

HEARINGNEPAL PROGRAM INC.

Program Overview

HOW DID THE PROGRAM START?



The HearingNEPAL Program Inc. was born in 2008, when Sue and Lew Tuck first visited Nepal. They became aware of the high incidence of ear disease and hearing loss among young people and that services to assist them were very limited. In the rural areas, which make up the majority of the country, medical care is scarce and hearing-related services were non-existent.

Running their own Hearing Services business in Australia, they were moved to offer assistance, initially providing assessment and hearing aids to an elderly monk at Kopan Monastery, then running an “Ear Camp” in Tawal village in 2010, in conjunction with the Nepal Australia Friendship Association. NAFA has a long history of health and education programs in rural Nepal.

Sue & Lew quickly realised that a sustainable program had to be run by the local Nepali community, so they contacted the Nepal Association of the Hard of Hearing (NAHOH) who were already providing primary ear care services from their office in Kirtipur. The Abbott of Kopan Monastery was also very supportive of HearingNEPAL and offered their assistance in liaising with local communities, identifying areas of need and interest. Monasteries are often the heart of Nepal communities and are the location of local education and health services, so provide an ideal location for service provision, education and training.

The successful collaboration between HearingNEPAL, NAHOH, Kopan & NAFA commenced officially in 2010, and has since provided hearing services to several thousand people in eight regions of Nepal.

OUR VISION

To reduce the incidence of preventable hearing disability in Nepal, and reduce the suffering of those currently living with hearing impairment.

OUR GOALS

- To provide access to ear care, education and hearing rehabilitation to those who otherwise have little or no access to such services.
- To establish referral pathways for those requiring medical and surgical treatment for ear disease or hearing loss.
- To support and assist Nepali people to deliver Primary Ear Care and hearing rehabilitation at a community level in even remote areas.
- To establish and maintain a supporter base to maintain our Vision goals.
- In time, to transfer responsibility from the Program founders

OUR STRATEGY

The HearingNEPAL Program Inc. has a three-part strategy for achieving its goals.

- Primary Ear Care
- Rehabilitation
- Education

By supporting and developing programs in each of these areas, the incidence of preventable ear disease and disabling hearing loss will be reduced.

OUR SERVICE PARTNER

The HearingNEPAL Program Inc. will measure its success in Nepal by the degree of sustainability of the services developed in Nepal. With that aim, the program has been working collaboratively with members and staff from the Nepal Association of the Hard of Hearing since 2009, when joint ear camps to some of the more remote areas of Nepal were commenced.

NAHOH is an organization working for the development of a better life for the hearing impaired, and through education and primary ear care clinics, reduce the incidence of preventable hearing loss

Established in 1996, through the joint efforts and team spirit of Nepalese Hard of Hearing persons, its objective is promoting and developing the hard of hearing community, in a systematic way, “promoting the spirit of affection, unity and mutual co-operation among the hard of hearing persons, preserving their rights, promoting awareness of the hearing community by motivating them, reducing their feelings of hatred and neglecting by others and conducting programs with the purpose of fulfilling the above mentioned objectives.”

NAHOH runs primary ear care camps in rural and remote Nepal with the support of HearingNEPAL Program and NAFA. They also provide rehabilitation and referral through their head office in Kirtipur, and have developed and produced a range of hearing health educational materials which they supply to communities.

CURRENT HEARINGNEPAL PROJECTS

Kopan Monastery

Location: Kapan village

Project Dates: January 2010 - ongoing

Objectives: To maintain a support base for the delivery of hearing services in remote areas of Nepal.

Tawal

Location: Dhading district, Ganesh Himal

Project Dates: January 2010 - ongoing

Objectives: To assess and provide immediate benefit in the region's ear health and hearing ability.

Tsum

Location: Rachen Nunnery Medical Clinic, Tsum Valley, Nepal

Project Dates: June 2010 - ongoing

Objectives: To assess and provide immediate benefit in the region's ear health and hearing ability.

Solu Khumbu

Location: Thubten Shedup Ling Monastery, Solu, Sallerie region, Nepal

Project Dates: April 2011 - ongoing

Objectives: To assess and provide immediate benefit in the region's ear health and hearing ability.

