



Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year from all of us at HEF

Message from Chairman

The work of Himanchal Educational Foundation (HEF) continues to support the original mission (to provide financial support to the development and operation of Himanchal Higher Secondary School). The changing conditions (simply put—continued increased costs in the operation of the school and the declined US dollar) have kept us at work with our fund raising. A major blessing to that challenge has been the expansion of the Board of Directors to bring new skills and energy to the management of the foundation. With help from volunteers from both coasts, we are about ready to streamline our communications with our supporters about the evolving mission and the resultant need for additional resources.

The volunteer program continues to be a major factor in our work in the village. We have also “evolved” into an operational philosophy that directs more energy into the teaching mission. We have learned that, while a volunteer completes tasks that help the village or school or economic development or other goals, we can develop capacity and consistency if we focus more volunteer energy to teaching the villagers how to do those tasks and less volunteer energy on direct delivery of services. It is a wonderful example of “If you give me a fish, I will eat today—If you teach me how to fish, I will eat every day”.

As Mahabir’s vision for a college in the Nangi region develops, we can see some very exciting involvement with the teaching mission of volunteers with college experience and skills.

We are also helping, as a conduit for financial support, the Wireless Network project that Mahabir is starting.

[Cont. on Page 2, col 1]

HEF Going Green and Online

Let's save trees, respect the environment, and cut down the cost of printing, mailing, posting the newsletters each quarter. Each single penny saved will go to the foundation. Please visit the newly revamped <http://www.himanchal.org/> and register your email address to receive future issues electronically.

Newsletter Highlights

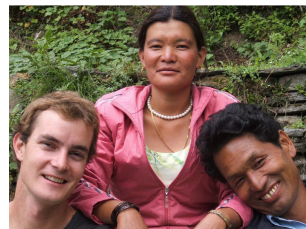
Volunteering/Clinic	1
Paper Making Promising	1
Meet Program Officer	2
Finance Update	2
One Dollar a Month	2

Volunteer Program and Clinic on a Roll

Volunteer Update 2008

by Debra Stoner

Fourteen volunteers representing six different countries worked on a range of projects in Nangi Village during 2008. All the volunteers taught either at the school, worked in Nangi Clinic or with Mahabir on the wireless network. The teaching projects included modern dance and theater, journalism, computer skills, pre-school activities, basic English, harmonica playing and sports. Other projects covered student photograph documentation, eco-tourism development,



water conservation, wireless network development, bookkeeping and papermaking. All past volunteers are encouraged to fill out a feedback form discussing their project and make recommendations for future volunteers. Volunteers' stories and their experience at Nangi are posted on the HEF website: <http://www.himanchal.org/>

Clinic Update 2008

by Debra Stoner

Nangi Clinic has expanded to include dental services. Chitra Bahadur Pun, a former Nangi student, has completed three years of training at The School of Oral Hygiene at Kathmandu Model Hospital. His education was supported by the Central Susquehanna Dental Society (CSDS) of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. Chitra will return to Nangi in Jan. 2009 to open a dental clinic at Nangi Clinic which is being remodeled to accommodate his dental office and treatment room with funds from CSDS.

Additional funding is needed to buy dental equipment which includes a new portable drill, overhead light and portable dental chair. The portability of the equipment will allow Chitra to travel to the surrounding villages and offer dental services. If you would like to support the Dental Clinic please send a donation to HEF and stipulate the money is for the dental equipment fund.

Happy smiles!

Himanchal Educational Foundation is selling these 70 page diaries for \$15.00. Please email Jane Sabin-Davis at [jane@himanchal.org](mailto:jane@himanchal.org) if you are interested in purchasing these journals made in Nangi.

Paper Making is Promising

by Jane Sabin-Davis

Thanks to Mahabir Pun's efforts, many village women in Nangi now have a sustainable income to help support their families. It is difficult for westerners to imagine the impact that bringing an additional \$2/day can make on a family's well-being: it is the difference between having enough money for a few extra things at the local 'shop' for the kids, an occasional chicken from traveling salespersons, or a festive new sari for a special occasion.

