



MITRATA-NEPAL
FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Dear Sponsors and Donors,

There was much to celebrate in 2021, despite the continued pandemic that brought with it challenges and social, political, and economic turmoil in Nepal. Our virtual events of Trivia Night, Miles for Mitrata Kids, and Holiday Bazaar were tremendously successful due to the devotion of our supporters. In Nepal, our children finished the school year and advanced to higher grades, despite difficulties with remote learning and unstable home lives. Further, we had six graduates who obtained jobs and became independent of Mitrata support. BSF staff, while facing so many problems amid rising COVID-19 cases, delivered care packages to our children's families, and incredibly, moved both the Contact Center and their offices to much improved buildings! This was no small feat and was accomplished with the help of the children's family members and community.

The organizational strength that we developed in 2020 served us well through the persistence of the pandemic last year. We emerge financially strong, with an agility to respond to crises and a resolve amongst our staff, board members, and partners to pursue our plans for program expansion, as even more children have been thrust into severe poverty by the increased instability in Nepal.

Of course, none of this could happen without you, our sponsors and donors. Our gratitude for your dedication to our mission abounds, and we are deeply honored that you put your trust in us and care so much about our children.

In 2022, we will finally return to Nepal after two long years, and we hope that you will join us on this sponsor trip planned for October 29-November 13. Stay safe and well and may you have peace, joy, and happiness in 2022.

Warmly,

Dr. Christine Schutz
Executive Director and Founder

IN 2021

Program Demographics

of children in each program

- 20** Contact Center
- 30** Boarding School (Grade 10 and below)
- 26** School Grades 1 - 10
- 14** 11th & 12th Grades
- 28** Bachelor/Vocational

% of Children Sponsored

- 100%** Sponsored
- 24%** Undersponsored by small amounts
- 0%** Without any Sponsorship!

Launched **Six** graduates into

- Business**
- Nursing**
- Photography**
- Social Services**
- Travel & Tourism**

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CHALLENGES IN 2021

- 61% of respondents in a national Nepali survey found to be earning less than \$100 USD per month, with large portions of the population out of work
- Negative impacts from the pandemic disproportionately felt by the children who make up 40% of Nepal's population, adding to the number of children in need of our services
- Growing food insecurity amongst our families
- Multiple month-long lockdowns, political demonstrations and food and water shortages
- Some children with Covid learning losses, becoming discouraged, and having emotional and behavioral problems
- US staff, sponsors, and Mitrata's medical nonprofit partner Karma Thalo Foundation unable to visit our children, staff, and families in Nepal
- Children and families relocated much of the year, causing photos, letters, and updates to sponsors to be sparse, despite BSF's best efforts



GOALS MET IN 2021

- Vaccinated BSF staff and older children
- Built and distributed emergency supply kits for families for 12 months
- Secured necessary emergency bedding to accommodate children without housing after schools closed
- Supplied cell phones and laptops to children in need
- Cared for children and staff who contracted Covid and other illnesses due to poor living conditions
- Turned Contact Center into an emergency supply distribution center and quarantine zone for children coming from villages
- Set up an emergency housing apartment for children who had nowhere to go when schools were shut down for months
- Reopened the Contact Center to offer online and in-person classes
- Graduated five Contact Center children to join area boarding schools
- Graduated six older children with Bachelor's degrees and vocational certificates (nursing, business, travel & tourism, social services, photography)
- Celebrated all 10th graders passing SEE exams to enter 11th grade, continuing our success rate of 99%
- Gained two new child sponsors
- Engaged four sponsors, whose children graduated, to take on support of new children
- Hosted Virtual Trivia Night and Miles for Mitrata Kids fundraisers
- Hosted Virtual Sponsor Ice Cream Social
- Raised funds for a vehicle for BSF to transport our children and families
- Moved the Contact Center, after-school program, and older children's transitional housing apartment to a larger building
- Moved BSF staff and operations to a new, larger office building

CONTACT CENTER

Throughout 2021, BSF staff kept our children engaged in school, provided emergency food and supply kits, and mitigated crisis situations through counseling and support. They set up COVID-19 quarantine space for children coming from outside Kathmandu, operated two group facilities for children without suitable homes, and coordinated with families and schools to ensure that students continued their education and completed their online exams.

