. Hira provides much needed, daily stability in the lives of the children, and teaches them the necessary skills required to be a part of a family and part of society. She also plays an enormous emotional role in the lives of the children and youth, and takes on the role of college counselor when students are preparing to go to a university, guiding them to programs fit their dreams and academic goals. Hira grew up in the small town of Inurawa, in the Terai, and now lives in Kathmandu with her husband and two sons. She graduated with a degree in Sociology from Tribhuvan University (TU), and is currently pursuing a postgraduate certificate in psychology at TU, with the plan of starting her masters program in psychology in 2018.



## **Sadie Green**

Director of Program Development, Nepal

Sadie Green started supporting innovative programs for women and children in Nepal through her volunteer efforts in 2009, while visiting her in-laws in Bhaktapur, Nepal. Her involvement with women's handicraft cooperatives and community schools for girls and women led her to join the board of directors of Volunteers Initiative Nepal, USA in 2010. She enrolled in the Asian Studies graduate program at the University of Hawaii in 2013, where she pursued her interdisciplinary research in Nepal at the East West Center. Upon her graduation in 2015, she joined HCC and moved to Nepal full-time to serve the children and youth in HCC's programs.



In her role at HCC, she assists with HCC's signature education program in Kathmandu and oversees HCC initiatives, including the Earthquake Orphan Scholarship Programs (EOSP) that supports nearly 100 children survivors and their families. Since joining the team in 2015, Sadie has helped HCC to triple the number of children and youth being served in Nepal, not only through education programming, but also through developing rural youth mentorship programs, computer literacy programming and anti human trafficking outreach in the most remote and at risk regions in Nepal.

## **Mun Maya Rawal**

Program Coordinator

Mun Maya Rawal is HCC's program coordinator. She joined the HCC team in 2016, and helps with the development, implementation and evaluation of HCC programs and projects, namely HCC's signature program in Kathmandu and HCC's Earthquake Orphan Scholarship Programs. Mun Maya was born in the remote Jumla district, and has been living in Kathmandu since she was admitted into the orphanage at age 7. She is a former HCC student herself, and graduated with her undergraduate degree in Business Studies (BBS) and from the HCC program in early 2016. She is currently pursuing a postgraduate certificate in psychology, with plans to pursue her graduate studies in the near future.

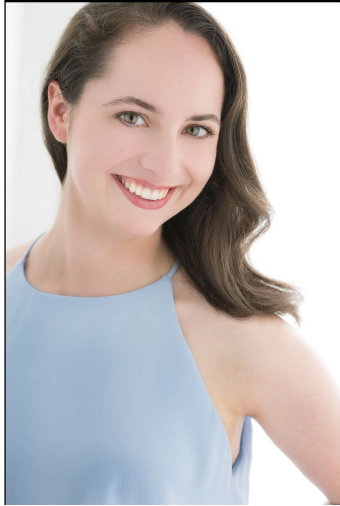


## **Laxmi Karki**

Administrative Coordinator

Laxmi Karki is HCC's Administrative Coordinator. She joined HCC's team in 2015, and her main roles and responsibilities include helping to manage HCC's finances, organizing HCC programs and providing administrative assistance to HCC staff and volunteers. She has also been instrumental in HCC's post-earthquake initiatives, including the Dhading Children's Initiative, which currently serves nearly 90 orphaned students

throughout the devastated Dhading district. Laxmi graduated from the HCC signature program in 2016 with an undergraduate degree in Business Studies (BBS) from Southwestern State College. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Masters in Business Studies (MBS).



## **Rachel Cunningham**

### Communications Manager

Rachel Cunningham is the Communications Manager for HCC, curating content for HCC's blog, social media, monthly newsletter and formal correspondence. Based out of New York City, Rachel also participates in event planning for New York based HCC events and collaborates with the greater HCC team in grant writing. Rachel is also a professional actor, having worked in San Francisco, Chicago, London and now New York. She also works professionally in dramaturgy, having worked for the Literary Department at the Bush Theatre in London. Rachel graduated magna cum laude from Kenyon College with a BA in Drama.