

ONE DAY IN 25 YEARS OF NEPALHILFE

In celebration of our 25 years
anniversary this is another kind
of Newsletter 2020

Freundeskreis Nepalhilfe e.V.

EINRICHTUNG ZUR FÖRDERUNG
NEPALESISCHER KINDER



FNH



Dear Readers,

The 25th anniversary of the Freundeskreis Nepalhilfe e.V. is a great joy for all of us!

For this reason, Adrian Draschoff a filmmaker from Cologne and his wife Jelena made an impressive and emotionally very moving film about everyday life in the children's village and hostel. The anniversary film "One day in

25 years of Nepalhilfe" takes you right into the lives of our children and employees.

In this edition Adrian Draschoff reports on his experiences during the filming. To celebrate our anniversary we would like to hand you this film and thank you for all the years of fidelity and trust.

On 26.11.1995, 11 members founded the Freundeskreis Nepalhilfe e.V. (FNH) in a constitutive meeting. Before that, on October 8, 1995, the partner association (Forum for the Welfare of Himalayan Children (FWHC) was founded in Nepal. Since then, both associations have been working with great commitment and success for the benefit of disadvantaged children and regional projects



Your USB memory stick with the film "One day in 25 years of Nepalhilfe"



Alexander Schmidt

in the Himalayan state. The FNH has been working exclusively on a voluntary basis for the projects since its foundation. The FNH covers the costs that arise from the work of the association through membership fees, so that 100% of the donations reach the projects. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all members and especially to all board members of the last 25 years for the really great and always focused cooperation!

Time and again a picture appears in my mind: at the time of the foun-

dation, a stone fell into the water, which keeps on circling. Circles of growing experience and successful realization, circles of great confidence from the donors in our projects, circles of new members and donors and circles of new enthusiasm for all the work that lies ahead.

What could be better than giving children in need a future? Children who have experienced so much misery and such difficult situations in life are given a home again by the caring staff of the FWHC. They receive schooling and are prepared

for their independent life after the hostel by career counseling. The film shows in a very clear way how happy the growing children are. For us, the happiness of the children is the most important motivation for our work.

120 children and young people are currently in the project. 5 to 10 full orphans, half orphans, street children and abandoned children are welcomed each year and leave our community after 10 to 12 years. Almost 100 children have grown up during the 25 years, have passed

through the project and some have already founded families. They all make a living and keep in touch with each other and the project according to their particular age group.



SHORT SUMMARY OF THE HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION:

In 1995, we rent a small and then a slightly larger children's house with very little money. As the number of children grows, the buying of the children's village area is added in 1997. Already in 1999 the first three children's houses are ready for use. The children's village office and library are built in two separate buildings in 2001. In 2003 three guest houses are added. Some of our sponsors have already been to the children's village and have used the overnight accommodation. Each

guest is very welcome. The fourth children's house is built in 2006 and at the same time our impressive youth hostel in Kathmandu is completed. In 2007 a landslide destroys many houses around our children's village and causes great damage in the children's village. Thanks to generous sponsors, we are able to produce 1,500 wire net boxes, so-called gabions, on the spot and use them to protect the soil.

In 2011 we start with career counseling and in 2012 the pre-school is launched. Ten classrooms are being

built as part of the construction of our own school and our children's village receives the best grade in the A category in a comparison to the children's village projects in the Kaski district. A photovoltaic system on the school roof makes our children's village almost completely independent of the country's power supply system.

On April 25, 2015 an earthquake with a strength of 8 on the Richter scale strikes large parts of Nepal. Many people die. Our Children's Village and Hostel miraculously survive with little damage. We start an

extraordinary humanitarian action: More than 1,000 families receive wave metal sheets for a temporary shelter. We fund medical operations and build over 20 provisional schools. Numerous other projects of our association help to reduce the acute need in the country. Due to the catastrophe, the FNH is increasingly collecting money for regional reconstruction projects. Over the five years to 2020, seven large new school buildings, a community hospital, two health stations, six water supply projects and two electricity supply projects are being built – to name just a few of the projects.

It is impossible to describe in words what we have all achieved together in such a short time. Looking back, it fills me with joy and deep satisfaction. Looking ahead, I feel the energy for new challenges and tasks that our so meaningful and important project demands.

