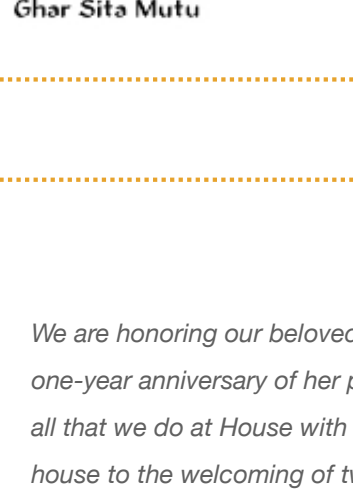


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eNews June 2019

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We are honoring our beloved founder Beverly Bronson on the one-year anniversary of her passing. Her spirit continues to guide all that we do at House with Heart. From the opening of the new house to the welcoming of two new family members, Beverly's work continues. We have a lot of exciting news for you!

Remembering Beverly

It's hard to believe that our beloved founder Beverly Bronson has been gone now for more than a year. The one-year anniversary of her passing on May 13 was a time of remembrance. Our children and staff gathered at the House with Buddhist lamas who performed a final puja for Beverly to guide her spirit to the next higher level of rebirth, in accordance with Buddhist tradition.

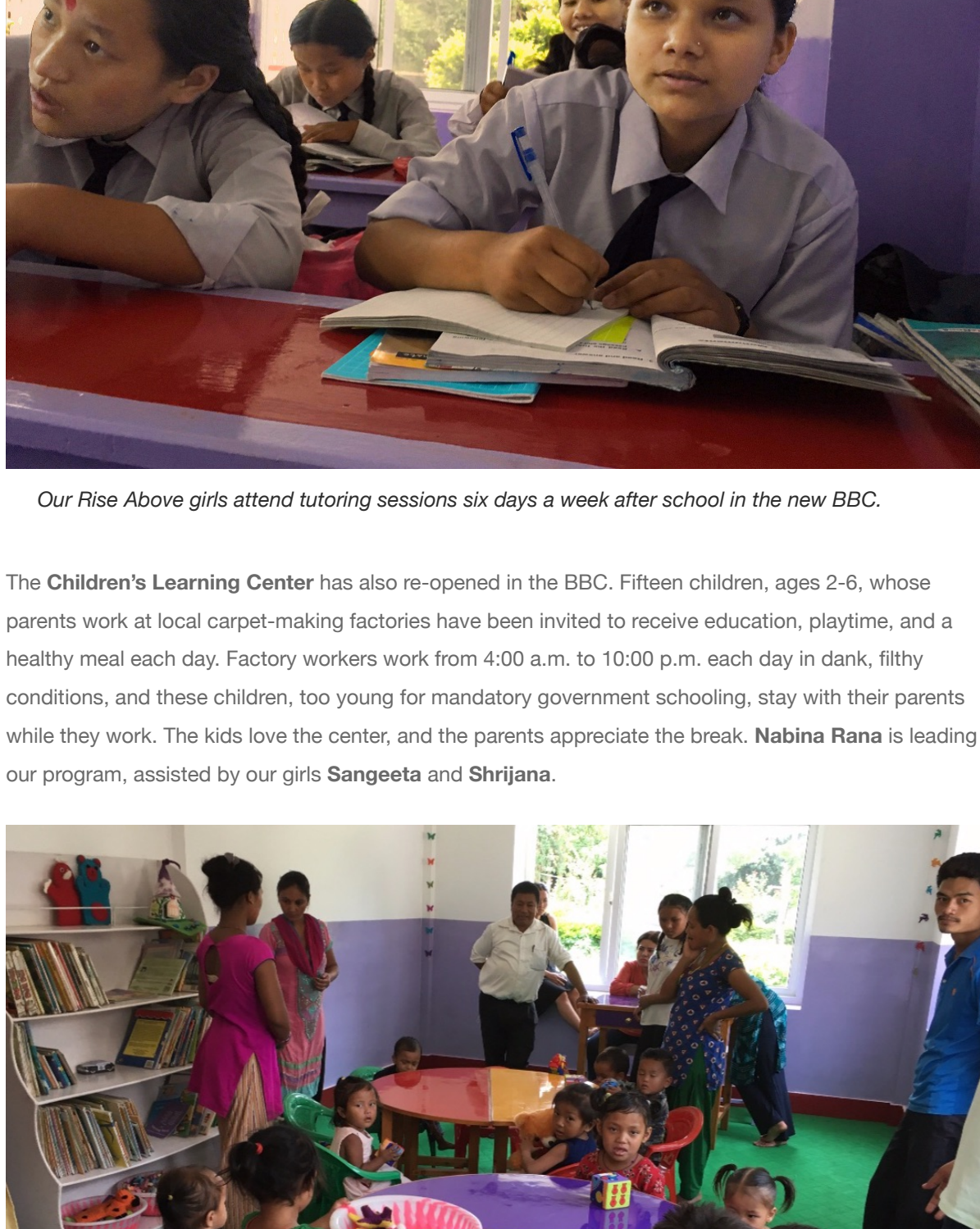


Our children and staff including Samistha Auntie (pictured) participated in a final Buddhist puja for Beverly. The children continue their commitment to honor her memory and life lessons in loving ways.

