



**MAY THE NEW YEAR 2010 BRING JOY AND HAPPINESS TO ALL!**

**Chairman's Message**

Since the time when a few persons in Kearney, Nebraska committed themselves to provide financial support for the teachers at Himanchal High School, it is just amazing how, over a relatively short period of time, that decision has evolved to Himanchal Educational Foundation, with a constantly evolving mission and a nationwide Board of Directors. The scope of our mission is well reported in this issue of the newsletter.

We have also experienced the evolution of a financial support group largely focused in the Kearney area to the current support group that spans USA, Canada, England, Finland, Denmark, Netherlands and probably some others I can't recall. Also, the "Nepali Community" all over the US has become a major support group. It is amazing how many, mostly small, contributions can add up to a significant support group. The wireless network is a wonderful connection between HEF and the Nepali Community.

As we begin 2010, we look back at the wonderful support that has passed through HEF. We also anticipate, with equal wonder, the existing and potential projects that will strengthen the relationship between HEF and Mahabir's great leadership in Nepal. HEF is managed by volunteers, permitting us to, literally, direct every dollar to the work in Nepal.

Happy New Year !!!  
Leonard Skov

**About Us**

Himanchal Education Foundation is a non-profit corporation based in the US. 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.

**Contact Info:**

Himanchal Educational Foundation  
5610 Avenue N  
Kearney, Nebraska 68847  
Web: [www.himanchal.org](http://www.himanchal.org)

Email: [contact@himanchal.org](mailto:contact@himanchal.org)

**Appeal for Solar Charging Unit**

We are currently looking for donations to help us buy a portable solar charging unit to use during the project manager's visits to the villages in Nepal. This portable charger will make it possible for our project manager to update project information and report on timely manner while he is regularly monitoring different projects taking place at the respective villages.

**A Word from Mahabir Pun**



I would like to give big thanks to all the supporters for your commitments and unconditional support to Himanchal Higher Secondary School and to the developmental projects managed by the school and the community. Without your support, the Himanchal Higher Secondary School would be suffering so much. Without qualified teachers, the rural students would not have been able to get the quality of education they are getting now. Your support to pay for the salary of the teachers is the greatest help ever for our villages.

The small clinic in Nangi for the

treatment of the villagers would not have existed without the support of several volunteers who have come to Nangi to provide training to the health workers. We have now added a dental section in the clinic. The man whom you supported to go to dental school for three years in Kathmandu has come back with all the equipment necessary to set up a small dental clinic, providing the local villagers with healthier teeth. Currently, a video conferencing system in Nangi clinic has been set up, connecting the clinic to Kathmandu Model Hospital for telemedicine. The health workers in Nangi are consulting with the doctors whenever they need help. It is the first telemedicine system of this kind in the rural areas of Nepal.

Some women in Nangi village

**Yak Farming Project**

The goal of this project is to generate enough income to financially support the community based schools, Himanchal Higher Secondary of Nangi village and Paudwar Secondary School of Paudwar village, provide fuel to keep the dining hall of Khopra Community Lodge warm using yak manure in the chimney, as well as to increase the number of yak to 150. As of October 2009, we have 124 yak altogether and two herdsman. We conduct a Yak blood drinking festival twice a year according to Nepalese calendar, once over the summer and the other during the Winter season, each lasting up to 5 days, which helps us raise some money. The Yak is also killed and sold to the local village people during this festival. The villagers believe that fresh Yak blood acts as a cure to the stomach for those that suffer from gastric problems and also to get energy.

As of this moment, there is a Yak Management Committee that has been formed to manage everything for Yak Farming Project. This committee decides the date of the blood drinking festivals, keeps records of the financial transactions for gained during this festival, and divides the profit equally between the two schools.

**Newsletter Highlights**

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One Dollar a Month ...

are making some extra money for their family through the paper making project and your help in finding the market for the products has been great. We are now looking for bigger markets for the paper products to sell around the world. Your support for Chitra Pun, the field staff of the project, has been great and [contd. to page 2, col. 4]

**Dreams Do Come True**



In 2002, the dream to build Nangi Medical Clinic to serve Nangi Village and the surrounding villages was created during a meeting of Mahabir Pun, Rupa Khorja, Lila Pun, the Village Development Committee and Dr. Debra Stoner. Seven years later, through the hard work of these people and many volunteers, the dream has grown to include the Dental Clinic, Women's' Center for Education, and the Telemedicine Center. Plans are in progress to expand these services to other villages in the wireless network. We ask for your continued support and thank all of you for making a difference with your donations to Himanchal Education Foundation

## Khopra Community Lodge Project

On Khopra Ridge, the Himanchal Higher Secondary School, Nangi, and the Paudwar Secondary School, Paudwar, have been conducting a small lodge for camp trekkers.