In the first newsletter of our association once the following sentence was mentioned: "We are all angels with only one wing. In order to be able to fly, we must embrace each other". With these words and the numerous smiling faces of our children and employees, I hope you enjoy watching the anniversary film!

Alexander Schmidt
Founder and Chairman

THE FILM REPORT

One day in 25 years of Nepalhilfe

FROM ADRIAN DRASCHOFF

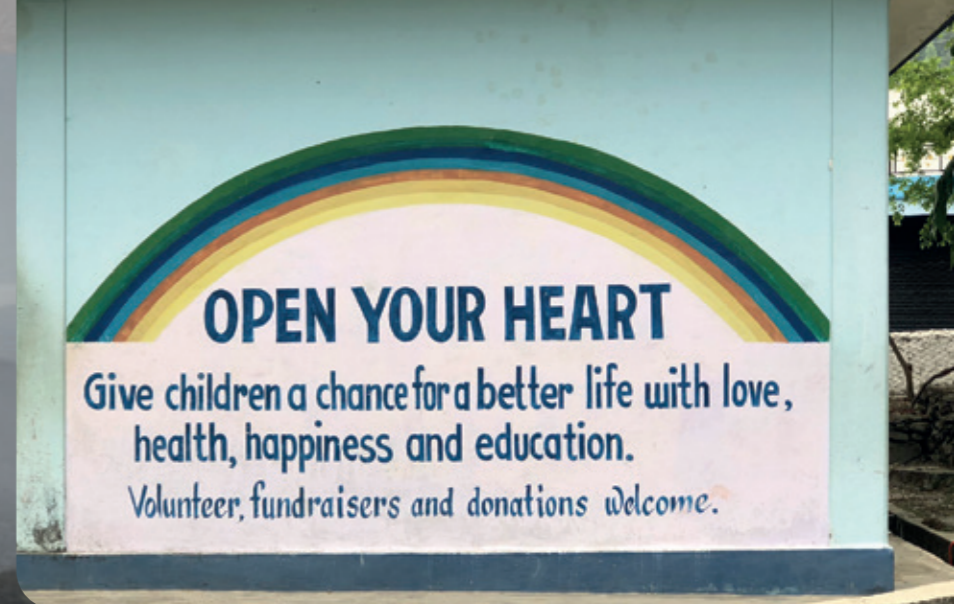


In 2018, as I walked through the big iron gate of the Children's Village for the second time in my life and was greeted enthusiastically by a huge crowd of children, I wondered why it had taken me six whole years to experience this wonderful feeling again. In this far too long time between my two visits there, I had actu-

ally forgotten how much positive energy and love can be in just one moment. So I swore to myself that not so much time should pass until my next trip to Nepal. And when Alexander Schmidt told me in the days that followed that the anniversary of the FNH 2020 was coming up, I offered without hesitation to make

the anniversary film for this great association on a voluntary basis together with my wife Jelena.

So in March 2019 – only 12 months later – we flew back to my beloved Nepal. This was the third time for me and the first time for Jelena.





»We wanted to show a day that presents the life of the children in an unexcited and authentic way.«

Arriving there, I first had the feeling that the last visit was far too long ago. But then suddenly everything felt incredibly familiar again, as if the last goodbye had only been yesterday.

At first our trip to Kathmandu led us to the youth hostel. Also this time it began with a happy welcome ceremony, in which there was a lot of giggling on side of the children. As we arrived, two worlds met, which at the beginning still ran at different speeds. It always takes a certain time for the German clockwork to adjust to the Nepalese flow of time. Only then, when you are really plunged into the daily routine of the hostel, the adventure really begins.

Since we wanted to document this so wonderfully structured everyday life and the life of the children in a film, it was very important to us that the children put down the camera and the fascination that arose from it as soon as possible. Therefore, we started filming sit-

uations from far away, or sometimes placed the camera a little bit aside unattended, while it was still filming. Slowly, the children got used to being filmed. At some point, the technical toy was no longer as exciting as it had been in the beginning. Thus, step by step, we were able to create more and more intimate situations and had conversations with the children without them behaving any differently than they normally would.

