



HIMALAYAN LIFE



TRANSFORMING LIVES

ANNUAL REVIEW 2019/20

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Greetings,

When Karina and I first arrived in Nepal 25 years ago, we settled in a small industrial town where I got busy very quickly. I was working in the field of design and implementation of small-scale hydro plants in rural areas.

Meanwhile, Karina scouted the neighbourhood. Not far from our house, she discovered a large shantytown where poverty, lethargy, and social dysfunction were overwhelming. As a teacher, Karina couldn't help but notice the sheer neglect of the children and the fact that there were no schooling opportunities for them.

So we started a school in the slum. We named it 'The Vineyard School' with high hopes of a rich crop of fruit in terms of transformation within. We burned much midnight oil developing the curriculum and preparing lessons. Day after day Karina spent at the school in the slum, in the blistering heat of Nepal's southern plain, investing herself in the lives of the children.

The school wasn't successful. Poverty, with its ensuing material and social needs got in the way of education. The kids were too hungry to learn. They were simply too needy and too insecure because of broken family situations. We learned that education needs to go hand in hand with protecting and nurturing the children.

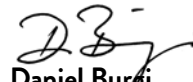
This is why Himalayan Life's mandate is to protect, nurture, and educate children in the Himalayas. Aided by God's grace, this is the path to transformation. Twenty-five years down the road, that's who we are and what we do. Be it at our school in Yangri or the shelter for street

children in Pokhara - we always strive for the children's holistic development and, wherever possible, reach out to their entire families.

Within these pages, you will find stories of children being protected, nurtured and educated in the framework of our Himalayan Life projects. I wish to thank you for your support and friendship, which makes it possible for us to help children in need on their journey from not-life to life.

I invite you to stay in touch by contacting me directly at **daniel@himalayanlife.com**.

With gratitude,


Daniel Burgi,
CEO



PHOTOGRAPHY

Most photos are courtesy of
Peter Schaeublin (www.peterschaeublin.com)
and **Christian Habermeier**
(www.christianhabermeier.com).
Cover photo by **Christian**.

Himalayan Life's Vocational Training Program for recovering street youth works within the framework of the **Himalayan Life Plastics recycling plant**. Some 50 million bottles get recycled here annually, and dozens of young people like Anil receive vocational skill training.





PROTECT

WHO EVEN CARES?

by Daniel Burgi

Twelve years ago, after the civil war in Nepal ended, homeless children began roaming the streets of Pokhara. Nobody liked those wild, filthy, ill-smelling kids, who spent their days in search of something to eat. They searched for anything that could fetch a price on the scrap market, often sniffing glue to numb the pain in their bodies and souls. Before long, those kids were publicly branded “Kathe” or filth.

When I began befriending the children, they taught me one of their songs, about the reality of their lives on the street. After nightfall, hiding in an alleyway, away from the public eye and the baton of the police, they would sing this song to the beat of the drum.

***Who even cares - who knows the hunger
we feel - who has tasted the darkness
and loneliness of the night in the streets
who has tried the ditch as their bed?
Who will even hear the cry of us children
in the streets - who even cares?
We are the filth, we are the children
of the streets.***

Countless times I listened to the song, my heart overflowing through my eyes. Through words and actions we assured the kids that we at Himalayan Life did care, that they are NOT filth. That if they let us, we would do everything to help and protect them.

So we started the Street Kitchen, where kids drop in for a warm meal and a break from the street. Then we opened the Shelter, where kids can spend the night in safety under the care of our loving staff. The Vocational Training program was added for older kids who didn't have the opportunity to go to school, and after, the Street-2-School homes for those kids who can go to school. These programs have served to rescue and protect hundreds of kids from the streets, transforming their lives.

Today, even as COVID-19 is reshaping society, including the lives of street children, I repeat the same message I stated 12 years ago: I care. We care. We continue to stand with you. Our vision has not changed. We continue to dream of **LIFE-TO-THE-FULL** for street kids: **A Life with purpose, hope, peace, faith, forgiveness, and love.**

NURTURE



NURTURING LOVE

by Aksha Shreemal

Rikita BK's first four years of life were ones marked with extreme hardship and pain. Growing up in a tiny shack on the banks of the Seti River with her three siblings and her mother, Rikita and her family faced unbearable hunger.