Shechen Monastery

Location: Shechen Monastery, Bouda, Nepal

Project Dates: August 2012 - ongoing

Objectives: Provide primary ear care and rehabilitation to local people.

PANepal - Child Rescue from prisons

Location: Naya Bazar, Sanku, Palpa and Jhapa

Project Dates: September 2012 - ongoing

Objectives: Provide primary ear care and rehabilitation to the people supported by PANepal.

PROJECT STRATEGIES

- Source a reliable power supply in each area
- Establish clinic protocols and procedures.
- Perform primary ear care examinations and action as required.
- Develop referral pathways for medical assessment and treatment, accessible for all clients.
- Perform hearing screening and diagnostic assessment where indicated.
- To provide appropriate, practical hearing devices to those with a real need.
- Train local health workers in primary ear care and rehabilitation, including hearing screening, hearing aid management and maintenance
- Provide repair and maintenance materials for hearing aids fitted on visits, and train local staff in their use.
- Establish secure storage for equipment left in Nepal.
- Liaise with local communities to identify new potential project areas.
- Establish pathways for future funding in Nepal and through fundraising, to maintain the program for the future.
- Establish partnerships with service providers and supporters both in Nepal and in Australia to guarantee ongoing support for each project.

OUR SUPPORTERS

In NEPAL	In AUSTRALIA
Kopan Monastery	Whitsunday Hearing
JOY Foundation	Burdekin Hearing
Shechen Monastery	NAFA QLD
	Bernafon Australia
	Sonic Innovations
	Word of Mouth Technology
	Docs Pro Plugs Australia
	GN Otometrics
	The Stillpoint Maleny
	Phoenix Design

SPONSORSHIP

You can support the HearingNEPAL Program Inc. in a variety of ways.

Donations may be directed to:-

- Equipment purchase
- Staff wages
- Nepali staff travel expenses
- Hearing devices
- Ear impression & consumable supplies
- Medications
- Educational Materials

Seeking donations of hearing aids (new and used)

Promotion of HearingNEPAL Program Inc. to potential supporters

Administration Support in Australia or Nepal

NB: 100% of funds donated go directly to provision of services and staff in Nepal.

VOLUNTEERING

Your our time, energy and skills are valuable and we would welcome volunteers who are able to:

- Assist with hearing assessments, fit hearing aids , train local personnel in hearing - related work
- Assist with organisational tasks such as recording names, taking photos, general support tasks.

Locations where you can volunteer your time:

- NAHOH – Nepal Association of the Hard of Hearing
- Remote Ear Camps - in association with either NAFA or Kopan Monastery to various regions of Nepal.
- PA Nepal – Child rescue from prisons

As most of our projects require a significant amount of forward planning, we do require a “lead time” of at least 3 months for anyone wishing to travel to Nepal and be involved in a hands-on way.

If you would like to apply please complete the Volunteer Application Form which can be downloaded from our website – www.hearingnepal.org

MEMBERSHIP

Join Black Bear and Rachel, official ambassadors of the HearingNEPAL Program Inc., and become an active part of creating change for people with hearing impairment in Nepal.

Membership is open to anyone who is aligned with our vision and goals, and who wishes to be a part of this compassionate program.

SOME OF THEIR STORIES



Nawang Sherpa is 3 years old. His father, Dorje brought him to our Solu camp (remote Everest region) in July 2012.

Nawang has had a bilateral hearing loss, since birth, with “delayed speech” (he is not able to mimic speech fully as he can not hear all of it)

He shall go to Kathmandu where Keshab (the man from NAHOH!) will organise a “play audiogram” NAHOH will then fit him with two hearing aids.



A young boy and his mother met us on the road to Tawal village. They had walked for two days to see us. He was tested as having a severe hearing loss bilaterally and was fitted with hearing aids the next day.



This gentleman was unable to pay the small amount asked for a hearing aid - instead he offered to sing a song. His joy at being able to hear again was infectious!



In Solu Khumbu, a young man walked with his friend for 11 hrs from his village, to seek help. He is an only son looking after his deaf mother. With a severe hearing loss since birth, Jeet had no hope of finding a wife due his disability, a social outcast. Now he can communicate again, his life has many more options.



Sarita, aged 23 years expressed her joy - “I am very happy, because I did not believe my deafness was curable. I hope to find a husband now”