Over the last four years, the women have had several

trainings focusing on how to construct diaries which are made entirely from handmade paper and how to trim the books so that they are appealing to western markets. Initially the diaries were transported by tourists but finally this year we were successful in shipping 252 diaries from Nepal to the US.



**Message from Chairman**  
[contd. from page 1, col 1]

We are excited about our evolving mission and we cherish your support—financial, encouragement, and ideas.

**Leonard Skov**

Chairman, Himanchal Educational Foundation

**We Need Your Support!**

Please help us continue our work by making a financial contribution.

You can contribute online at <http://himanchal.org/contribute> or you can send a check directly to our contact address. To get a tax deduction in the US, our EIN # is 47-0827392. Thanks again for all your support over the years.



**About Us**

Himanchal Education Foundation is a non-profit corporation based in the US, established in 2000. Our goal is to support Himanchal High School in the remote village of Nangi, Nepal, a school that is a prototype for community-based educational development in rural areas.

With help from volunteers all across the world, today our school supports grades K through 12, including a computer lab with Internet connection. We welcome you to visit our website [www.himanchal.org](http://www.himanchal.org) to learn more about our journey and stay connected with it in the future.

**Board of Directors:**

Dr. Leonard Skov - Chairman  
Jane Sabin-Davis - Secretary  
Bill Ballou - Treasurer  
Dr. Debra Stoner  
Jiwan Giri  
Sandeep Giri

## Paper Making is Promising (contd.)

They are made 100% from the Lokta tree, unlike most other hand made paper that is a mix of ingredients. The bark from the Lokta tree is renewable so cutting off the branches and stripping the bark only results in more branches sprouting from the shrub.



The women have also begun developing local dyes made from the walnut tree. The process is detailed and time-consuming: harvesting the plant, peeling the soft outer bark from the wooden stack, finely separating the strands of each piece of bark, soaking, cooking, and pulverizing the material until it is the consistency of mushy, wet paper, and then getting the diluted paper mixture onto frames for drying in the sun. Finally, the finished paper! Making the diaries themselves consists of cutting, pasting, and sewing.

**Finance Update 2008**  
by Jane Sabin-Davis

Starting next spring we will begin to provide you, our faithful supporters, with financial update so that you can see how your money has been spent. This month, however, we want to share a special gift from an anonymous donor who donated \$10,000 toward the support of the school and projects in Nangi. We are so fortunate to have such wonderful friends.

## Meet Our New Project Officer in Nangi

by Jane Sabin-Davis

In November, we hired Chitra Bahadur Tilija Pun as Project Officer for the developing cottage industries in Nangi. He is well-known in the community from his work over the past few years with the Institute for Himalayan Conservation and he is a familiar figure as he walks briskly across the hills of the Myagdi District from village to village.



HEF is in the process of developing cottage industries and health care initiatives, along with tourism and a unique volunteer program. Because of Chitra's

outstanding bilingual and computer skills, he is an excellent candidate for providing the necessary cross-cultural support to these money making projects.

We are so fortunate to have the financial supporters and Chitra's talents that will allow the villages in this region to develop new and sustainable programs

WELCOME CHITRA!

## One Dollar a Month: Mahabir's Request

**One Dollar a Month**  
by Jiwan Giri

Mahabir Pun hopes to network several villages of Nepal using WiFi and radio transmitters with the support from people around the world. Enclosed is the letter from Mahabir.

Dear Friends:

I am going to request all the Non-Residence Nepalese as well as friends of non-Nepali origin around the world for \$1 a month support for the next five years to build a broadband information highway across Nepal. Please work with the

leaders and organizations in your community and kindly help me to accomplish this goal. Please visit <http://www.himanchal.org/contribute> for donating money. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mahabir Pun