



Directors' Message

Dear members and friends,

Welcome to the first ever Wind of Change newsletter! It's been a hectic couple of months getting Wind of Change up and running, but thanks to the help of many generous people we are in a position where we can now look forward to getting over to Nepal and opening Onni Children's House, which we hope will provide education, love, happiness and a brighter future for up to 40 children in the coming years.

This newsletter outlines some of the highlights of the past two months, and what we've got to look forward to! Later this month we are heading to Finland to spread the word about Wind of Change and hopefully raise some more funds for the project, before getting to Nepal where the real work begins in September. In our next edition we will bring 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, it's been overwhelming. We look forward to sharing this journey with you, and making a difference to the lives of our friends over in Nepal.

Carl & Tuuli



Corporate Donors Show Support for Wind of Change



Pitcher Partners (www.pitcherpartners.com.au), a major Australian accounting firm, have selected Onni Children's House as their first international project to be supported as part of their new Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program. Pitcher Partners stated that one of the key considerations of becoming involved with this project is that they believe that their 550 staff in Melbourne will be able to directly see the benefits to the community of their involvement.

They have made a long-term commitment to the project, agreeing to provide half of the initial funding to set up the house, as well as providing a significant amount of funding for the next 5 years. This deal underpins the financial viability of the project, and to be selected as the first international project in this corporate program demonstrates the professionalism and quality of our project. We are extremely grateful to Elissa Hall and other members of the CSR panel for investing their confidence in us, and giving a secure future for the children of Onni Children's House.



Coastalwatch - Another huge thank you must go to Kim Sundell and the team at Coastalwatch, who have provided the other half of the funding required to set up and establish Onni Children's House. Kim is well regarded for his involvement in philanthropic pursuits, and has a lot to offer not just in terms of financial support, but different ideas on how we can help improve the livelihood of people in developing countries. All the surfers out there should bookmark their website, www.coastalwatch.com.au to get the latest surf & swell forecasts before you head out for a paddle!



Last but not least we must acknowledge the team at **PSA Project Management** (www.psaproject.com.au), particularly Paul & Noela Steinfort who have been tireless in the behind the scenes work required to get Wind of Change up and running, and also made a sizeable financial contribution. In fact, PSA are covering any administrative costs we might face, meaning that all other donors have the luxury of knowing that 100% of every dollar donated goes directly to where it is needed most in Nepal.

Individual Donors

Jacinta Thomas has made a substantial pledge to support our program, and is also doing a lot of behind the scenes work with her contacts in the financial world to try and get them to match her efforts. Brilliant work Jacinta!

We must also make mention of two other generous young people, **Tom Steinfort** and **Jess Nasr**. Both Tom & Jess are only 23 years old, but at a time when most of their friends are worried about getting the latest brand name t-shirt or accessories for their i-pod, they have both made a large financial sacrifice to support Wind of Change. Thanks guys!

We would also like to acknowledge donations received from the Lions Club of Heathmont, Al Bishop, CAG Financial Services, John & Mary Keogh, Eileen Nee, Anne Hattam, Mary Billing, Loretta Bull and Mary Taylor.

Board has been announced

The composition of the Australian Board has been finalised :

Directors – Carl Steinfort & Tuuli Vikstedt

Secretary – Colleen Taylor

Treasurer – Emma West

Public Officer – Paul Steinfort

Fundraising / PR – Jason Snell

We are delighted to have such a great team of committed and talented people to guide Wind of Change into the future. More details on the relevant skills and background of all of our board members can be found on our website www.windofchangeinternational.org

School visit

On Friday May 2nd, we visited St Joseph's primary school in Black Rock to talk to the 162 students about Nepal, poverty, our work and even our performance in last years World Wife-Carrying Championships in Finland (yes, there is such a thing!).

One of our goals at Wind of Change is to raise awareness amongst the Australian public about humanitarian issues that affect children, women and other disadvantaged individuals and communities in developing countries, and particularly work with schools to give children the opportunity to learn about the culture, health and living conditions of children in other countries.

Many thanks to Principal Annette Brewer for inviting us to St Josephs, we enjoyed it as much as the kids!

Students from St Joseph's do their best impression of a Nepalese holy man during our visit to the school.



Amazing Generosity from St Leonard's

We were given the opportunity to speak to parishioners from St Leonard's Catholic Church in Glen Waverley about the forthcoming Onni Children's House project. Their response was amazing, with members of the parish showing their care for those less fortunate, digging deep into their pockets to raise over \$4,000. Sincere thanks to Fr Dillon for inviting us to speak, and to the St Leonard's community for their generosity.

Website

Wind of Change is online at www.windofchangeinternational.org. All the information about us and our activities can be found on the website – please feel free to refer your friends. It is possible to make donations online – in the future we hope to put regular updates on the website with the latest happenings in Nepal.

Special thanks to Paddy Steinfort for the initial groundwork in setting up our website and designing the logo, and Paul & Noela Steinfort for covering the cost of a professional web design company to get the website fully operational.

Onni Children's House – only 4 months to go!

The initial preparations are underway for the opening of Onni Children's House, with the opening only 4 months away.

Visma Paudel (pictured right) is the head of our partner organisation in Nepal, Namaste Children's House (NCH). NCH operate an existing orphanage in Nepal, and will be providing the local knowledge and expertise required to make Onni Children's House a success. Visma is a terrific guy, well-educated and totally committed to creating a better future for people in his community. We hope that down the track with the right education and support, the children who live in Onni Children's House follow in his footsteps and make a real contribution to the development of Nepal.



Visma is currently doing the ground work in Pokhara to locate a suitable property for the project.

To cover ongoing costs for the house once it opens in September, we are currently looking for child sponsors – sponsorship costs \$720 p.a. and the more sponsors we get, the more children we will be able to accommodate in the house. As we are fast approaching the end of the Financial Year, now might be a good time to consider becoming a sponsor or just making a general donation, as all contributions over \$2 toward this project are fully tax deductible in Australia.

Thanks for your support, and we look forward to sharing all the news from the opening of the house in Nepal with you in our next newsletter.

Wind of Change International Inc

ABN: 13 672 642 573

1 Allure Court, Glen Waverley, VIC 3150

www.windofchangeinternational.org

Ph: (03) 9561 3291

info@windofchangeinternational.org