As described above, a very special energy is generated by the structured flow of each day in the Children's Village and the Hostel. We very quickly understood this process and got involved with it. The children's security and structure gave us the opportunity to observe and visualize things that are repeating themselves over and over again with enough time



and the necessary calmness. Every morning at 9 a.m. the children eat Dal Bhat. In other words, this meant that in three weeks time we had the opportunity to film the breakfast 21 times. Soon the idea was born to illustrate one day in the project symbolically for all others in the year and to give people in Germany the opportunity to understand how this project works.

Every day bears many new stories and small miracles. But "One day in 25 years of Nepalhilfe" should become a film that shows the project as it really is.

We wanted to show a day that presents the life of the children in an unexcited and authentic way.

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Of course there is much more to tell about the project, but we wanted to tell the beauty of a single day in this film. Therefore we spent one week in the youth hostel in Kathmandu and the remaining two weeks in the children's village in Pokhara. If I had to name the most beautiful experience in our three-week stay, I would say that it started when we entered

the children's village and continued until we left. That would mean a full two weeks. We dived into the daily life of the children and enjoyed every single day. To point out a single beautiful experience is really very difficult for us, because every single minute was really wonderful. By no means do I want to offend the wonderful young people in the hostel, but

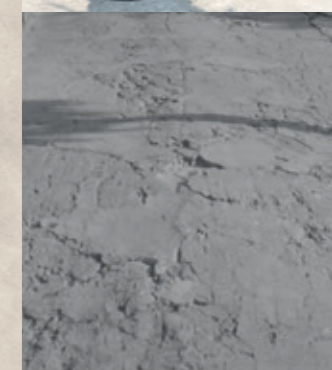
anyone who has been there can confirm the very special magic of the children's village. This oasis, which is located at the idyllic Phewasee, fascinates every visitor right from the first moment and never stops.

During this time we talked to many children, housemothers and all the people from the project whom we met. We always took time to get to know the people personally before we pointed a camera at them. In a film that is supposed to be personal, honest and unmasked, it was very important to us that we were not considered a foreign body and that the camera did not represent a barrier. This is something that usually takes time and build-

ing trust. For some children it went faster and for others it took time.

During these three weeks in Nepal, we heard many stories from many people. Stories that made you laugh, but also many that left you sad. Sad in view of the past, but hopeful for the future. To compare these fates with each other would not be correct at all. Nevertheless, I would like to point out two events that did not let me forget for a long time.

One of them is the meeting with Ashim. His story touched me in many ways and emotionally affected me. While filming, I found it incredible what stories some of the children had experienced. But when Ashim sang his song, in which he emotionally worked through everything – in other words, as such a young being he completely faced his story – I was deeply touched to tears. I didn't understand a single word, but only listening to his honest and heartbreaking song, which had so much



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truth in it, without understanding its meaning. Months later, when I received the translation of this song, it moved me to tears again. They were such mature words from the innocent mouth of a child. He realized his own story as he told it with enough distance to himself and put it into words that found their way directly from his heart into his mouth unfiltered. I wanted to embrace him for his strength and for what happened to him. But I couldn't, because at that moment only the screen connected us.

The second experience I had was with Soni, Suraj and Subodh. These three siblings amazed me every day by showing me how much they had "arrived" in the Children's Village. "Arrived" because they allowed that this was their new life and they could be happy because of it. After all their sad family history and all the misfortunes that the three of them had to face during the last years, it was almost unimaginable for me that they met every new



day with so much strength and joy. I cannot remember a single moment in which I experienced one of the three without their positive and so inspiring energy.

On my return to Germany, all these experiences come together each time in the knowledge that our backpack, which we have packed full of self-proclaimed problems, would be so much lighter if we only concentrated on the really important things. Things that we really need to live and survive. And everything else is in the bubble of first world problems.

Of course, everyone has his or her own subjective feeling regarding the importance and insignificance of his or her own problems and also the right to express them. Only by observing the time we are living in, I think that a global view of the real problems of mankind has never been more important than today. Getting closer together is the big message and this will only work if vanity is put aside

and some have to give more than others. This is not only because they are able to do so, but because it is the way to a happy common future for all human beings.

