

Schools For Himalayan Children Shree Mangal Dvip Boarding School

Shree Mangal Dvip Boarding School is a school offering free education, medical and dental care as well as food and lodging for poor children from Himalayan villages. Established in 1987, by the Tibetan eminent lama, Thrangu Rinpoche, it aims to provide education for children between four to twenty years of age, thereby allowing them a means to break out of the cycle of poverty and contribute back to their community.

The main school currently educates about 700 children, mainly from remote villages in the Himalayan region such as Nubri and Tshum. Places such as Nubri and Tshum takes about 1 days journey by bus and a further 7-8 days hike by foot through the Himalayan mountains. Some of the lucky children would mentioned that what they are most proud of in their village would be a well paved road.

The current main school compound has two academic block, a living quarters, a basketball court, football grounds and a small playground. However, this is desperately insufficient. The school now rents a 3 storey apartment block, and another flat to house the students. Some of the students have no choice to become day students due to the lack of beds in order to allow them to have access to free education at the school. However, their caregivers sometimes do not even provide conducive living conditions for these children.

Currently, in order to meet the growing demands for a larger student population, the school has already started a branch school at Namo Buddha specifically for the education of young monks. However, despite these measures, the school is still unable to meet the current needs and has to expand by building a new school compound. It is currently in the midst of planning.

For more ways of which you can help the school, please feel free to visit the website:

<http://www.himalayanchildren.org>



A junior student with Shree Mangal Dvip Boarding School



The Delvah Project

**Connecting Friendships
between you
and the Himalayan Children**

For more information about the Delvah project, please contact:

Alvin Lim

Handphone: +65 98399742

Email: delvah@ymail.com

Website: <http://delvah.livejournal.com/>

Facebook: Del Vah

Origins of the Delvah Project



The Delvah Project was initiated by Pema Choden, Phurbu Yudon and Migmar Bhutti, on the suggestion of a counselling intern from Singapore, in May 2010.

The 3 ladies were students with Shree Mangal Dvip Boarding School and had been making friendship bands and other ornaments to volunteers and friends at the school as a token of appreciation for their contribution towards the school and their personal progress.

On the suggestion by the Singapore volunteer, the girls decided to give it a go and decided to make it their little project to show their thanks to the

Pema Choden Making the Bands

school by using their proceeds from the sales to buying prayer beads for the junior students.

It was a success and the ladies made their first sale with the students from the Inter Community School (Zurich) who were visiting at that time.

Purpose of the Project

The project instills a sense of achievement in the students. Many of these students come from the Himalayan regions close to the Chinese and Tibet borders and are constantly being discriminated against in Nepal, which continues to be a caste-driven society. They are constantly being told what they should and should not do, often limiting their capability of critical thinking and affecting their sense of self esteem.

The project allows these students to gain a sense of the potential that

they can achieve and opens their horizons to bigger and bolder dreams.

Through the little income that the students have earned, they learn valuable life lessons such as the concept of profit and loss, and basic record keeping that many students in the developed nations take for granted. Yet, to these students, these would be life lessons that will serve them well when they eventually move on to new jobs in society.

The students often also feel a sense of gratitude and indebtedness towards their school. For many of them, the school had not only provided education to them, but also food, lodging, and social support to them. It is also a means for them to escape the poverty cycle. Some, if not most, of the students come from hillside villages with such poor living conditions that they might not have survived if not for the school. Hence, the project is a means for them to contribute what little that they have for a community that they hold dear to heart.

The students, on the advice of the school management, are the final decision makers of how the income generated are being spent. Some of current projects that they have executed include purchasing of prayer beads for junior students and buying new textbooks for a remote school in Nubri, Nepal.



Some of the Friendship Bands the Students Made

What Your Purchase Does

The friendship bands and other items have already been paid upfront from the students upon order. Your purchase is mainly used to cover the cost of buying the items from the students, transportation costs, and other operating costs. Proceeds are also used to fund future purchases and further investments into developing the project.

What Your Purchase Does Not Do

Your purchase does not go directly to the operating cost of the school. The education, food and lodging needs of the students are covered through a network of non-profit organizations established worldwide. If you would like to find out more about Shree Mangal Dvip Boarding School and their operations, do feel free to contact us for more information, or visit the school's website (www.himalayanchildren.org)

What Else You Can Do

You can contribute directly to a fund in Nepal for specifically for the use of the Delvah project. You can donate via Visa, Mastercard & Amex directly through the internet. Your money will be used to buy supplies for the project and any other beneficiaries that the students deem fit. These beneficiaries may change from time to time based on the needs at that point of time. For donations through credit cards, please donate through the Vajra Vidya Foundation, Canada and specify 'For Delvah Project' (www.vajravidyacanada.org). Alternatively, you can search for Vajra Vidya Foundation through the CanadaHelps website and specify 'For Delvah Project' (www.canadahelps.org).

The students also have little idea of how their actions are impacting others beyond the school. All emails directed towards the students and their efforts would be greatly appreciated. Please email to: delvah@ymail.com and we will forward your email to the students. You can also join us on Facebook (search Del Vah) and we will update you with our latest activities. Most importantly, do tell you friends about us!