



Improving the quality of life

of the Sherpa people of Nepal in the
areas of **Health Care, Education**
and the **Environment**

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2010

The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation

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Dr. Kami Temba Sherpa, Chief Medical Officer at the Kunde Hospital Nepal receives the President's Award at the Foundation's recent Black Tie Dinner

Karen O'Connor, President of The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation presents the President's Award to Dr. Kami Temba Sherpa, Senior Medical Officer and Chief of Medicine at Kunde Hospital, Nepal. Dr. Kami has been an incredible role model for the Sherpas of Nepal. He has dedicated himself to helping people and to bridging the gap from the old world of medicine to the Western ways. Dr. Kami runs the Hospital in Kunde with professionalism and confidence that is essential in such remote areas where life and death decisions need to be made without an advanced medical support team.

The Foundation recognizes his immense efforts and it gives us a great pleasure to honour him.

KAREN O'CONNOR

President, The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Executive Director (Zeke O'Connor) and I travelled to Nepal in September and visited Lukla, Phafu and held meetings in Kathmandu. During our visit we met with representatives of the local communities and discussed with them the status of various projects and ongoing needs.

The following projects were reviewed:

- **Forestry project** – proposed change in management and funding and the payment of Pensions to Sagarmatha Forestry personnel.
- **Literacy program** – continuing need to encourage and fund women's education, the proposed purchase of computers and the hiring of qualified teachers.
- **Nepal Special Olympics** – proposed fundraising to help foster education and

improve the physical wellbeing of young athletes with special needs in collaboration with Special Olympics. The Board has approved in principal the commitment of a portion of its revenue derived from annual fundraising events.

- **Sacred Sites brochure** – funding the cost of the reprinting of a brochure, Sacred Sites, in memory of Mingma Norbu Sherpa and thus raising the awareness to tourists visiting the Solukhumbu region.
- **Film Academy after school program** – There is a list of equipment that may be required for the establishment of a meaningful videography program. The donation of equipment by one of the inner city schools located in Toronto will be explored.

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THE SIR EDMUND HILLARY FOUNDATION

(President's report cont'd)

- **Khumbu Women's Group** – Finding employment for disadvantaged women is an extremely important concern that has been raised. Various programs are being considered that may help maintain the local culture and offer an opportunity for women to learn micro-economics. Sears Canada has also expressed an interest to help develop a merchandising arrangement with local communities.

- **Solu Community School project** – Dr. Mingma Gyalzen proposed the establishment of a private school grades 1-12, cost free for the poorer members of the region. The building of the infrastructure would be in phases and requires a multi-year funding commitment. A comprehensive review and business case is being prepared. The Board will be asked to consider and approve the proposal.



THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Zeke O'Connor
Executive Director

Mr. Zeke O'Connor reported on the following matters:

- **Nepal Trip** – September 2009 as reported by the President
- **MONTREAL DINNER** - A fundraising dinner was held in Montreal at the Hotel Nelligan on October 30, 2009. The President, Executive Director, the Associate Executive Director and the Vice-President and Treasurer attended the successful fundraiser event. **Mr. O'Connor thanked Mr. Andre Coulliard, (Event Chairman),** and partner at Odgers Berndtson of Montreal for his assistance and leadership in organizing the event. **Special acknowledgment was also given to Bernard Voyer, Andre Trottier and Jean Luc Brossard** for their time and devotion to make this first time event the success that it was.

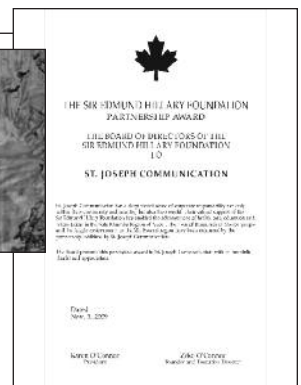
- **TORONTO DINNER - Mr. Ashley Whicher** helped organize the Toronto dinner at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel that was held on November 3, 2009. Mr. O'Connor thanked Ashley for his on-going commitment and effective leadership in helping to make the Toronto dinner a success.
- **CALGARY DINNER - Mr. Byron Smith organized and was dinner Chairman** for the fourth successful fundraising dinner in Calgary held on November 6, 2009 at the Fairmont Palliser Hotel. Mr. O'Connor thanked Byron for his on-going commitment and effective leadership in his fundraising efforts on behalf of the Foundation.
- **KEY NOTE SPEAKERS AT FUNDRAISING DINNERS - Dr. Kami Temba Sherpa, Chief Medical Officer at the Kunde Hospital in Nepal and Mr. Peter Hillary, two time summiteer** of Mount Everest and son of the late Sir Edmund Hillary were guests of honour and key note speakers at all three fundraising dinner events and VIP receptions.
- **LOOKING AHEAD** - As we look ahead to the balance of 2010 and the world's economic slump, **the Foundation will continue to address its three major objectives, namely education, health care and the environment** and continue to assist the local community in their new projects.

PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Mr. Tony Gagliano (left), Executive Chairman and CEO, St. Joseph Communications, receives The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation's Partnership Award from Zeke O'Connor, Founder and Executive Director and Karen O'Connor, President of The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation, at the Black Tie dinner held November 3, 2009 at the Royal York Hotel. The Board of Directors of the SEHF selected St. Joseph Communications as the recipient of this prestigious award for their deep rooted sense of corporate responsibility not only within their community and country, but also their world. Their valued support of The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation has enabled the



advancement of health care, education and reforestation in the Solu Khumbu region of Nepal. The lives of thousands of Sherpa people and the fragile environment in the Mt. Everest region have been enhanced by the partnership exhibited by St. Joseph Communications.





CALGARY GALA DINNER
President Karen O'Connor, Dr. Kami Temba Sherpa (receiving SEHF award) & Zeke O'Connor



CALGARY GALA DINNER
Nina Ambrosio, Lola-Jean Smith, Zach Smith, Lanka Young, Lhakpa Kanchhi Sherpa & Mimi Stuart



MONTREAL GALA DINNER
Dr. Kami Temba Sherpa with Jean Luc Brossard, Olympic Gold Medalist and Auctioneer for Montreal Gala



CALGARY GALA DINNER
The Calgary Tower Rappel Team who rappelled down to raise funds for the SEHF. It will now be an annual event for our Foundation.



MONTREAL GALA DINNER
Andre Coulliard, Dinner Chair with keynote speaker Dr. Kami Temba Sherpa & Zeke O'Connor (far right) and



TORONTO GALA DINNER
Guests at the Toronto Gala



MONTREAL GALA DINNER
Guests enjoy Montreal gala evening



TORONTO GALA DINNER
 Peter Hillary, Director and Guest Speaker (left)
 Byron Smith, Director



CALGARY GALA DINNER
 Beaux Feury, MC Byron Smith, Auctioneer Grant Klaiber. Donated painting by Mimi Stuart of Theo helped raise \$7,500. Purchased by Calgary Flames Rollie Cyr, SR, VP Sales & Marketing shown shaking hands with NHL Hockey Legend Theo Fleury



...rman (second from left),
 ...ni Temba Sherpa,
 ...d Ashley Whicher (far left).



TORONTO GALA DINNER
 Peter Hillary (left), presents a Replica Ice Axe, signed by Sir Edmund Hillary, to the winning bidder at the Toronto Gala



MONTREAL GALA DINNER
 Bernard Voyer, Everest Summiteer, World Explorer and Special Guest Speaker



TORONTO GALA DINNER
 Guests at the Toronto Gala



CALGARY GALA DINNER
 Sally MacDonald (Zimmerman), Lhakpa Kanchhi Sherpa



WOMEN'S LITERACY PROGRAM, SALLERY, SOLUKHUMBU PROGRAM REPORT

By Nima McElhinney,
Director and Education Committee Chair

Brief

The Women's literacy program in Phaplu and Chhinakpu area of Sallery, Solukhumbu was launched on August 17, 2009 (Bhadra 1st, 2065 Nepali Calendar) and has successfully completed its first year program.

After the completion of a one-year period, the program at Phaplu is being continued seeing the level of interest among the participants in learning more. At Chhinakpu a new initiative is being taken to continue the class considering the need to bring the drop out participants back to the program.

The success of the Women's Literacy Program has generated a lot of interest among women in the district and the requests for such programs in new areas are being made to us. Among them, women's groups from Beni (Phera), Bung and Chheskam areas have shown very keen interest.

Bung and Chheskam is the most backward and under developed area in Solukhumbu district. The literacy rate among women in the area is far below that of the district average. The poverty level is highest in the whole district.

Therefore, we would like to start a women's literacy program in Bung and Chheskam Village Development Committee (VDC), and also continue the Phaplu and Chhinakpu programs in this year.

Achievements

Among 44 women enrolled as students in the literacy programs at Phaplu and Chhinakpu, 30 women successfully participated in the complete one-year program. After the completion of one-year program the following achievements were made:

More than 60% women now can read and write fluently. They can write letters to their relatives and do the correspondence. They are now good in doing simple math also.

All other students now can write their names, read sign boards and simple sentences and copy them. They can do simple addition and subtraction.