Announcing the BBC

We are excited to announce the official opening of the **Beverly Bronson Center (BBC)**. This special building is the realization of Beverly's dream to significantly expand services at HwH. Its nickname, the BBC, is a wink at her British roots. A Hindu blessing ceremony, led by our Children's Supervisor and resident spiritual advisor **Samista Auntie Thapa**, was held on May 31. An official opening ceremony followed on June 1st. **HwH Manager Hem Bahadur Rai** was honored on this occasion for managing the project to completion with total dedication under difficult circumstances.

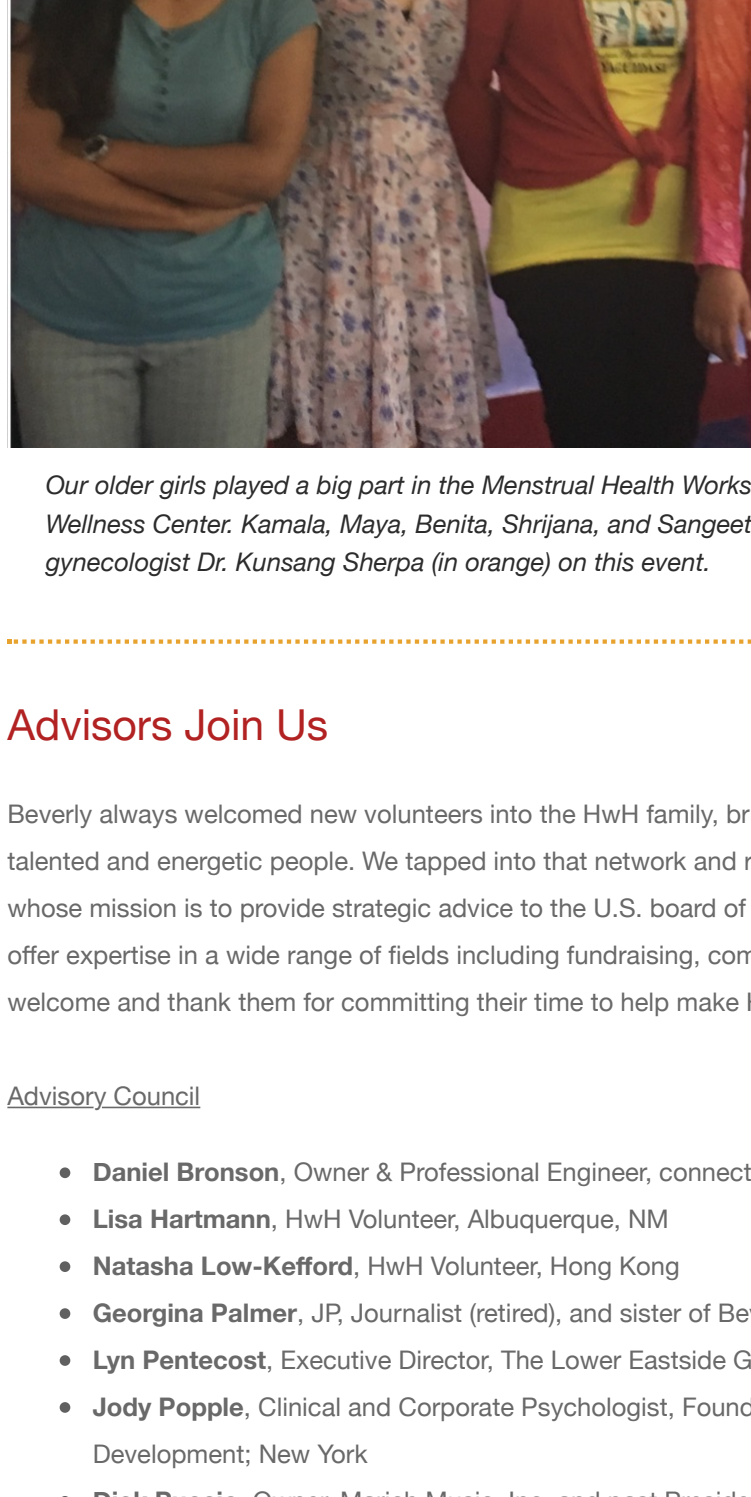
The new house was made possible by our generous donors. Special thanks to **David and Donna Joss**, who kicked off the campaign with their lead gift, and to **Anne Portess**, whose gift made in honor of her longtime partner **Harry Bonanno**, made the final construction phase possible.