By the end of 2021, BSF and Mitrata had achieved two important goals of our five-year strategic plan: namely, (one) procuring a new, larger building to expand our current Contact Center with space for our after-school programs and older children's transitional housing apartments, outdoor areas for play and enrichment, and a driveway for parking; and (two) raising \$125,000 to identify, secure, and set up a second Contact Center that will enable us to expand our programming into another impoverished Kathmandu neighborhood.



BHUVANESHWORI SATYAL FOUNDATION

This past year, though Nepal managed to survive the first COVID-19 wave with fewer lives lost than some countries, the second wave was devastating. Economically, Nepal continues to struggle and shows signs of regression, with low economic growth, a 90% drop in tourism, and large numbers of people out of work. With little help from the government, increased poverty and long-term inequality are expected. These harsh downstream impacts from the pandemic highlight the need for Mitrata programs to lift families out of poverty through education and support services.

The wonderful news is that against all odds, our children are back in school and have progressed this year, supported by our partner NGO, BSF, through the medical, societal, and emotional crises. Our staff in Nepal and older children are vaccinated, and six children have graduated to become independent. BSF also secured and moved to a new and larger building for their office to accommodate the increased staff needed to expand our programs to serve more children in the coming years.

BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2022

Our board held its strategic planning meeting in September 2021 with the primary goal of preparation for opening a second Contact Center in Kathmandu by 2024. In 2022, we will develop a five-year budget for the project and create a plan for recruiting additional sponsors for the new Contact Center.

To recruit these sponsors and better communicate our mission, programs, history, and vision, we will reorganize and update our website with new content to better tell Mitrata's story. We will develop new media, statistics, and materials, including a new video focusing on the mission of the Contact Center and how it helps children prepare to attend school and become part of Mitrata's sponsorship program. The website will include a Sponsor Handbook with information on Mitrata, our Nepali partner NGO, BSF, and what to expect as a child sponsor.

A major step for Mitrata in 2022, twelve years after hiring our first part-time employee, is adding a full-time Communications/Development Coordinator. This person will help us continue the robust growth we've experienced over the past decade and prepare us for supporting the expansion of our services to more children in Nepal.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD SUCCESS

Since their recent start in 2019, the Young Professionals Board (YPB) has grown to five members at the end of 2021. These volunteers bring new skills, ideas, and energy to the organization and the various committees they attend: Digital Media, Fundraising, and Sponsorship. YPB has goals of establishing an Instagram presence for Mitrata and hosting their own fundraising events. The YPB operated a community outreach and fundraising event multiple times throughout the year at the Tower Grove Park Farmer's Market in St. Louis. Their creativity, innovation, and hard work are invaluable to Mitrata's future growth.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

STAFF

Dr. Christine Schutz

Founder and Executive Director

Alexis Mead

*Director of Development/
Operations*

Morgan LeBaige

Communications Manager

Connie Colvis

Database Manager

BOARD OFFICERS

Jim Craig

President

Rick Hendin

Vice President

Juliette Schmidt

Secretary

Ambrose Bittner

Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

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Dr. Sandra Hoffmann

Pam Hughes

Len Kannapell

Tracy Laramie

Urmila Panthi

Matt Plank

Jennifer Rashed

Cindy Whitney

Dr. Daniel Williger

Dr. Nancy Williger

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Dr. Terra Barnes

Amy Benson

Beth Boyd

Jim Brasunas

Stephanie Recht

Toni Schmidt

Dr. Pratistha Strong

Gil Williams

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD

Megan Mann

Chair

Audrey Ball

Ashish Shrestha

Arianna Demos

Jon Martin

NON-BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cheryl Apperson

Don Apperson

Dr. Terra Barnes

Carolyn Crowe

Punum Gurung

Arlene Miller

Sandeep Nema

Pam Zell

SUV CAMPAIGN

At the end of 2021, we set a goal to raise \$30,000 to buy a mid-sized, used, but well-maintained SUV for use by BSF. Thanks to all of the generous gifts we received throughout the months of November and December in the form of individual donations and online Holiday Bazaar purchases, we surpassed this goal by \$17,274.75.

