



"If we are to teach real peace in this world...we shall have to begin with the children." -- Mohandas Gandhi

Editor: Jehan Seirafi

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## Happy Dashain

We're finishing up the biggest festival season of the year in Nepal. Over the past month, many of the children have returned to their village to visit with families, while others have remained to take part in our annual learning camp. During Dashain, several of our volunteers remain in Kathmandu Valley to teach art, music, dance, and math classes to our children. We wish you all a very Happy Dashain and Tihar!

## NEWSLETTER

### Sirkka Returns to Nepal



Sirkka with Juna

Sirkka Turkki first came to Nepal in 2008 to volunteer with Papa's House. Sirkka, a well-known artist from Helsinki, Finland, has since spent six weeks every October with our children.

Sirkka stays in the cottage on the grounds of Papa's House, where her open door sees the girls going in and out all day long to spend time with one of their favorite people. She teaches the girls crafts and is continuously sewing new skirts and mending clothes. Sirkka sent an update recently during her time in Nepal.

"I had just written a long letter to update you all and then the electricity went out! Over these 5 years we have now devoured 534 meters fabric (material for clothes). Just a statistic which tells you we have not been lazy! Now we have made panholders, bags, something for the bathroom, knitting and crochet. But where are the fairies living who take all needles, knitting sticks and crochet hooks?? The girls all send their best regards!"



The usual scene in Sirkka's room.

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## Poyntons in Nepal Just Keep Growing



Lou and Tori with some of the girls.

Lou Poynton is another long-time supporter of NOH. Having just wrapped up her third volunteering trip with us this year, Lou shares her story of how she found NOH and how she keeps bringing more and more family with her every year.

"I first heard about Nepal Orphans Home in 2010 from my yoga teacher Laurie Levine [*For more about Laurie, see the "Thank You" section below*]. She had been talking about NOH, its founder Michael Hess, and the children during our yoga classes. She said she was planning another visit, so I invited myself along! Laurie very kindly (and luckily) accepted the invitation and I've been hooked ever since.

It was October 2010, Dashain time, when we first went. It was the perfect opportunity to spend time with the children and to get to know them. I very soon fell in love with each of them. This was cuddles heaven! The following year my son Wil interrupted his (so far) eight years of travelling to join me. Michael had introduced a "learning camp" to keep the children busy and entertained over

Dashain, so Wil and I each took on teaching. These small classes gave us such a good chance to talk to and get to know the children a bit better.

My daughter, Tori, was taken in by my stories of NOH from the start. She began to make [pendants with the NOH logo](#) and sell them to raise money and awareness about NOH. We often talked about her coming over to meet Michael and the children and this year she did! When she met the children and experienced their total 'gorgeousness', she understood very quickly why I keep coming back.



Lou at Skylark School

Despite the poverty of Nepal and the busyness, I always feel calm there. There is a spirit to it that gets to you. We come from such a materially-obsessed world. All the "things" these children own fit into a box the size of a small suitcase. What they have is warmth and caring for each other, gentleness, love in their hearts, delight in simple pleasures, a desire to work hard, generosity of spirit, and huge infectious smiles. These children teach us to recognize the simple joys, to live in the moment, and to share and care for each other. So many times back home when things don't seem to be going quite right, I think of the love of these children and find myself smiling.

None of this would have come about if not for Michael Hess and his decision to give up his life in the States to move to Nepal and rescue these children and love them like you would not believe."



NOH pendant and ring by Tori Poynton. [Click here to purchase.](#)

## Want to Support NOH? Throw a Holiday House Party!

If you have been looking for the perfect opportunity to support Nepal Orphans Home, we have just the idea.

We are asking our NOH supporters to consider hosting a holiday party in their homes and help us spread the word about all the incredible work that is going on at Papa's House. There is no pressure or expectation that your guests will need to make a donation; instead we want everyone to have a fun and festive evening and learn about the work Michael and the NOH team are doing in Nepal.

Simply pick a date, invite your friends, and we will send you a Hosting Kit that includes invitations, sample programs, an informational video and slideshow to use for your event.

If you are interested in hosting a house party and would like more information, contact Peter Hess, President of Nepal Orphans Home, Inc. at [pehess@davidson.edu](mailto:pehess@ davidson.edu) or Bob Linscott, member of the Board of Advisers, at [bob\\_linscott@comcast.net](mailto:bob_linscott@comcast.net).



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## Thank You!

Four extraordinary young people who were traveling to Nepal to run a 100km ultra-marathon wrote to us in advance, asking to visit Papa's House. Carol, Benny, Leo and Jay from Hong Kong spent two days bringing laughter, joy, inspiration, and good companionship to the children.

