

EMPOWER NEPAL FOUNDATION

(www.empowernepal.org)

Bringing People and Resources Together for Nepal

The mission of Empower Nepal Foundation is to develop a network of individuals and institutions, pool resources from network participants, and support people in Nepal improve and sustain quality of life.

ENF is governed by a volunteered board of directors representing members of Nepali Diaspora and friends of Nepal community in Minnesota and Michigan. ENF's activities in Nepal center on **four-E** focus areas of Education and health, Economic development, Environmental stewardship, and Enlightenment of individual's role in a democratic society.

Summary of Projects in Nepal (1998-2006)

Education

- *ENF Scholarship Project.* Annual scholarships to about 40 socio-economically underprivileged students to study at Himanchal High School (www.himanchal.org) in Myagdi District.
- *CCODER Scholarship Project.* ENF is coordinating with the Center for Community Development and Research in Nepal (www.ccoder.org) and USA (www.ccoder-usa.org), to award \$30,000 in grant funds received from Alternative International (www.altgifts.org) to support high-quality, low-cost education for about 300 children in various schools in rural Gorkha.
- *ENF Dalit Scholarship Program.* With \$5000 of seed money, ENF has started scholarship program to support three underprivileged students for master's level education at Prithvi Narayan Campus in Pokhara.
- *Science Education support.* ENF awarded about \$2500 to develop a science laboratory and acquire equipment and materials necessary to improve science education at Ramkot High School in Hamsapur, Kaski, and Janapriya Secondary School at Bangsing VDC in Syanja.
- *English Education Support.* Sponsored by Dr Bal Krishna Sharma from North Carolina and Dr. Bhairav Khakural from Minnesota and other alumni, ENF has transferred \$2000 to hire an English teacher at Amar Jyoti High School in Gorkha.
- *Income Generation Project.* With contribution from, Dr. Kabi Neupane, University of Hawaii, ENF has transferred \$4000 to support the construction of rental shutters at Janata High School premises in Biratnagar.

Adult Education & Socio-economic Programs

- *Women's Socio-economic Empowerment:* With about \$2100, ENF supported two adult women's literacy and socio-economic groups in Rasuwa District for the three years (1998-2001). The project was administered by Educate the Children Program (www.etc-nepal.org) with offices in Ithaca, NY and Kathmandu, Nepal.
- *Adult Literacy Class for Women* in Gurung Gaun of Hamsapur and Khalte village of Thumki VDC in Kaski. With ENF support, Indragufa Academy at Hamsapur and local Mother's Club conducted adult literacy program at Hamsapur in 2001
- *Adult Literacy & Social Awareness Classes.* ENF awarded \$1250 in grants to Urgan Chholing Social Services (www.ucss.org.np) to conduct the classes at Golche Village in Sindhupalchowok District.

School Reconstruction Programs

- *Amppipal High School Reconstruction Project:* Sponsored by Dr. Bal Krishna Sharma, North Carolina, ENF transferred about \$8000 to construct a 3-classroom school building at Amppipal, Gorkha. Additional funds are being approved and raised to finish the ongoing work, develop a computer-internet facility, and build additional classrooms.

Empower Nepal Foundation is a public supported non-profit IRC 501(c)(3) organization registered with the state of Minnesota. Charitable contribution to ENF can be mailed to Empower Nepal Foundation, 2000 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108. For further information, please visit www.empowernepal.org.

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- *Bhimsen Primary School, Golchhe VDC, Sindhupalanchowk.* Coordinated through Urgan Chholing Social Services (www.ucss.org.np), ENF awarded about \$1500 to reconstruct a dilapidated school closed due to damaged roof. About 200 students are now able to go back to school again.
- *Library and Science Laboratory Construction Support at Tumlingtar.* ENF transferred about \$7500 to support construction of a library and science facility at Manakamana High School in Tumlingtar, Sankhuwasabha, Nepal. The project was sponsored by Mr. Ambar Kumal, engineer with 3M Company at Muncie, Indiana.
- *Chandralika Primary School, Kalika VDC, Kaski.* Sponsored by Dr. Murari Suvedi and friends of Nepal supporters from Michigan, ENF transferred about \$12000 to construct the primary school building and an outhouse at Kaule village.

Environmental Education

- *Seti River Water Quality Education Program.* Supplemental award to Partick Livingston, an ex-PCVN to raise awareness through experiential learning as a means to help middle school teachers and students at Lamechaour and Bhandar Dhik in Pokhara.

• ***Economic Development***

ENF Supported *Indra Gufa Community Development Foundation* – a local community based youth organization at *Hamsapur, Kaski* – to mobilize local resources and empower farmers with information and support needed to improve farm productivity and income by:

- *Building cold storage facilities*
- *Improving local meat goat stock through crossbreeding*
- *Improving vegetable production with micro-irrigation.*
- *Promoting ginger cultivation as cash crop*

Project Proposal Guideline

Empower Nepal Foundation projects are sponsored wholly or partially by members of Nepali Diasporas and friends of Nepal community in the United States. The sponsors also make local contacts and develop a working relationship with members of local community where projects are funded and implemented. Individuals interested in sponsoring a project in Nepal can submit proposals to Empower Nepal Foundation at anytime of the year.

Submitted proposals are evaluated on a continuing basis by ENF Project Evaluation Committee. Upon favorable recommendation of the Committee, the ENF Board decides on funding the project. Project proposals are evaluated on the based on criteria of local control, volunteer and community involvement, project priority and need of recipients, ease and feasibility of implementation, comparative cost benefit, and percentage spent on administrative expenses. Motivation and accountability of sponsor and local control carry about half of the weight on the proposal.

Typical ENF funded projects range from about \$500 to \$1500 depending upon the need of the project and commitment of the sponsor to raise funds needed for the project. A detail proposal format and guideline is available at www.empowernepal.org.

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