The new house is complete, and we're thrilled. We are so grateful to the donors who made this expansion possible. This photo was taken just before the opening ceremonies.

Our older girls are excited to move into the second and third floors of the BBC. With Auntie's guidance, they helped choose carpets and curtains, as well as the exterior paint color scheme. Though their move into the new space has to wait until we find the perfect House Auntie, we have already kicked off a new program designed to help the older children transition to adult life. All of the older girls now have a job or an internship. A portion of their earnings will go into an individual savings account for their use when they move out of the house.

Board member **Nicola Hayward** is working with the Nepal staff on all of the activity associated with the opening of the BBC. As the In-country Manager, she's spending a significant amount of time in Nepal with the children and staff planning and implementing our programs.



Nicola Auntie worked with the older girls on a brainstorming exercise that helped lead to the development and launch of our first menstrual health workshop.

New & Expanded Programs at the BBC

The **Rise Above** program for adolescent girls in the local community who are at risk of dropping out of school has resumed in the BBC. **Dammar Bista**, the vice principal of our children's school and a longtime partner of HwH, is leading the program. He has identified promising students from government schools who are from poor families. They are receiving special tutoring in math, science, and English, as well as monthly enrichment classes in yoga, dance, and art. They will also receive financial assistance as needed to keep them in school. Our Rise Above program is designed to take these girls all the way through university. Funding levels will dictate how much we can help.