Before leaving they presented NOH with an envelope of significant value raised by passing the hat among their friends.

In Michael's words, "These four remarkable young professionals leave me with confidence that the future is in compassionate and intelligent hands."



The ultra-marathoners with NOH staff and children

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Ever since Laura Handy-Nimick and Justin Nimick volunteered in the summer 2011, they have been working hard to raise funds for our college-bound boys and girls. This past October, a check arrived at Nepal Orphans Home from their non-profit [Life's Handy Work](#) which will cover tuition, registration and exam fees, books, uniforms, and even daily tiffin for four young people.

Hikmat is in his second year studying science and engineering. Kabita has chosen Hotel Management as her field of interest. Sister and brother Sabita and Anil-- who live near Papa's Houses and have been supported by Nepal Orphans Home for 6 years--will be pursuing jobs in Hotel Management (Sabita) and training as a lab technician at the Kathmandu College of Medicine (Anil).

Laura and Justin recently wrote:

"We are also very excited to see NOH's children finding success in college. We have spent the last two years raising funds for this purpose and it has been exciting to see our budget being put to its intended use! In the same way Pinnochio became a "real boy" after many trials and tribulations, it feels as if we've become a "real non-profit" now that we are paying for college tuition."

Life's Handy Work has just closed a two-week-long event, Orphaned 2 Educated auction, and announces their upcoming [3rd Annual New Year's Eve Ball](#), the proceeds of both events to benefit our children.



What can we say about Anne McCadden that hasn't been said before? Michael's cousin visited NOH in 2011--and returned again this year--has been working tirelessly for us ever since. After throwing a Summer Solstice fundraiser in June, Anne took the opportunity of her neighborhood's annual Halloween block party to raise more awareness and even more funds for NOH!

A dozen families contributed "eyeball cupcakes," pumpkin bread, candy apples, and other Halloween treats. Eleven bakers and kids aged 7-12 manned the tables and helped raise awareness of NOH among the neighbors.



NOH helpers at the neighborhood block party

You first read about Laurie Levine earlier, as the yoga teacher and Nepal connection to supporter, Lou Poynton. Laurie has been an ardent voice for NOH and recently held a fundraiser on the Central Coast of Australia. Laurie sent us a description below.

"Our fundraiser fete was a joint effort among our community of yoga students

and the Positive Living Spiritual Centre group and friends. We had people selling homemade desserts, books, clothing, baby items, and bric-a-brac. We hired a coffee vendor who made wonderful coffee. Amazing items were donated for our raffle. We had a bbq of veggie burgers and sausages. Inside the hall we had three psychic readers who were very popular on the day and raised a lot of money for NOH--as well as massage therapists, reiki healers, an orthobiotomy practitioner, and a kinesiology practitioner. Another friend, Tony, washed cars all day. I am very grateful for everyone coming together to help and that we could raise so much money for the children of Nepal Orphans Home!"



Tony's car wash set up outside the fundraiser

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## Shop and Do Good this Holiday Season

Have you thought about giving a gift to NOH in honor of a friend or family this holiday season? Our updated wishlist includes much-needed items for our homes. Give a set of knitting needles for only \$4, sports equipment for our athletes for \$25, or even a solar panel to provide the gift of light during our (up to 18-hour) electricity black outs for \$150. You can see the complete list and give directly on our [wishlist webpage](#).

We also encourage you to try [Goodshop To-Go](#) during your holiday shopping. Goodshop To-Go is a part of [Goodsearch](#), which works with 2500 major internet vendors, and will automatically donate up to 20% of your purchase back to Nepal Orphans Home.

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## Donate

Nepal Orphans Home receives no government support and relies on the contributions of individuals sharing our mission to provide for the welfare of children in Nepal who are rescued from slavery, orphaned, abandoned, or otherwise not supported by their parents.

Please help support our wonderful kids by [making a donation](#) in any amount at [our website](#). A [wish list](#) is available for those who wish to make contributions for specific purposes. Alternatively, various gift packages and descriptions of current

projects are available at [Universal Giving](#).

If you would like to make a stock donation, please contact Barbara Hess, Treasurer of NOH, Inc., at [bhessnc@aol.com](mailto:bhessnc@aol.com) to obtain the routing number for our account.

Contribute just by conducting internet searches using the Goodsearch search engine at [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and designating 'Papas House' as the recipient of the funds raised by your searches. Goodsearch can also be used for online shopping, through which leading companies donate a portion of the sales to Nepal Orphans Home.