So unbearable that the older siblings, Subash and Prakash left home. Prakash found work as a domestic labourer while Subash ended up on the street. To provide for the family, Rikita's mother left the two youngest children at home alone, for 3-4 days at a time while she worked.

Rikita, only four, begged for food with her younger brother Ridum, just a year and a half. They lay together alone at night in their shack; no lights, door, or adults to protect them.

Subash struggled with life in the streets, becoming highly addicted to sniffing glue. Fortunately, he found the Himalayan Life Street Kitchen and once he trusted staff enough, he transitioned to the Shelter. There, he shared information about the younger sister and brother he left behind. He was worried they had died of hunger.

HL staff searched for the shack and found the two children, both extremely weak and unable to walk due to severe starvation.

They bought them food, water and clean clothes. Both kids believed their mother was at work, but HL staff found out that she had left her children, for good. In the following days Rikita and Ridum were brought to the Shelter.

Rikita and Ridum have been at the Street-2-School home for five years now. They receive shelter, food, water and clothing, but also emotional care. This nurturing love has allowed Rikita and Ridum to heal from childhood traumas and flourish in their new environments.



**“ AT THE SHELTER,
EVERYBODY LOVES US
AND TAKES CARE OF US
RIKITA SAID
NOW WE ARE GOING
TO SCHOOL AND HAVE SO
MANY FRIENDS ”**





EDUCATE

EDUCATION FOR LIFE

by Lila Sherpa

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” **Nelson Mandela**

When Himalayan Life began offering adult literacy classes in Yangri, 45-year-old Jyoti Tamang signed up immediately. Jyoti never had the chance to go to school yet deep down has always understood the power of education. That’s why, despite the indifference of her husband, she made sure that all three of her children went to school.

Jyoti, knows only too well what it means to be illiterate; always at a disadvantage, trying to make things happen as if blindfolded. Finally, this was HER chance to enter the world of education! However, this time, her husband was not just indifferent, but furious. What had bewitched his wife so much that she wanted to attend an hour-long class every day when there was so much work to be done around the house?

Meanwhile, Jyoti learned to read and write, and do simple math. She learned about hygiene, health and nutrition, and because of her newly acquired level of education, a steady trickle of positive change entered the Tamang household.

Jyoti is no longer being taken advantage of when going to the market, and she can support her children much better as they are going to school. Her husband, having experienced the change in his family first hand, is now supporting Jyoti as she continues her adult education, even to the point of doing some of her chores. Their youngest daughter, Kushi, is attending Grade 5 at Himalayan Life’s Yangri Academic Centre where