If we had not made this journey, we would have been much poorer for our lives. We went to Nepal in order to help the children. But in the end it always seems as if they gave you more for our life than vice versa.

Already during my first stay in Nepal I felt that a very special energy connected me to this project and that I would come back again. At least during my last visit I knew that I would want to come again and again. I would like





»... a large lettering [...] at the entrance to the children's village. "Open your heart" [...] My heart has been opened ...«

to see the little children grow up to be independent young people. I would like to meet new children who will be given a new life and hope for a happy future in the children's village.

I want to laugh, cry, dance and sing, and get to know myself a little better with every visit to this wonderful country. Always be open for

changes and different points of view. After 25 years, the FNH & FWHC are still developing, in a constant process of improvement. These organizations are not relaxing on their successes. They are constantly in motion to face new challenges, help more people and make the world a little bit better.

I wish that these two partner associations would always look ahead and overcome all the obstacles that are unfortunately still sometimes put in their way nowadays. I hope that in the next 25 years they will be able to find the energy and the financial means to let the seed, which was planted with the simple idea to help, become an even stronger tree. One whose roots carry the spirit of Nepalhilfe beyond the gates of the children's village and the youth hostel into further projects for this wonderful country.

There is a large lettering on the wall at the entrance to the children's village. "Open your heart" is written on it in big letters. My heart has been opened and I would like to say thank you for that. Thank you that with every new trip to Nepal I am reminded of the really important things in life, which I sometimes forget in the stressful everyday life in Germany.

Thanks to all housemothers, all staff and every little wheel in the big machinery of this project, which is so incredibly important and is there for the children every day.

Thanks to all the people out there who support this organization and make all this possible.

Thanks to all the children who have enriched my life with their smiles over the past years. I will come back again. Hopefully very soon.

Congratulations on 25 years of Nepalhilfe.

Namaste.

Adrian



Raj Kumar Shrestha
Chairman of the
FWHC



Partnership Since

We would heartily like to thank and congratulate to the FNH members and the benevolent people of Germany on an auspicious occasion of 25th anniversary of FNH/FWHC. In the tenure of 25 years **Freundeskreis Nepalhilfe e.V. (FNH)** has accomplished many philanthropic works in Nepal through its partner organization **Forum for the welfare of Himalayan Children (FWHC)** such as supporting to the orphan and underprivileged children of Nepal providing them shelter, food, education, health care, vocational training, scholarship. In addition, it has carried out many community development works such as small drinking water project, electrification, reconstructing school building, health post building and support to earthquake victims and provision support for those who are suffering from long period lock down imposed by government due to covid-19 pandemic. It became possible with the kind support of FNH and partner organization FWHC Under the leadership of Mr **Alexander Schmidt** from Germany and Mr. **Raj Kumar Shrestha** from Nepal respectively.

Long live our relationship!

Forum for the welfare of Himalayan Children (FWHC)
Lalitpur Metropolitan, Ward no. 22
Bungmati, Lalitpur



FWHC
Forum for the welfare
of Himalayan Children



FNH
Freundeskreis
Nepalhilfe e.V.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM FWHC ON OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

