

SEPTEMBER 2013 KATHMANDU, NEPAL

K House can return with their own children and show them the home in which they were reared with love and care until they reached adulthood. The homes will bring the alumni together and will inspire them to become involved with the younger generation of children and act as their mentors. Perhaps, sometime in the future, we can turn over management of the homes to the young men and women who spent their happy childhoods there.

You are all invited to a triple celebration: We hope to have J and K House Village completed by June 2015. Which also happens to be the 25th anniversary of the founding of NYF and my (Olga's) 90th birthday. We plan a big party in Kathmandu to mark these three milestones in our history. More about this as the project develops.

International Day of the Girl

Now for something completely different, as they used to say on the Monty Python show. The United Nations has declared October 11th as the International Day of the Girl Child. The theme for this year's observance is education for girls.



Former bonded girls demonstrating against indentured servitude.



NYF HAS HAD A MAJOR FOCUS ON GIRLS' EDUCATION FOR A COUPLE OF DECADES.

- We have not only freed over 12,000 girls from labor bondage, but empowered them to demand their rights; we supported their education and some of these former kitchen slaves are now in college;
- We supported through good private colleges 25 very able young Dalit (untouchable) caste women who will become leaders of their communities; we trained them to become advocates against discrimination of members of their caste;
- In our vocational education and career counseling program, we train young women for lucrative occupations that are generally engaged in only by men.

We will continue to concentrate our efforts and your donations on girls' education not only because of the appalling discrimination against women in Nepal's male-dominated culture, but because it will pay enormous dividends to society.

Thank you once again for your loyal support over the years. We have been able to accomplish so much for so many impoverished children, thanks to your help. Your role as an ongoing donor is key to the success of our work.

Warm regards,

Som and Olga

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Dear Friends

Sometimes, dreams really do come true.

For 20 years, since J House was first established, we have been longing to build a permanent, beautiful, safe home for our children.

For all those years, we have been renting houses built as family residences which were unsuitable to accommodate 20 to 30 active, lively, sports-minded youngsters. Some were not seismically safe (Kathmandu is one of the most earthquake-prone areas on earth), the kitchens and dining rooms were too small, and the open area around the house for the children to play outdoors has grown smaller and smaller.

As land in the Kathmandu Valley has grown more and more expensive, building our own children's homes seemed a distant fantasy. But now, thanks to the super-generosity of a foundation that has been supporting J and K House almost since they were established, and other committed donors, our most cherished wish is about to be realized.

We have purchased three acres of beautiful farmland not far from the present houses, and are planning to build J and K House Village. It is walking distance to one of the very best public schools in the Kathmandu Valley. The Village will have separate homes for 20 little boys and the same number of little girls, and for youngsters who have grown up at the houses and attend high school. And a library, and central dining room and kitchen. To the utter delight of the children, we will have a full soccer ground, a basketball court, and a playground for the little ones.



The future home of J/K house village.

Part of the land will be developed as a farm, which will supply vegetables not only to J and K House, but our other two projects in Kathmandu, the Nutritional Rehabilitation Home and the New Life Center. If there is a surplus, it would provide a good source of income for the houses, since fresh vegetables have a ready market in Kathmandu. We already have six cows to house on the farm, and we plan to add more animals as the farm grows. The project will be managed by one of the former J House boys who has been trained in farm management. We are also planning to build a vocational training unit where our children can learn basic skills in a variety of trades such as carpentry, electrical work, plumbing, modern farming methods, etc.

We have hired one of the best architects in the country, who has already started to work for a reduced rate as a contribution to our



Two of our little K house children.

mission. Our plan is to build with traditional materials best suited to the environment and aesthetics of the area. Simple, beautiful, and SAFE. We will soon begin our capital campaign to raise money for the project and will keep you up to date as it develops.

The houses were established in the 90s, so that the children who live there now are the second generation to grow up there. Many of the first generation come back to visit, often with their spouses and children – and always to a different house than the one in which they were raised. It gives us great pleasure to know that soon, and for many years to come, youngsters who grew up at J or