Purchasing an SUV will allow BSF staff to travel into the rural neighborhoods and villages around Kathmandu to regularly check on children in their homes. The SUV will provide transportation for health care emergencies and other urgent appointments, and give academic oversight at children's hostels and schools, while decreasing the high risk of COVID-19 exposure from riding on overcrowded public transportation.



Extra funds remaining after this purchase will be used for comprehensive auto insurance, annual government taxes, vehicle maintenance, and most importantly, an annual salary for an on-call driver. Navigating Nepali roads with hours-long congestion, limited road signs and traffic laws, weaving motorbikes and traffic, and rough rural roads all require an experienced driver. Having someone on staff will allow our BSF staff to focus on the children while they travel to their destination.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In 2021, our revenue and support income from sponsorships and fundraising increased by \$43,105. This is due to the generosity of our sponsors and donors and their response to our annual campaign to purchase an SUV for transporting the staff and children in Nepal. Our expenses decreased by \$20,871 from 2020. The overall increase in assets from 2020 was largely due to our highly successful investments in 2021. Our Finance Committee has an established Investment Policy which allows for growth, while protecting our investments from extreme market conditions.

38% of our net assets are set aside as board-designated for specific plans such as the Scholarship Fund, the Contact Center expansion, the SUV, and the Nepal Operations Emergency Fund.

The SUV money will be released in 2022 as BSF obtains the necessary governmental documents for purchase. The Board spends the Scholarship Fund when an older child is under-sponsored and in need of funds for university or trade school. The current plan is to release the Contact Center funds in 2024 when BSF is able to establish a second Center. Due to the volatile nature of economic, political and environmental conditions in Nepal, the Board set aside monies for one year of Nepal operations emergency funds to protect the continuation of our programs and overall mission.

17% of our net assets comprise our permanently restricted endowment and the investment returns from multiple years. The remaining net assets, 45%, are completely unrestricted and can be used for operations. Recent years of COVID-19 lockdowns and disruptions to our programs have temporarily reduced our ability to make payments to BSF, which we fully expect to catch up on in the next few years.

Independent Accountant's Financial Report STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

| SUPPORT AND REVENUE | TOTALS |
|--|--------------------|
| Child sponsorships & general contributions | 372,095 |
| Special event revenue | 74,809 |
| Gains (losses) on sales of investments | 10,336 |
| Investment revenue | 56,163 |
| Net unrealized gains on investments | 76,995 |
| Grant - Paycheck Protection Program | 10,587 |
| TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE | \$600,985 |
| EXPENSES | |
| Program | 197,553 |
| Management & General | 8,849 |
| Fundraising | 41,141 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$247,543 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | \$353,442 |
| NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF THE YEAR | \$951,610 |
| NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR | \$1,305,052 |

NET ASSET BREAKDOWN

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Unrestricted Net Assets (Available for General Activities) | \$590,903 |
| Donor Restricted | \$219,774 |
| Endowment, permanently restricted | 148,000 |
| Endowment scholarship funds | 71,774 |
| Board Designated Funds | \$494,375 |
| Contact Center Expansion | 130,583 |
| Scholarship Fund | 66,517 |
| General Nepal Operations (1 Yr Program Emergency Fund) | 250,000 |
| SUV for BSF Staff | 47,275 |

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MITRATA-NEPAL FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN
7253 Watson Rd, #127, St. Louis, MO 63119
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DONORS 2021

MITRATA NEPAL
FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN



With your gifts, we provided shelter, nutrition, medical care and private educational opportunities, assisting our children in becoming healthy, educated, economically-independent Nepali citizens. Every US dollar you gave made an impact in the life of a child. Many of the people on this list not only gave monetary gifts, but donated time, expertise and energy to meet our operational needs.