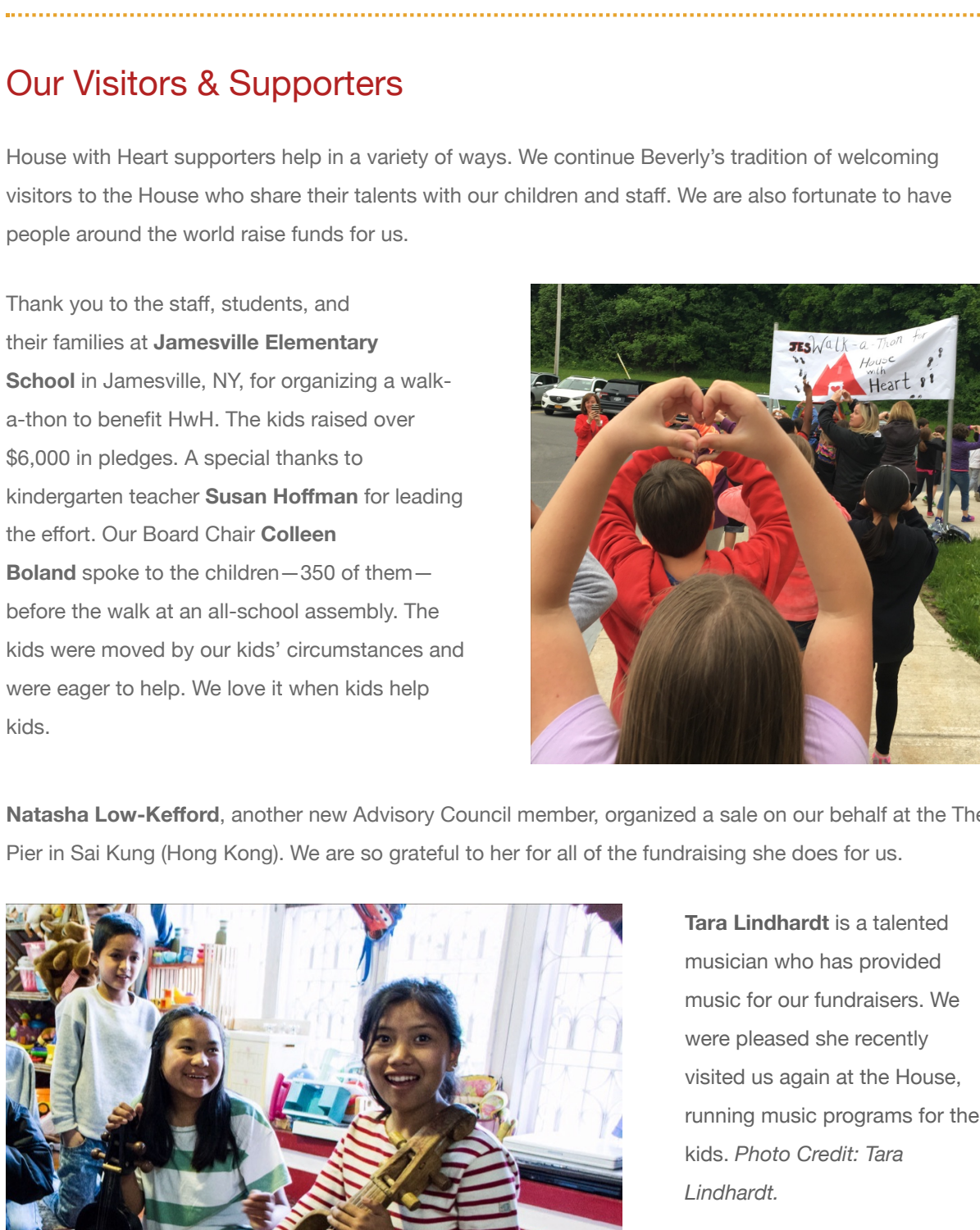
Our Rise Above girls attend tutoring sessions six days a week after school in the new BBC.

The **Children's Learning Center** has also re-opened in the BBC. Fifteen children, ages 2-6, whose parents work at local carpet-making factories have been invited to receive education, playtime, and a healthy meal each day. Factory workers work from 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. each day in dank, filthy conditions, and these children, too young for mandatory government schooling, stay with their parents while they work. The kids love the center, and the parents appreciate the break. **Nabina Rana** is leading our program, assisted by our girls **Sangeeta** and **Shrijana**.



The children of parents working in the local carpet-making factory visited the new Children's Learning Center with some of their family members during an introduction to the new space.

