

The Freedom Loan Fund Campaign

Helping young women freed from child slavery start their own businesses

An amazing transformation is happening in Nepal, and you can be part of it.

Girls who were rescued from the Kamlari system of child slavery are now free — and they're becoming powerful young women who are starting their own businesses with help from a co-op loan program funded by NYF.

It's already off to a great start. The freed Kamlaris have formed 37 business co-ops with over 2,600 members. And they've already reinvested \$40,000 back into their co-op loan fund.

But here's the problem: the loan fund can't keep up with all of the former Kamlaris who want to start a business. There are hundreds of eager young women on the co-op loan waiting list.

Now there's a way you can help. Join the Freedom Loan Fund Campaign and you'll give hundreds of former child slaves in Nepal the opportunity to start a business and make a new life.

And here's a reason to do it right now:

Ten year-old activist Vivienne Harr and our friends at Make a Stand Lemon-aid have pledged to raise \$20,000 during the month of June 2014 for the Freedom Loan Fund Campaign. We want to raise another \$20,000 and match the Make a Stand pledge. Together, we'll match the \$40,000 that co-op members have reinvested in the loan fund on their own.

Let's show the freed Kamlaris in Nepal we stand with them. Help us meet the Make a Stand match!

Visit freedomloanfund.org today.



When you do, you'll be helping young women like Mina. After we rescued her from Kamlari, Mina entered our special program to make up the schooling she had missed. She graduated high school and we put her through beautician training in vocational school.

Mina opened her own salon with a co-op loan, and now she earns up to 1,000 rupees a day. That's helping her stay in college and work towards a health degree.



The Freedom Loan Fund will also help more young women like Kamala, who spent seven years of her childhood as a Kamlari working under terrible conditions. We rescued her in 2004 and put her through school and vocational training.

With a loan from the co-op, Kamala started her business fixing motorcycles and selling parts. In fact, she may be the only female motorcycle mechanic in Nepal! Now she brings in 5,000 rupees a day (good money there) and employs two men.

This is the kind of transformation you'll make possible when you join the Freedom Loan Fund Campaign and help us meet the Make a Stand match!

More ways to help

It only takes a smile from just one of the children we serve to know that all the hard work, and all of your support, is completely worthwhile. Multiply that by tens of thousands and you'll understand the power of your gifts to NYF.

But there are so many children and bright young people who still urgently need your help. We hope they can count on you to make a special gift today.

\$100 helps pay for a child's annual school expenses.
\$260 helps save a child from dying of malnutrition.
\$750 puts a bright young adult in college for a year.
\$860 puts a girl freed from slavery into vocational training.
\$1,900 sponsors a child at J or K House.

Whether it's \$10 or \$10,000, your gift will immediately go to work to improve the lives of the children in Nepal — so please give as generously as you can.

Please use the enclosed envelope or donate online at: www.nepalyouthfoundation.org

Thank you — *dhanyabad!*



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Our J & K Village Dream

Dear Friends,

A long-time dream of ours is coming true on a beautiful piece of land just outside Kathmandu. Thanks to some very generous foundations and donors, our capital campaign has raised nearly \$2 million and construction will soon begin on the J & K Village.

We've longed for a real home for our kids ever since we started J House in a cramped two-bedroom place 22 years ago. Over the years we've bounced around various rented homes that were never designed for so many children, and it's always been a challenge.

Now we'll have a village complex with perfectly designed children's residences, a special vocational education center, and an organic farm.

The Village will have four beautiful, environmentally friendly homes for the children — J House and K house with 20 children each, and two hostels for kids who have reached high school age. It's a way the older kids can begin developing the independent living skills they'll need someday, though we support them until they finish college or vocational training and can earn enough to live on their own.

Now that we have our own land, we'll have a small farm for organic vegetables along with some cows and chickens. Then we'll supply food for the Village houses and our other projects in Kathmandu, the Nutritional Rehabilitation Home and the New Life Center. On weekends and school holidays, the kids will help do some work on the farm, giving them hands-on experience with the main occupation of their fellow Nepalis.



And we're excited to have our own vocational education center which will provide training for 300 students each year in electrical work, plumbing, carpentry, and care-giving — skills which are in demand and pay well. With the unemployment rate stuck at 40% or higher, we want our J & K graduates and other young people to develop the skills to earn a decent living.

Of course, the J and K House kids don't care about unemployment statistics — they're excited about the recreational facilities! After years in rented quarters too small to accommodate a bunch of boisterous, sports-minded children, the kids will enjoy a basketball court, football field, running track, table tennis and badminton, along with a playground for the little ones — all of which we'll share with the children in the community. There's also a performance hall so the kids can put on plays and musical shows, and watch movies on a full screen.

To all of you who have supported our village campaign, and to all who have supported our children's home program over the years, thank you for making a dream come true for the children of Nepal.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Olga Murray,
Founder and Honorary President

Vocational Education and Career Counseling

Putting youth on track for life-long success in spite of tough job market

Nearly half of all Nepalis are unemployed, even those with college degrees. Yet workers like plumbers and electricians are often recruited from neighboring countries because most young people in Nepal lack training in these and other skilled jobs.