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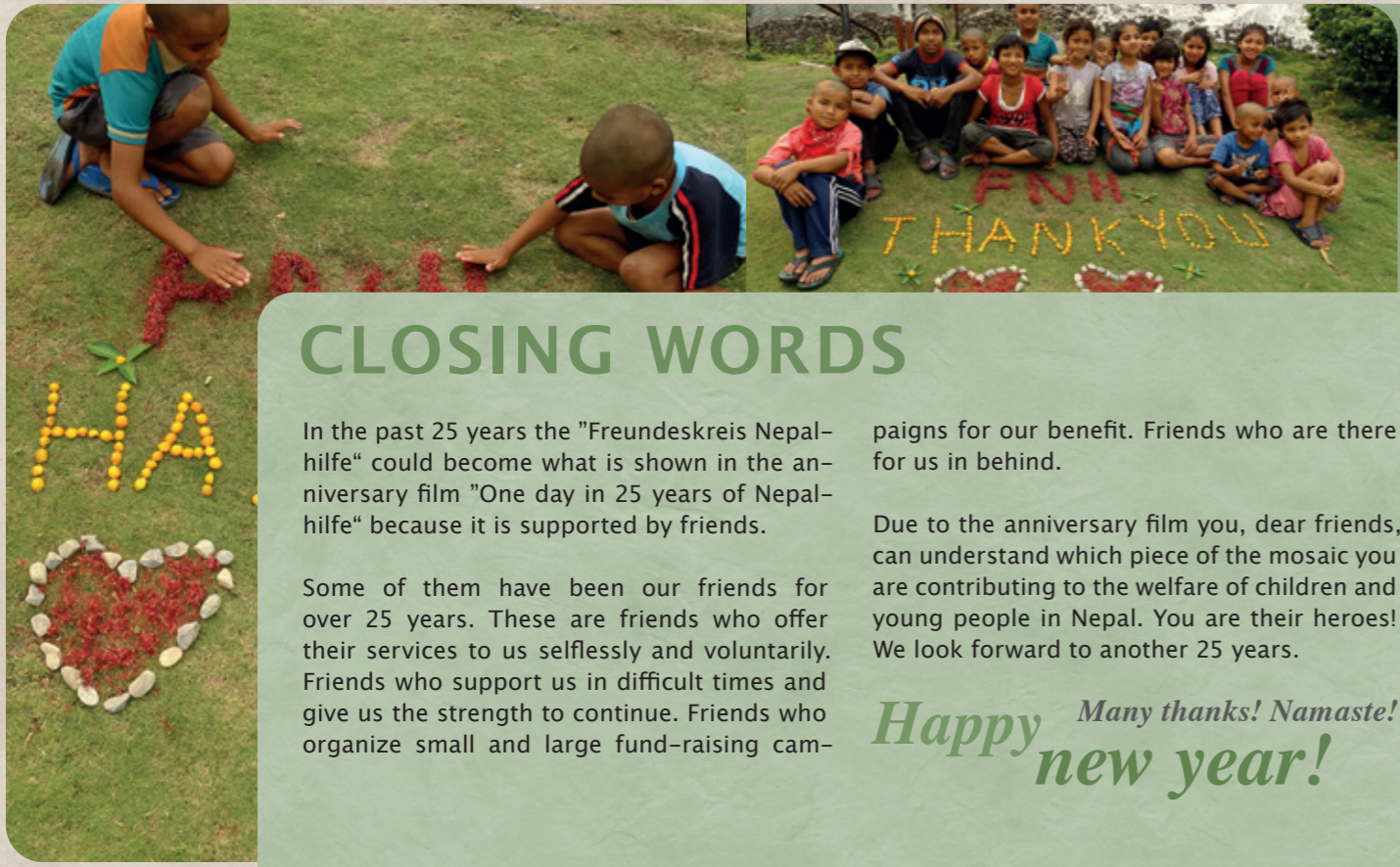


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*Forum for the welfare of
Himalayan Children
(FWHC)*





CLOSING WORDS

In the past 25 years the "Freundeskreis Nepalhilfe" could become what is shown in the anniversary film "One day in 25 years of Nepalhilfe" because it is supported by friends.

Some of them have been our friends for over 25 years. These are friends who offer their services to us selflessly and voluntarily. Friends who support us in difficult times and give us the strength to continue. Friends who organize small and large fund-raising cam-

paigns for our benefit. Friends who are there for us in behind.

Due to the anniversary film you, dear friends, can understand which piece of the mosaic you are contributing to the welfare of children and young people in Nepal. You are their heroes! We look forward to another 25 years.

*Happy Many thanks! Namaste!
new year!*

DONATIONS

If you wish you can donate online:

nepalhilfe.de

> Ihre Hilfe > Spenden

The FNH is registered to receive donations at SPENDEN-PORTAL.DE and at Facebook. Another support possibility is to make online purchases at WeCanHelp! or Schulengel or AmazonSmile.

The non-profit Freundeskreis Nepalhilfe e.V. (FNH) is registered at the municipal court Darmstadt in the register of association 8 VR 2600 and with the tax authorities Marburg-Biedenkopf (tax id # 06 250 51011) as a recognized charitable institution. It is authorized to issue tax deductible donation certificates.

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