* denotes our Child Sponsors

! denotes a participant in the Miles for Mitrata Kids event

GIFTS OF \$5,000 OR MORE

Rick Brown*
Amanda Camp*
Jim & Lynn Craig*!
Dan Driscoll
Puja Gurung!
Sandra Hoffmann*
Bonnie Layman
Connie McIntyre & Mike Reed*
Reva & Richard Meadows*
Arlene Miller & Hewie Powell*
Jacquelynn Richmond*
Anne & Tad Skelton*

DONORS AND CHILD SPONSORS

Richard Akins
Terrence Alan
Melissa & Tim Alipalo*
Millan Alonso
Margaret Alquist
William Amos!
Catherine Anderson
Judith & Leonard Andrews
Don & Cheryl Apperson*
Allen Baal
Doris Baker
Jon Baker
Audrey Ball!
Jim & Donna Bandybarteau
Andy & Terra Barnes-Young*
Jennifer & Jeff Barnhouse
David Bates
Rob & Annie Bathgate!
Paul Beal*
Johanna Beekman
Susan & George Beekman*
Adam & Jenny Bell
Sean Bell
Amy Benson & Scott Squire*
Amy Bernhardt
Inta Berzins*
Anna Beyer
Jon Biesinger*
Big Shark Bicycle
Dwight Bitikofer
Ambrose Bittner!
Maureen Bittner
Deb Bixler & John Hagan*

Marie and Larry Bledsoe*
Thomas Blew*
Megan Bond
Kelly Borman
Denise Bouvrette
Beth Boyd*
Beverly Boyd
An Brasunas
Jim Brasunas
Pamela Brasunas
Barb Brown
Joan Bugnitz*
Austin & John Burns
Bike Stop Cafe
Cynthia Cantrell
Pamela & Ralph Caraffa*!
Adele Carey*
Carolyn Carollo
David & Rebecca Carpenter*!
Janet Castanis & Mike Koeing*
Karen Castanis
Tracey Cavato
Lewis & Jean Chase
Elizabeth Chirco
Francis & Beth Chmelir
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Renee Crinnion
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Mark A. & Belinda Dana!
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Robert & Pat Davis*
Alice & Nikki Debbaudt
Sara Derosier
Kevin & Anna Doyle
Lauren Doyle
Susan Duff*
Steven & Lynn Dull
Anastasia Dunn
Janet Durham*!
Jennifer Durham
Jennifer Eckerle
Renene Eisenberg
Emily Ellington
Deborah Elliott
Cherie Ellis
Brian Elsbernd
Elise Erickson
Kathy Evans*
Gail Fernandez!
Mark Fernandez
Brendan Firem
Shannon Fischer
David & Tracy Floeh*
John Foley
John & Teenuh Foster
Trish & Chet Franscavitch
Signe Franzen
Jim & Anne French
Eric Friedman & Miram Wilhelm

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Michael & Emily Fuhrman
Paula Fulks
Margaret Gaal*
Mary Gaertner*
Louis Galloway-Zapiain
Richard Garner
John Garrett!
Elizabeth Garvey*
Desiree Gerringer
Dana Getz
Kathryn Gleisner Keeley
Daniel Glen
Dan Goering*
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Rob & Shira Goldberg
Steven Goldberg
Paul Goldstein
Charles & Anne Golec
Erin Golec
Armando Gomes*
Kristine Gould
Jerry Grant
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Punam Gurung!
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Sarah Hanly!
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Wesley & Goldie Hogue

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Pamela Hughes*!

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