

September 2008



Directors' Message

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from Nepal! We're really excited to be bringing you this newsletter from on the ground in Pokhara, where Onni Children's House is only days away from opening its doors, with final preparations being made to the house. At the same time the screening process has begun to identify Nepali children most in need of our support.

From a personal point of view we are loving being back here, enjoying the food, the amazingly friendly people, the warm weather and the nightly monsoonal downpour!! The day after our arrival we visited our local partners Namaste Children's House and were treated to a lovely surprise with the 70 children there waiting to greet us with flowers and big happy smiles. We must extend our gratitude to all at Namaste who have gone out of their way to make us feel at home, and for all the work they have done to make the Onni Children's House project possible. We look forward to a successful partnership for years to come.

We hope that next month we can share with you all the stories from the establishment of the house, and introduce you to the children who will benefit from your support.

Thanks to all of you for your support thus far. We look forward to sharing this journey with you, and making a difference to the lives of our friends over in Nepal.

Carl & Tuuli



Onni has found a House!

After many months of planning and preparation, the Onni Children's House project has now become a reality. Check out the photo's below to get an idea of what Onni looks like, then imagine it in a few years time with 40-50 happy, healthy young kids eating, studying and running around in it!

During the past months a lot of background work has been done by our local partners, Namaste Childrens House, in searching for this property. They did a great job in finding a house that will be very practical and spacious. We believe it is the ideal property for what we need. It has 12 big bed rooms, a big living room, kitchen, rooms for office space, and lots of open spaces available as play areas. And importantly from an educational point of view, one of the best private schools in Pokhara, Fishtail Academy, is literally just around the corner.

The set-up costs for the house (furniture, renovations, painting, equipment etc) have been jointly covered by our major corporate donors, Pitcher Partners (www.pitcher.com.au) and Coastalwatch (www.coastalwatch.com.au). We thank them for their significant investment in the future of the Onni children. We're sure it will be a happy home for many Nepalese children for years to come!



Wind of Change Registered in Finland

After a long battle with the bureaucracy, Wind of Change International Ry is now registered in Finland! During the past few months, we've been shown a lot of support, and day by day new members are joining the ranks of Wind of Change Finland. To become an official member is easy, just go onto our Finnish website and follow the instructions. And the annual fee won't break the bank – membership is 10€person and 20€family.

The Finnish board has also been announced. In addition to the Wind of Change directors, Carl Steinfort and Tuuli Vikstedt, a group of enthusiastic and talented people will join us to lead Wind of Change towards a successful future; Ulla Anttila, Mikko Bärlund, Susanne Möller and Meri Vikstedt – a warm welcome!

Wind of Change is now also a truly *International* organisation – in addition to Finland and Australia we have had donations coming in from the US, the UK, Switzerland and Norway.

Thanks to all for your support!

Weddings, Parties, Anything!

While on the topic of Finland, instead of basking in the glory of a big pile of birthday presents, a few very generous people asked that people wishing to give them presents donate towards Wind of Change instead. A big *kiitos* to those below for their selflessness, and also for inviting us to their lovely summer parties!

Riitta “Lissukka Lisbe” Rouhiainen on her 60th birthday
Eva Vikstedt & Jacki Furstenborg on their 120th birthday (60 each!)

In a similar fashion in Norway, **Nina and Eric** celebrated their wedding in a beautiful coastal town outside of Oslo. We would like to thank the lovely couple for not only organising a great party but sacrificing the normal wedding registry – newest toasters, massaging kitchen towels and aerodynamically designed egg cups – to support Onni Children’s House. Tack så mycket älsklingar!

Trekking Suits

Many of you will have seen on the website the somewhat wacky fundraising venture that is happening in the Himalaya’s as we write. John Krbaleski and Anthony Williamson are tackling the famous Annapurna Circuit, a two week trek through some of the highest mountains in the world, battling altitude sickness, chaffing, blisters, leeches and monsoonal rains in style – they plan to wear suits for the entire journey!



The boys have raised over \$4,000 already to support the new Onni Children’s House – check out their latest news at <http://trekkingsuits.blogspot.com/>. We hope to bring you pictures and stories from their epic adventure in our next newsletter.



Fundraise through Online Giving

There is now a fun and easy way to raise money to support Wind of Change – and you don’t need to go to extremes like John and Anthony above! Thanks to a great new website called Online Giving (www.onlinegiving.com.au) you can set up your own fundraising page to support Wind of Change within a matter of minutes.

With the Melbourne Marathon (you can run various distances from 5.5km to 42.2km) and “Around the Bay in a Day” bike ride both coming up in October it’s a great opportunity to get fit, and ask people to sponsor you to help a great cause at the same time! Of course, you can use it for any activity or event you think of – be creative! To see an example of how it works check out <http://www.onlinegiving.com.au/pages/SusmithaSajeevni.aspx> - where Saj and Sush are raising funds for Wind of Change through their trek to Everest Base Camp.

Mazenod College Mission Day



A huge thank you to the Mazenod College community, who have donated \$5,000 towards our Onni Childrens House project from their Annual Mission Action Day. Overall they raised a total of \$49,000 which was distributed to various worthy causes in developing countries. A lot of hard work goes into organising this day, and we would particularly like to thank the Rector, Fr Pat Moroney, and all the students and staff for their efforts, and for thinking of us.

Donations

As you can see from all the news above, we continue to receive great support from many generous individuals and organisations. We would also like to give a special mention to Ray Wilson who made a significant personal contribution, and also Eini & Harri Miettinen who were the first donors in Finland presenting a cheque for 1000€ towards healthcare for the children. Additionally we have had a number of people becoming child sponsors – thank you very much. We look forward to introducing you to your sponsored child as they come into the Onni house over the coming weeks!

As always, any contributions towards our work are greatly appreciated – a little bit of money goes a long way in Nepal. Donations can be made online at www.windofchangeinternational.org, or enquires can be made via the contact details at the bottom of this page.

Looking Forward.....

Now the real work begins, and we are looking forward to the challenge. The main aim over the coming few months is to get the house furnished (after it's given a good paint job!), hiring good, capable and caring local staff, helping the children adjust to their new home, ensuring they are healthy and starting their education.

Thank you to all who have made this project possible, we truly appreciate your support, and look forward to keeping you up to date with all the news from Nepal over the coming months.



THANK YOU !!!

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