Plans for the **BBC Wellness Center** are well underway, and we have launched our first initiative — a **Menstrual Health Workshop**. The program educates girls and women about their bodies to dispel cultural myths around menstruation and to teach them basic hygiene. Our older girls **Kamala, Maya, Benita, Shrijana**, and **Sangeeta** designed the content and led portions of the workshop under the guidance of gynecologist **Dr. Kunsang Sherpa**. Thank you to **Dr. Kunsang** for her time, expertise, and excellent mentorship! Our first workshop had thirty attendees including the women from our sewing and felt-making programs, their friends, and our own pre-teen and teenaged girls. The next phase is to teach the women in our sewing training program how to produce menstrual kits for distribution.



Our older girls played a big part in the Menstrual Health Workshop held to kick off the new Wellness Center. Kamala, Maya, Benita, Shrijana, and Sangeeta (left to right) worked with gynecologist Dr. Kunsang Sherpa (in orange) on this event.

Advisors Join Us

Beverly always welcomed new volunteers into the HwH family, bringing together a rich network of talented and energetic people. We tapped into that network and recently formed an Advisory Council whose mission is to provide strategic advice to the U.S. board of directors on an as-needed basis. They offer expertise in a wide range of fields including fundraising, communications, and medicine. We welcome and thank them for committing their time to help make HwH a truly sustainable organization.

Advisory Council

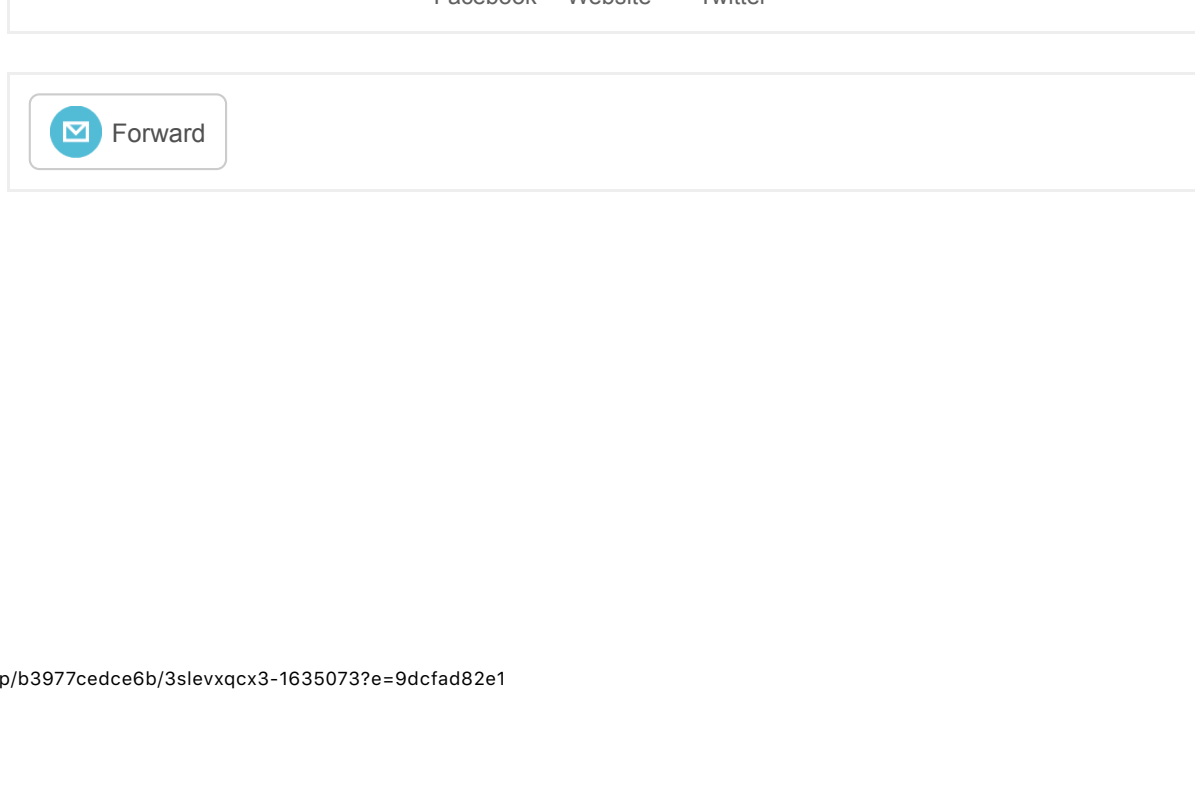
- **Daniel Bronson**, Owner, Professional Engineer, connectPCsupport; UK & La Paz, Bolivia
- **Lisa Hartmann**, HwH Volunteer, Albuquerque, NM
- **Natasha Low-Kefford**, HwH Volunteer, Hong Kong
- **Georgina Palmer**, JP, Journalist (retired), and sister of Beverly Bronson; Welwyn, UK
- **Lyn Pentecost**, Executive Director, The Lower Eastside Girls Club of NY; New York
- **Jody Popple**, Clinical and Corporate Psychologist, Founder of Symphony Women's Leadership Development; New York
- **Dick Puccio**, Owner, Marich Music, Inc. and past President, Rotary Club of Corning; Corning, NY
- **Lou Szellich**, Computer Programmer and recovering actor, New York
- **Aarti Shah**, McTimoney Chiropractor, London
- **Kunga Sherpa**, former Board Chair, Ghar Sita Mutu
- **Elena Stonebraker**, HwH volunteer, Vacaville, CA
- **Kumani Titchen**, MD, Adolescent Medicine and Co-founder, Physicians Against the Trafficking of Humans; New York
- **Pauline Turley**, Vice Chair, Irish Arts Center; New York
- **Susan King**, Conceptual Artist, Garment Manufacturing & Sourcing Executive (retired), Production Consultant to global organizations; New York