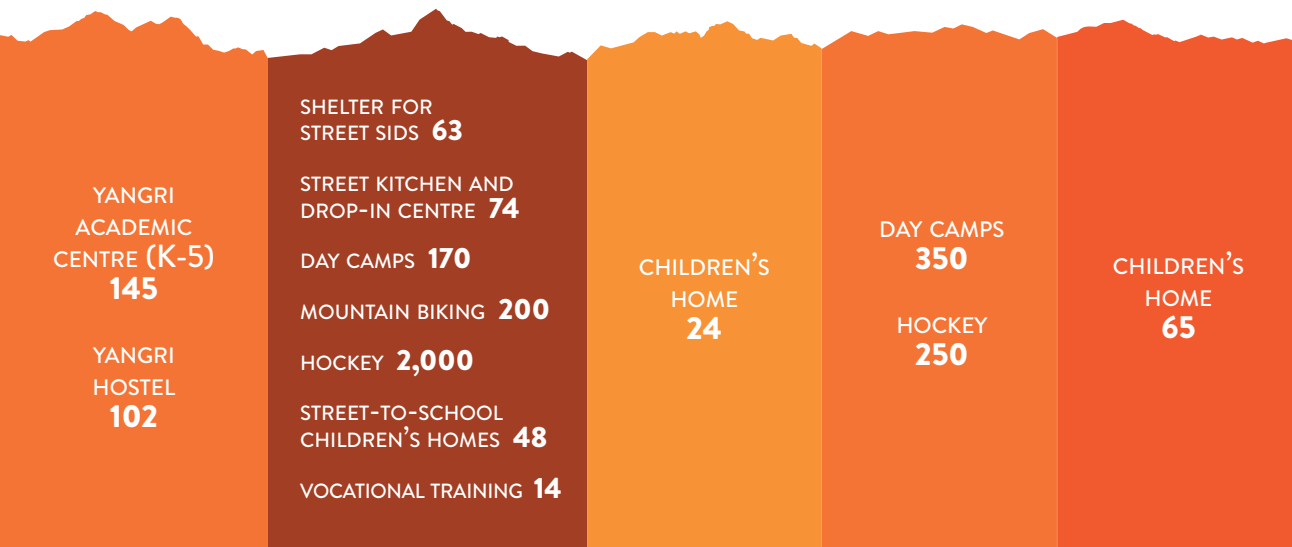


the prevalent culture of achievement is motivating her to work hard. The school’s values are not lost on Khushi either: she is inspired to integrate quality, integrity, hope and care in her own life, and aspires to be an agent of change.

In fact, she already is an agent of change. Kushi and Jyoti’s continued education have been changing the trajectory of her family from a path marked by alcoholism, violence and despair, to a future filled with hope.

HIMALAYAN LIFE'S IMPACT

Total Children & Youth Served by Program and Location



YANGRI

POKHARA

ULLERI

CHITWAN

LADAKH

Total Impact of Himalayan Life Through the SDGs

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals recognize that ending poverty and injustice must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while caring for the planet.



NO POVERTY

7,105 children and adults had a reduction in poverty (children, villagers, workers).



ZERO HUNGER

376,220 meals were served through all programs.



QUALITY EDUCATION

776 children and youth received holistic education through school and day camps.



GENDER EQUALITY

1,385 girls and women were empowered and experienced gender equality.



AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

2,775 people had access to micro-hydro electricity.



DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

484 people were provided with meaningful work (staff, collectors, construction workers).



REDUCED INEQUALITIES

2,920 children of all backgrounds were provided with inclusive sport and community programming.



RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

50 million plastic bottles were recycled by Himalayan Life Plastics.



PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

531 children experienced peaceful and inclusive homes without violence and abuse.



SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

23 communities where Himalayan Life engages became more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



CLIMATE ACTION

5,000 tons of CO₂ were offset by Himalayan Life Plastics.



PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

28 partnerships with organizations and foundations help strengthen implementation. (Europe 11, Nepal & India 4, North America 13).

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Financial Overview for Himalayan Life Internationally 2019/20

International Revenue

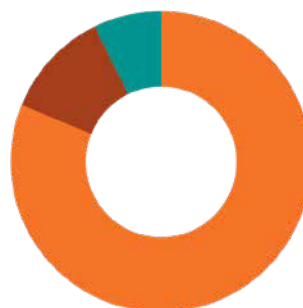
CANADA	\$705,478
SWITZERLAND	\$835,710
TOTAL	\$1,541,188



International Expenses

(Combined for Canada and Switzerland)

PROGRAMS	\$1,157,150 (81%)
ADMINISTRATION	\$166,324 (12%)
FUNDRAISING	\$103,424 (7%)
TOTAL	\$1,426,898



"All funds are in Canadian dollars. Detailed audited statements are available upon request."



MOUNTAIN PLASTIC

Himalayan Life's reach and impact are strengthened through partnerships.

This year we launched Mountain Plastic with Everest climber and Seven Summitter, **Joyce Azzam** as our Himalayan Life ambassador.

Mountain Plastic is Himalayan Life Plastic's endeavour to sell recycled plastic to the shoe and activewear industry.

Mountain Plastic also allows us to help people and organizations go carbon neutral by offsetting. This past year we helped the Vancouver Mountain Film Festival and the Mission Central Conference go carbon neutral.

himalayanlife.com/go-carbon-neutral

VISION

We are a Christian charity that exists to enhance the lives of children in the Himalayas.

Through protecting, nurturing and educating children, we aim to move them from a place of not-life to life.

THANK YOU

The stories in these pages wouldn't be possible without your faithful support, which brings hope and transformation every single day. We're grateful for your encouragement and generosity!



HIMALAYAN LIFE

PROTECT · NURTURE · EDUCATE

NEPAL · INDIA · CANADA · SWITZERLAND · USA

INFO@HIMALAYANLIFE.COM · WWW.HIMALAYANLIFE.COM