



Winter 2017



### A Message from John (Babu Yak)

When I first visited Nepal in early 2009 I never imagined that eight years later I would be writing about my journey to build schools and educate marginalised children in the hills of Nepal and the slums of Kathmandu. I certainly had no idea that my message of education as the most effective tool in the fight against inequality would resonate with so many or that together we could achieve so much.

The journey has not been easy; we have faced genuine danger and political uncertainty, a global financial crisis, and – striking at the very heart of our projects – a tragic natural disaster. However, we have persevered, and I am very proud of the impact we have had on the lives of children in Nepal.

To-date we have built 10 schools and provide creative learning from kindergarten to grade two to over 1,000 children. As we move into our ninth year of operations I remain as convinced as ever that education is the key and that lasting sustainable impact is indeed achievable.

However, it takes the conviction and courage to invest in the long-term impact and not short-term feel good; a commitment to be proactive and to accept, rather than delegate, responsibility; and a willingness to be judged and measured.

I am confident to state that the trust and confidence of donors has been well founded, and that we have provided measurable sustainable impact. We have proven to be an effective force for change and a strong advocate for gender and educational equality. Our strategy of investing in equal facilities by providing strong and safe school buildings has proved prudent and the recent natural disaster had only a minor impact. We had no need to launch a “rebuild Nepal” campaign, allowing us to invest funding in the future rather than correcting errors of the past.

However, as in most similar disaster situations it is the uninsured poor who suffer most. The communities we support have lost much and face new challenges: physical, emotional and economical.

Our investment in the welfare and empowerment of rural youth through education remains as vital as ever. In addition, with migration from devastated rural communities to overcrowded Kathmandu increasing strain on already inadequate services and placing more children at risk, our new urban outreach program has much to achieve.

Thank you once again for your trust and support over the years.

**Danybhat!**  
**John**

## OUR IMPACT

SINCE 2009 WE HAVE INVESTED OVER £500,000. WE HAVE BUILT FORTY-FIVE CLASSROOMS ACROSS TEN LOCATIONS. OUR CLASSROOMS PROVIDE LEARNING SPACES FOR SEVEN HUNDRED STUDENTS, WITH THREE HUNDRED ATTENDING OUR TWENTY KINDERGARTENS DAILY.

## HIGHLIGHTS



10

SCHOOLS



20+

KINDERGARTENS



100+

TRAINED TEACHERS



300+

PRESCHOOLS



700+

STUDENTS



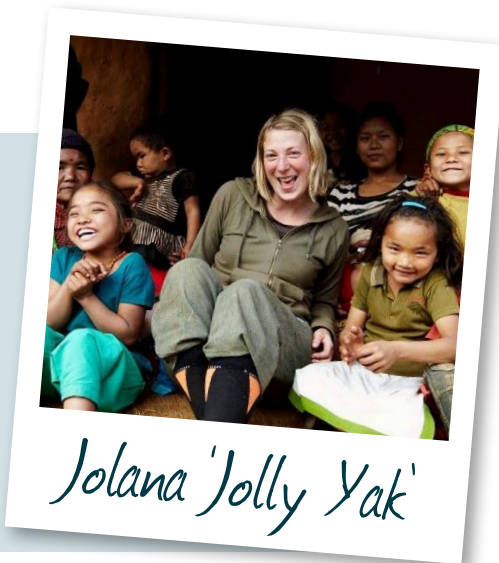
2000+

BOOKS



## NEW IN-COUNTRY MANAGER APPOINTED

We are very pleased to announcement that Jolana 'Jolly Yak' Whyte has joined the herd and will lead the small but dedicated operations team in Nepal. Jolana has worked closely with kids in Nepal for many years and the combination of practical experience and a compassionate heart will prove invaluable.



## ENGLISH PHONICS LAUNCHED

Every parent wants the best for their child. Some are able to afford to send their children to fee paying English medium schools. However, many are left behind in schools with no or inadequate English language teaching. We are unique in Nepal as we provide English phonics as part of our dual language literacy program.



## REACHING MORE KIDS

Santosh Kamang lives in Bagmati slum. Yards from modern villas, his home lacks any sanitation or running water. Pramila and Krishna, Santosh's elder siblings, left school at ten years old to find work, Pramila in a factory and Krishna on a delivery truck. Santosh is in grade four and without intervention and support is likely to leave school soon.

Is Santosh destined to become yet another child full of potential, neglected and forgotten? We believe that Santosh has as much right as any child to an education. Our slum outreach program will support children like Santosh.

## Build up Nepal appointed construction partner

We are pleased to announce that COTM have signed an MOU with Build Up Nepal to enable us to focus on the provision of our creative educational services while they focus on the project management and construction of our schools. Our first project will be a primary school at Sankor, our 11th school, which is scheduled to open in March 2018.

## AFTER SCHOOL 'SANTI' CLUBS

As an additional level of support, we have ambitions to introduce after school clubs with the help of local unemployed young women, trained in our pedagogy. These clubs will run after school hours so what children learn in school is further explained and practiced upon until the child demonstrates that she has understood



the concept. This approach addresses the issue that most of the five million children enrolled in government schools are either first generation learners or children with no supportive learning environment available to them after school hours. They will also provide clean and safe spaces for children living in difficult slum conditions.





## YAKS AT HOME!

This year we launched COTM UK. Mike Smith of Oakmann Inns, Angela Smith and Debra Adams came together and have proven to be a formidable team. Not only have they raised substantial funds but they have made the long journey to Tandrang to review the projects close up. They are all now entitled to official yak names. The committee are meeting to consider options. We welcome suggestions.

## AUSTRIAN YAKS STRONG!

COTM Austria was launched in 2016 by Brian Matthews. The group grows in strength every day. Their efforts to date have funded three Primary schools. Our thanks to Brian, Hans, Ernst, Helmut and all the team.



*Creative Objective Reached*

We have now fully fitted creative grade 2 classrooms in all 11 schools. Our objective for the coming year is to do the same for grade 3.



## ‘YETI YAK’ SUMMITS MOUNTAIN FOR CHILDREN

Julian ‘Yeti’ Philips has conquered the 6,800mt Aba Dhablam in Nepal to raise funds for the Children. This is an amazing accomplishment.

You can still support Julian’s fund raising at <https://www.justgiving.com/julian-phillips4>

If you are interested in joining us “get active get involved!” Contact: [info@childrenofthemountain.org](mailto:info@childrenofthemountain.org)



## POSH NOSH FOR KIDS

An amazing evening of fine dining at Michelin-starred Northcote launched COTM UK and raised substantial funds. A big thank you to owner Craig Bancroft, chef Lisa Allen and all the team. Well done Mike Smith for the organising.



YOU LIKE US!! .....16,076 TIMES!

## BUILT STRONG!

Children of the Mountain is not a disaster relief agency. We planned for the risk of earthquake, and our operations and strategy were unaffected by the earthquake, save for the additional bureaucracy and cost associated with rural educational infrastructure projects.

None of our schools were impacted heavily by the earthquake and some served as shelter to the community in their time of need. In addition, since the earthquake we have made measurable progress.



*A Strong Foundation*

Since the Earthquake we have opened three schools and laid the foundations for a fourth.



If you are interested in joining us "get active get involved!" Contact: [info@childrenofthemountain.org](mailto:info@childrenofthemountain.org)