Building Sustainability

We will be launching a **Growth & Sustainability Campaign** to provide long-term support for the organization. Supporters are asked to pledge to give or raise funds (or both) for each of the next three years to ensure that Beverly's life-changing work continues. We are very grateful to **Pauline Turley**, a new Advisory Council member, for leading this campaign. Please consider a pledge to keep HwH thriving.

Report on the Children

The status of our kids is a topic of interest — and the core of what we do. The children continue to remember Beverly Mummy in special ways. They talk about her daily and have placed photos of her throughout the House. Life continues on in this busy household under the guiding principles of Mummy.



Our younger girls on their daily walk to school. Photo credit: Meena Thirumurti.

Six-year-old **Sunchita** also recently joined the HwH family. She lived in a remote village with her mother, brother and sister in the home of a poor family who took them in after her mother left her father due to domestic violence. The mother works as a servant for another family in the village and as a laborer, leaving her with little time for her children, who do not attend school.

We recently welcomed nine-year-old **Susilla** into the HwH family. Like all of our children, she comes to us under difficult circumstances. Her mother committed suicide, and her severely mentally ill father disappeared three years ago. She was living alone with her grandmother who was unable to care for her, which meant Susilla had to do all of the cooking and cleaning.

Babu, who along with his brother **Krishna** became the first HwH family members, recently moved into his own living space. This is a big step for him (and us). He is happily enrolled in a 6-month Culinary Arts program, in keeping with our life-skills training option for any of our older children who have interests outside a college track. Babu continues to play music at local venues. Auntie, Nicola Auntie, and the older girls recently went to hear him play, and were moved when he played several songs to honor Mummy.

Some of the children went to visit big brother Babu in his new living space.

Manu is continuing her studies in America and was accepted into the nursing program at Norwich University in Northfield, VT. She will experience dorm life there for the first time after having spent the last two years studying and living with the **Karen and Mark Lefers** family while she attended community college.

The **threat of major earthquakes** continues and so we continue to drill the children, store disaster supplies, and maintain emergency equipment. As part of these exercises, the children recently helped set up our emergency tents. They were rewarded with a weekend of camping on the grounds, complete with s'mores — their first! Not surprisingly, they loved them.

