

Ghar Sita Mutu - House With Heart

A home for abandoned children, a training program for destitute women, and a support program for needy families in Kathmandu, Nepal

June 2013

Greetings, friends!

It is through your generosity we are able to take in additional children and provide more women with the chance to move up and out of poverty.

New Family Member

We recently welcomed 5-year-old Bishnu Maya into the GSM family. She was a student in our Learning Centre, and we noticed that she was rarely picked up on time and sometimes arrived by herself. Her mother died when she was a baby, and her father remarried and abandoned her and her two brothers. Her mother's younger sister had been struggling to care for her, but on a carpet factory wage she was unable to look after Bishnu, her two brothers, plus her own three children. She put the two brothers in a monastery to become lamas, and has been seeking a home for Bishnu for some time.



This is 5-year-old Bishnu pictured soon after she arrived to live with us.



Bishnu (in the green dress) on her way to the first day of school with her new sisters Asika, Abhaya, and Asmita.

Bishnu had a good first night after eating a huge lunch and dinner. She slept well and woke up happy. She has some minor medical problems, which we are attending to. Otherwise she has settled in well, and was able to begin school last month.

School Renovation

As part of GSM's Community Outreach Program, we took on the renovation of the school our children are attending. It would not only benefit my kids, but also improve the school life for the 900 children who attend this school. I put the word out that I was looking for around \$5,000 for the project, and no sooner had I asked, I received! **Gloria Wu**, a friend in Hong Kong, asked her friend **Audrey Puckett** if she could help, and she generously agreed to fund the project!



Before the renovations, there were no windows or plaster on the walls & ceilings.

Work began as soon as I arrived in Nepal in February. Hem, GSM's manager, supervised the job, and I dealt with the school management, took pictures, and paid the wages.

Everyone involved has worked really hard and did an incredibly good job. The rooms are bright and welcoming, and were completed in time for the new school year.

Gloria visited us in April carrying eight giant bags of goodies for GSM and the school. And what a hassle she had at customs—stopped not once but twice to be questioned! She really is a trooper. (Cont.)



Nine hundred students are benefiting from the \$5,000 donation that allowed for the completion of 12 class rooms including window installation, lighting, and plastering of the walls.



Gloria Wu from Hong Kong is pictured here with her three children and their luggage stuffed with donations.

(Cont. from previous page.)

In the bags were clothes, toys and 99 footballs and basketballs—some for us and the renovated school, and others to be distributed to other schools, carpet factories and needy individuals. Gloria organized a ball drive in Hong Kong with the schoolchildren in her school, and all the balls were signed by the donors.

Gloria and her children have a project called **Just for Kicks**, Justforkickshongkong@gmail.com, and Nepal is the sixth country involved. She also found the school two projectors which were kindly donated by **Martin and Tina Stone**. Gloria's children, **Sean, Quinn and Kira**, came with her, as well as **Audrey**, her children **Ethan, Sean and Aidan**, and Audrey's brother **Mac**. They saw the school first hand.

Our visitor's children played ball daily with our kids and local children—and had a friendly match with the school. They were really good at football but the



Morning assembly at the Shangrila School, which is attended by over 900 students. This photo was taken after the renovations were completed.

GSM girls, who are well practiced in basketball, beat them at that game on GSM's small court. Many, many thanks to Gloria for her tireless fundraising and gathering of goods on our behalf and to Audrey and the other generous donors.

All the GSM children love basketball. That is one of the reasons I decided to help the school repair their playground that consisted of uneven brick with many holes—quite dangerous. All the children at the school will benefit by having a place to play, and they will also be able to invite other schools to participate. Many thanks to the people who donated to this project in response to my Facebook request!

So many schools in Nepal are in a bad state. No windows, crumbling walls and bad lighting make for a depressing school environment. With the classroom renovations and the new basketball court, both the students and the teachers already feel more pride in their school and are more inspired to work harder and excel in their work.



The children in our programs eagerly anticipate the visits from members of GSM Friends with a Heart. Radhika Vekaria leads students in a dance routine along with Aarti Shah & Sachin Vekaria, last row, far left & right.

Faithful Friends

Many thanks to **Aarti Shah** who tirelessly coordinated several fundraisers in the UK. She has formed **GSM Friends with a Heart** and together with **Sachin Vekaria** and **Radhika Vekaria** raised an amazing £9000 (\$13,595) this year! We are so grateful to so many generous people and businesses and especially to **Odyssey Health and Racquet Club, Knebworth, UK**—Aarti's gym who supported her in many of her fundraising activities. *(Cont.)*

GSM's Wellness Centre News



Nurse Khun Bai has been volunteering at GSM's small wellness clinic for a few months now. Here she is talking with the women of our training centre about basic breast cancer screening prior to giving them breast exams. Thirty-eight breast exams took place.

(Cont. from previous page.)

This was Aarti's fourth trip and together with Sachin and Radhika they provided nine intense days of fun filled and action packed enrichment activities for the many children we serve in our programs. Both our children and staff look forward to these visits from the Friends.



The new metal beds were assembled on our playground before bringing them into the house.

New Beds = No Bed Bugs

We were battling bed bugs at our house until the **Corning Rotary Club** in upstate NY once again came to our assistance in a time of need. They donated \$3,500 to purchase new bedding and metal beds to help us eradicate the infestation. Many thanks!

Staff Complete Red Cross Training

Our Co-manager **Rajina Banepali** and GSM house auntie **Samista Thapa** recently completed a three-day Red Cross course organized by the British Council on first aid for emergency situations as part of our earthquake preparedness plan.

A Success Story

Krishna Kumari was a domestic servant when she learned about our Women's Training Program. Her life was a difficult one, where she struggled to provide for her son, now 11, while dealing with an abusive husband who was not working. Like many women in Nepal, she also suffered from a prolapsed uterus, a painful but easily treatable medical condition.



Krishna Kumari at work on a sewing project.

She has learned how to hand sew felt puppets and has moved onto our sewing program. She is fast becoming a skilled seamstress, and is now paid by the piece for the crafts she makes that are sold in the US and UK, with proceeds going directly back to programming. Krishna is also working for us doing the clothes washing for the small children (the older children wash their own), and we are helping her obtain medical care to deal with a prolapsed uterus.

Women's Training Program



The Latest GSM sewing training graduates showing off their certificates with some GSM Board members. We will follow the graduates progress and provide micro loans to some to buy their own machines.

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Here is how you can help

*Ghar Sita Mutu relies on the generosity of friends like you. All donations are **tax deductible** and go directly toward running and expanding our programs.*

Please make all checks payable to our fiscal sponsor:

The Candy Jernigan Foundation for the Arts
and note "Ghar Sita Mutu" on your check.

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You can also give online at
[**www.GharSitaMutu.org**](http://www.GharSitaMutu.org)

Thank you!

*For more information,
call Beverly at 212-529-0832.*

A LITTLE BACKGROUND



Babu & Krishna, ages 2 & 5

My name is Beverly Bronson. I own a small antique shop called A Repeat Performance in New York City. In 1999 while working as a volunteer in Nepal, I found two abandoned children named Babu and Krishna, ages two and five. After searching for a loving home for them I had no choice but to put them in boarding

school. Safe but bleak. The school appointed me as guardian and I went back to New York with plans to raise money to establish a centre to house abandoned children and help destitute women.

I returned to Nepal later that year with enough funds to rent a house. We opened Ghar Sita Mutu - House with a Heart in 2001 and have been expanding our outreach to the community every year. We moved into our own home in 2004. I split my time between New York and Nepal.