Unfortunately, vocational counseling and training is severely lacking in Nepal, and without these resources many young people languish in unemployment and poverty.

But our *Vocational Education and Career Counseling Program* (VECC) is helping to change that. VECC has trained hundreds of electricians, plumbers, hairdressers, computer technicians, midwives, auto-mechanics and cooks since the program began in 2007 — and more than 80% of our graduates are now employed.



Growing a farm...and more farmers

Asmita was sent away from her family and spent five years of her childhood working as a Kamlari indentured servant before NYF rescued her in 2004. After high school, we sponsored Asmita in an agricultural training program, and then she started her own farm with a loan from the freed Kamlari business co-op.

Now Asmita tills the fields with her family by her side. She's also trained 40 other former Kamlari in farming to help ensure their independence.

Getting a career...and babies...off to a good start

Renu learned a trade and is studying for a college degree while she works. Bright and hardworking, she received an NYF scholarship and finished high school, passing the college entrance exam. Renu then completed the 18-month *Auxiliary Nurse Midwife* training program.



Renu earns 15,000 rupees (\$150) a month (good money in this impoverished country) helping to deliver babies at a small clinic in Western Nepal. But she has even larger ambitions, and so Renu continues in college working towards a bachelor's degree.

Thanks to the generosity of our NYF supporters, the VECC program is proving to be a highly effective means of putting impoverished youth on a track for life-long success.



Talent, training and big dreams

Amrita will begin a career as an electrical engineer after she completes her training at Balaju Technical School in Kathmandu. The 15-year-old passed the challenging School Leaving Certificate (SLC) exam, required of all Nepali students to graduate from high school, and won a coveted spot in the vocational program.

Amrita entered her training with an eagerness to learn and a big dream — she wants to solve Nepal's chronic power shortage by building more hydro-electric power systems.

Full service: counseling, assessment and training

Last year, we provided career counseling services to 1,200 young people and enrolled 475 youth in both short and long-term training programs. Our staff has conducted extensive research throughout Nepal to identify vocational courses that provide high quality training and have proven success in placing young people in satisfying jobs.

Before starting any course of training, students take a series of interest and aptitude assessments. VECC staff work with each student to help them decide whether to pursue higher education or vocational training for a particular career path.

VECC staff then identify the best training program for each student's chosen field, pay for the cost of training, and help them to find jobs. In some cases, VECC provides graduates with support for starting small businesses of their own.

The Path Out of Poverty Starts in Preschool

Early Childhood Development program is an innovative model for Nepal

Dear Friends,

Everyone knows that education creates a pathway out of poverty. In recent years, researchers have proven that the best way for children to get on that path is through preschool. It's an essential step in making sure kids are ready to learn in primary school.

Primary schools are now widely available in Nepal, but preschool is a rarity — especially for our poorest children. The government has started investing in preschool centers, but the quality of the infrastructure and curriculum is quite low and the system lacks properly trained teachers.

That's why we've launched our new *Early Childhood Development* (ECD) program and have made it a top priority. The program is shaped by three primary strategies:

Build community-based preschools We started eight ECD schools this year: three in Kathmandu and five in rural villages outside the city. We train the teachers and staff, provide the curriculum, and supply all the educational materials they need. But the key to creating schools that will be sustained into the future is to cultivate community participation in developing them. So community members help build and equip the facilities, staff the centers and manage the programs.

Provide nutritional support Kids can't learn well if they're hungry — yet nearly half of all Nepali children are malnourished. Children receive healthy meals at our ECD centers, while their mothers learn nutrition basics and meal planning using local foods. ECD staff work with our *Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment* program staff to assess each student's health, and



conduct follow-up visits with families of kids at risk of malnutrition. Severely malnourished children are sent to one of our Nutritional Rehabilitation Homes for treatment.

Build a scalable national model Our ultimate goal is to provide an excellent model that the government can use to scale up quality preschool programs in public schools. We'll work with Nepal's Ministry of Education to improve the quality of preschool programs by training teachers, providing teaching materials and improving facilities to develop a model that will be replicable across the country.

With your support, we believe our ECD program will help transform the educational system in Nepal and provide the opportunities our children deserve.

With best regards,

Som Paneru
President, Nepal Youth Foundation

Marin Horizon School Goes All Out for NYF

As new members of *Girls Learn* at Marin Horizons School in Mill Valley, CA, Nina Kissinger, Vivien Manning and Hannah Platter searched for a project that reflected the club's mission — education and women's rights.

They found it in NYF's *Indentured Daughters Program*, which has freed more than 12,000 girls from bonded servitude and is now helping them thrive and find their place in the world through our *Empowering Freed Kamlaris* program.

The entire school community rallied behind them. For the past three years, the girls sold used books and home-baked cookies, babysat at the school's Parents Night Out, and sweetened Valentine's Day with candygrams, raising about \$2,500 last year alone to help educate the freed Kamlaris in Nepal.

This year the girls will match that amount, plus the school will donate the proceeds from its Read-A-Thon — a gift of nearly \$7,000!

"We've been committed to NYF's work since 6th grade," Nina said. "We hope to carry it on when we head off to high school next year."