An agreement was signed in 1997 between Nangi and Paudwar villages to initiate the Khopra Lodge and begin yak farming in the area. In 2008 a joint venture with Peregrine Adventures, Himanchal Higher Secondary School, and Paudwar Secondary School was established, a new lodge was constructed, and they teamed together to promote a tea house trek.

The primary investment was made by the Himanchal Secondary School. Peregrine Adventures is as a great promoter of Khopra lodge in the UK and Australia; they have also brought people from the media for tours to promote the lodge and the trek. They have provided about \$4,000 in financial support, sleeping bags for the porters, and training for the staff of Khopra lodge and people from other villages as well.

Mr. Nandabir Tilija from Paudwar village and Mr. Purkhajit Khoraja from Nangi village are the two staff of Khopra Community Lodge. The main months of tourist season are February, March, April, September, October, November and December. All trekking agencies and trekkers are welcome; it is anticipated that Khopra Lodge will become a recognized and utilized trekking route. There is one Lodge management committee from Nangi

## Cross Breeding Project



Cross Breeding is done between Yak male and local cows and they give birth to "Urang" for female offsprings and "Dimju" for male. Dimjus are used for carrying loads from one place to another and also as a means of transportation in the mountain area. Urangs are the best for milk because they give lots of milk containing a very high fat percentage, making it good for cheese. For that reason, HEF wants to run the Cheese Project parallel to the Cross Breeding work to generate income for the support of Himanchal Higher Secondary School.

We started Cross Breeding in 2004 A.D between Yaks and cows. Currently, we have 3

yaks and 9 local cows along with 4 urang and 6 dimju, living in the forest. The Urang (female) are ready to become pregnant so, they have to be well taken care of to in order for us to benefit from the offspring. However, we are having financial problems.

We need a herdsman to take care of them and two cow sheds in different places to keep them inside. Our long term goals are to increase the number of cross bred cattle and be able to take care of them, to conduct the Cheese Project, and have a steady flow of income allowing us to support our community based school.

This cross bred male cattle is used to carry a load from one place to another and to plough the field as an ox. These cross bred female cattle are used for milking what we can and also producing cheese from them.

and Paudwar village that handles the financial transactions. If the lodge has a profit then, they can divide it in cash, considering that all previous loans have been paid.



The long term goals are to generate income for the support of community schools, advertise a new trekking route to Khopra Ridge and Nangi village for trekking companies in Pokhara & Kathmandu, and establish arrow boards in different places for route information. We would also like to conduct DESTINATION KHOPRA RIDGE 2011 MARATHON on the occasion of Tourism Year 2011.

### Event Corner:

**Event:** Nepal Awareness Night

**Where:** Student Union, University of Nebraska at Kearney, USA

**When:** 7:00 PM on Feb 19, 2010.

**Contact:** Bill Ballou at [weballou@gmail.com](mailto:weballou@gmail.com) (call at 308-234-9813)

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Chitra has done a wonderful job.

The composting toilets for the boys and girls have become a good source of compost for the farmers in Nangi.

Some volunteers, who have been to Nangi are providing scholarships to the students going to college in Pokhara. Others are supporting for the village tourism program by bringing tourists in our villages. The volunteers have been very helpful by spreading the stories about our village and efforts around the world through words of mouth or through emails. They have been great supporters of the community lodge we have built in Khopra, providing both ideas and skills to the lodge keepers on how to manage the lodge there.

We have also received lots of support for the wireless networking project I am currently involved in. Your technical support to build the wireless network and to keep it running has been very helpful. We are now working in several districts of Nepal to build a wireless network.

Thank you very much. I appreciate your support.

### One Dollar a Month Campaign

Since an announcement of the **One Dollar a Month Program**, all Nepalese as well as their friends around the world are participating in \$1 a month program to build a broadband information highway across Nepal. Please work with the leaders and organizations in your community and kindly help Mahabir to accomplish this goal. Please visit <http://www.himanchal.org/contribute> for donating money to this worthy project.