In the process of learning, they are made more aware on health, personal hygiene and nutrition through the information provided in their book.

Some participants in Phaplu area are now actively taking part in Mother's Group they have formed and are organizing community cleaning campaigns. Their participation level has grown since their enrollment in literacy program.

Conclusion

Importantly, the recent visit of Mr. Zeke O'Connor and Ms. Karen O'Connor to Phaplu, Solukhumbu on 20th and 21st of September, 2009, has provided the participants of the program a chance to express their heartfelt gratitude to the Foundation and its members of Board of Directors. The very encouraging and compassionate words of Madam Karen encouraged the participants to continue their efforts.

During the welcome program, participants expressed how this literacy program being run in Phaplu and Chhinakpu has given rare opportunity to women like them who couldn't attend schools at their early age and remained illiterate. At this stage of their life, they now understood how life can be made simple and easy by becoming able to read and write. They have become more enthusiastic to learn despite the burdens of their day to day livelihood needs. They now want to take their ability of reading and writing to the level of learning livelihood skills. The enthusiasm of the participants encouraged us as well in a great deal as this process can grow to women's literacy movement in the whole district.

THE SIR EDMUND HILLARY FOUNDATION

LOOKING AT THE FULL STORY

By Zeke O'Connor

For more than 33 years The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation of Canada has had an unwritten agreement with the Himalayan Trust and its past Chairman, the late Sir Edmund Hillary, to fully fund the Kunde Hospital in the Khumbu Region of Nepal. The Himalayan Trust and its medical committee have continued to administer the Hospital and its staff with only requested input from the Canadian Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation and its medical advisors.

The working relationship, its general rules and budgets have been documented by formal submissions and **approval from the Canadian International Development Agency in Ottawa. C.I.D.A. has supplied more than 50% of the funds over 25 years.** Of course many other donations from trekkers and pieces of equipment, (e.g. Gamow Bags), have been donated to the Kunde Hospital as were the funds from Austria, the U.S.A. and others. It is our (The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation of Canada) intention to continue in the same manner under the new structure of Sherpa Committee control under the supervision of Ang Rita Sherpa in Kathmandu, Kami Temba Sherpa as Chief of Medicine at Kunde Hospital and Mingma Temba Sherpa as Chief Financial Officer at Kunde.

Volunteer Doctors

One of the most significant contributions to Kunde Hospital during my time has been the medical work and administrative work in connection with the Hospital. **A price cannot be placed on this – it is priceless.**

The true unsung heroes of all our work in Nepal is probably that of the Kunde Doctors, from Dr. John McKinnon and Diane to the present Dr. Kami Temba's family.



Mike Gill, John McKinnon, Lindsay Strang and all of the Himalayan Trust and the S.E.H.F. medical committees have been doing and continue to do a great job. (Sometimes a bit unpleasant).

It has been a most enjoyable and successful partnership of Canadians, Nepalese and New Zealanders for more than 30 years and it is our wish to see it continue for many years to come. The guidelines are there with Mingma Temba and the financial history of the last ten years. **Dr. Kami Temba's return to the Kunde Hospital has helped solidify our plans and future changes will take place under his leadership.**

Sagarmatha Forestry Project

Again, this project has functioned well and still functions well under a similar arrangement as the Kunde Hospital. A few years ago C.I.D.A. discontinued financial support of this project, but The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation of Canada continued and continues to fund this project. Part of the consultant's costs have been picked up by the Himalayan Trust since C.I.D.A. discontinued funding the project. We would like to propose that the same Canadian, Nepalese and Himalayan Trust Nepal functions continue for the next few years and that the Buffer Zone Committee set up the guidelines.

Again, I say I'm very proud of what has been accomplished under this truly "International Group" and look forward to the next five years with positive enthusiasm.

NEW DIRECTORS

The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation is pleased to welcome two new Board members.

Francisco Gomez

A leader in the Hotel and Hospitality Industry, Mr. Gomez brings over 30 years of experience working with people and holding many senior positions. Mr. Gomez is currently the Regional Vice-President Rocky Mountain Region and General Manager, Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel. Francisco has visited Nepal and the Kunde Hospital and has been instrumental in helping The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation throughout the past 15 years.

Phurba Sona Sherpa

Widow of Mingma Norbu Sherpa, the well known international wildlife environmentalist, Phurba was born and lived in the village of Khumjung where she was educated at the Sir Edmund Hillary Khumjung schools. Phurba, spent two years in Canada while Mingma completed his Masters degree in Natural Resource Management. Phurba's knowledge of the local people, their needs and living conditions will be most helpful in securing ongoing projects along with analyzing proposals for new projects as a member of the Board.