

Dear Friends,

In 1984, while drifting off to sleep in my small tent in a Nepali village, I had a life-changing epiphany. Earlier that evening, I'd seen a father's pride while, by the light of a candle, he watched his children doing their homework on a crude board set across their laps. I wish you could have seen the look in his eyes! He understood, even though he'd never had a day of schooling himself, that because his children were being educated, their futures would be brighter than his own.

That small scene changed everything for me. Suddenly, I understood exactly what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. There, under a starlit Nepali sky, I made a promise to myself that I would do everything I could to help educate and empower Nepali children.

Through countless conversations, hand-typed newsletters, and photos I took with an old instamatic camera, I shared my excitement and newfound commitment with you. And to my great delight, you encouraged me in countless ways and responded with generous financial support. Soon, my little promise became *our* very big shared promise, and the Nepal Youth Foundation was born.

Every day since, I have marveled at all that our brilliant team in Nepal has accomplished. It's just so hard to believe that we have touched the lives of 60,000 children, and many are now achieving *their* dreams – becoming lawyers and doctors, social workers and teachers, mothers and fathers, community leaders and advocates for the children who are following in their footsteps. Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined our impact would be this great. Nor, to be honest, could I have imagined the sense of responsibility I now feel to ensure that this work lives on – not just through my lifetime, but for generations to come.

Which is why I am so eager to invite you to join me today as we launch NYF's **Annual Giving Circle** for those of us committing to **annually supporting the life-changing work of NYF**.

You don't need to change the way you contribute to NYF or even the amount you give. All we ask is that you let us know NYF can count on you to contribute at the same time each year so that we can plan and budget with greater confidence from year to year. In return, we're cooking up a whole bunch of ways to show you how much your generosity is appreciated. And most importantly, to ensure you continue to see the difference you are helping to make.

If you know me at all, you know that I truly believe I am the luckiest old woman alive. My recipe for happiness is simple: Have a purpose. Pursue it with passion. Commit to it with all you've got. I hope you'll join me.

Yours as ever,



Olga Murray