

Friends of Mitrata- Nepal Foundation.



Ready for school with uniforms, backpacks and don't forget the red bows!

Holiday 2003

Newsletter

Dhanyabad! To All Our Sponsors and Contributors in 2003

We greatly appreciate the generous donations you have made to the Mitrata-Nepal Foundation this year. If you have not yet made a donation, ***it is still not too late!*** We continue to utilize our funds wisely, providing direct help to the children, rather than lots of administrative costs. ***We are especially grateful to Carol Corey and Paul Beal for listening to our need for money for computer equipment.*** I am amazed and joyful every time a check arrives in my mailbox! ***Dhanyabad also to OUEST staff- Fulmati, Soni and Leah, and to the Mitrata home staff- Hari, Nanda, Sanu, Tulasha and Nani whose support and hard work made it all possible.***

We Have Grown Even More!!

We now have 17 children in our home in Kathmandu and 13 children we sponsor for

school. With the addition of 4 more children to our home, we will be at capacity for our current space. We are now seeking sponsors for these 4 new children.

Focus for 2004

While I was in Nepal, Nanda and I identified two new areas of focus for the coming year. First, we are beginning our **Independence Fund**, which will provide educational assistance when our children are ready for College/vocational School. We have 34 children to think about! Our oldest are ages 12 and 14, so we have a few years to work on it. Second, we are starting a **House Fund** for building our own facility. This is necessary to have security and eliminate constant rent increases. Due to increased costs this year, we had to raise the ***Child Home Sponsorship to \$600 for 2004.***

Economic/Political Situation in Nepal

The political situation in Nepal remains somewhat tense. Tourism was again severely reduced this year, which continues to drag down the economy. Many people are out of work and families are suffering. There is some hope that outside intervention will bring opposing parties to the arbitration table. Please pray for peace and safety for all of our friends in Nepal.

2004 Group Trip To Nepal

We had a very successful special trip to Nepal this year. As predicted, we took many wonderful pictures of the children, our trek into the magnificent Himalayas and the fascinating spiritual places in Kathmandu. I am offering to take a group again in late October of 2004. Please let me know if you are interested as soon as possible. The trip will be for 2 weeks and probably cost about the same, \$2500 approximately. I will provide more details early next year. It is a unique opportunity to spend time with the children, do some sightseeing in beautiful Nepal and enjoy true cultural exchange.

Nanda to Visit USA

Nanda will be coming to the USA in mid to late December. She will first spend time with her son Aroj in New York. We are making plans for specific dates for her arrival in St. Louis for more fundraising and spending time with friends.

Your generosity and support has enriched my life and the lives of the children. It was so wonderful to see them all thriving in our home in Kathmandu. May you be well, happy and peaceful this holiday season.

Make checks payable to:

With Gratitude,

OUEST/Mitrata-Nepal

Christine Schutz

Send them to:

Mitrata-Nepal Foundation
C/O Christine Schutz
3934 Arsenal Street
St. Louis, Mo. 63116