Reaching Out into the Community

As part of our **Community Outreach Program**, we recently took on the education and room and board sponsorship of nine-year-old **Unik Rai**. He is a bright student who wants to be a pilot but his family can no longer pay for his education. A year ago his father was diagnosed with cancer. The family, once moderately well off, had to sell everything to pay for cancer treatment. Unfortunately, medical bankruptcy is all too common in Nepal. Unik attends the Bagmati Boarding School, which has a very good reputation. The school has partnered with HwH and has generously reduced their fee for Unik's education and housing. His family lives nearby the school so his mother will be able to visit him often.

New Website is Up

We are excited to announce HwH has a new website! Many thanks to **Daniel Bronson**, Beverly's nephew, for taking over the development, hosting, and maintenance of the site. Dan is an IT professional who runs his own business, **connectPCsupport**. He works in both the UK and La Paz, Bolivia. We're still tweaking it but have a look at housewithheart.org.

Our Visitors & Supporters

House with Heart supporters help in a variety of ways. We continue Beverly's tradition of welcoming visitors to the House who share their talents with our children and staff. We are also fortunate to have people around the world raise funds for us.

Thank you to the staff, students, and their families at **Jamesville Elementary School** in Jamesville, NY, for organizing a walk-a-thon to benefit HwH. The kids raised over \$6,000 in pledges. A special thanks to kindergarten teacher **Susan Hoffman** for leading the effort. Our Board Chair **Colleen Boland** spoke to the children — 350 of them — before the walk at an all-school assembly. The kids were moved by our kids' circumstances and were eager to help. We love it when kids help kids.

Natasha Low-Kefford, another new Advisory Council member, organized a sale on our behalf at the Pier in Sai Kung (Hong Kong). We are so grateful to her for all of the fundraising she does for us.

Tara Lindhardt is a talented musician who has provided music for our fundraisers. We were pleased she recently visited us again at the House, running music programs for the kids. Photo Credit: Tara Lindhardt.

Congratulations to **Genevieve Smyth** and **Graham Bodenham** who were married on May 25 in Edinburgh. We are grateful to them for including HwH in their celebration by suggesting a donation to HwH in lieu of wedding gifts.

During her high school years at Corning Painted-Post High School, **Meena Thirumurti** raised funds for us as a member of the school's Interact Club, and we were happy to have her visit us in Nepal. She led the kids through creative activities, including making a beautiful book about the House. We plan to reproduce this book to sell at craft fairs.

Ryan Ogden King and his team from Revive Humanity showed up 17 strong to clean carpets, help set up our Children's Learning Center, run a women's empowerment workshop, and host a talent show. They're also helping us carry some of our crafts back to the U.S.

Christine Facella, Professor at Parsons School of Design, and her former students **Ellen, Aria**, and **Paige** spent two weeks with us designing new products for us to sell. Coming soon... very cool sunglasses, pot holders, and storage bins. Ellen, Aria, and Paige also spent a great night with our older girls comparing their lives in the U.S. and Nepal. Thanks to our board member **Fred Ripley** for sponsoring their trip!

Adam Persson (center) visited earlier this year and then returned with his mother **Ann-Marie**, father **Danny**, and sister **Lovisa**, pictured here with **Abhilasha** (front right). They spent the day entertaining students at our local school, including a very fun Swedish rendition of Itsy Bitsy Spider, and also visited our children at the House.

Our longtime supporter **Aarti Shah** (right) ran her annual raffle, raising over £1000. Coincidentally, our Board Chair **Colleen Boland** was in the UK and drew the winners. Many thanks to Aarti, who is also a member of the new Advisory Council, and to her generous friends and clients.

Here is how you can help.

Donate Now

OR send a check made out to "House with Heart" to:
House with Heart
151 First Ave, #74
New York, NY 10003

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House with Heart (formerly Ghar Sita Mutu) is a home for abandoned children, an education center for impoverished women and children, and an outreach program for needy families in Kathmandu, Nepal.

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