Namaste!

It’s time for a seasonal update! While yaks in the north are looking forward to a white Christmas, in Dubai we are looking forward to a few months of mild weather and lots of outdoor fund raising events.

Despite the usual mass migration of the herd North and South during the Summer months, and the Monsoon season in Nepal we were not idle! We took the project down time to introduce a new organisational structure including a new Management team and additional Trustees.

Also during the summer months we signed partnerships and raised funds for the 2014 Teacher training program. We also launched the Circle of Hope, our High Impact Sustainable Strategy. I hope you liked the video!

With 12,000 Facebook likes, 3,000 Yaks on the database and more and more Corporates approaching us every week, we are fast becoming the charity of choice for individuals and companies who want a trusted “for purpose” NGO or social responsibility partner. In short, you trust us to deliver and this will continue! While what we do is certainly not easy and we will continue to face challenges both in Nepal and beyond, I am looking forward to the year ahead with confidence. Having a solid management team in place has made an enormous difference and the energy and Mountain spirit of the team and all Yaks is truly inspiring!

I wish everyone a rather jolly festive season and hope to see you at our events early in the New Year.

Dhanybath!

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CYCLONE FAILS TO STOP SCHOOL PROJECT!

The recent expedition to Tandrang was hit by a cyclone originating in India. The intrepid group managed to reach Dhading Besi, 40kms from their destination. However due to dangerous road conditions could go no further.

The trail to Arughat was mud glorious mud! And impassible. Even if the trail had been navigable, the risk of landslide was far too high.

The group regretfully returned to Kathmandu. As we have always said what we do is not easy! John and fellow Trustee Simon Hodges remained in Kathmandu hoping for a break in the weather and their patience was rewarded!

Two days later the rain eased and despite the very dangerous road conditions, they both reached Tandrang a day later after an adventurous journey!

A big thank you to Jay, Monju and Crystal Mountain!

While in Tandrang they laid the foundation stone for Darme school. The school will open in April 2014.

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HIGHLIGHTS

Keep it up, Active Yaks! 
New Partners in Nepal 
Circle of Hope
THE 1ST ANNUAL EVEREST CLIMB RAISES $10,000 FOR CHILDREN.

Our second event in Austria was a huge success with supporters climbing routes during the past two months on an indoor wall. The closing event was attended by many Everest Summitters and Hans Goger gave a presentation. 50% of the funds raised will support a partner project in Kathmandu. Well done Frankenfels team!

Tamimi Fun Day Raised Funds and was...Fun!!

Children of the Mountain is honored to be associated with Al Tamimi Investments, a Dynamic UAE based group that is recognised as a leader in Corporate Social Responsibilities and Social Entrepreneurship across the region. The company chairman’s message that “a business is not truly successful unless it makes an active effort to give back” is supported up by proactive actions such as the unique and successful initiative The Big Start, which empowers local talent, supports education, social responsibility and sustainable investment. Such values align to Children of the Mountains objectives to empower and educate children in Nepal.

Al Tamimi Stables is a family friendly farm and educational activities centre situated in the rural area of Al Zubair on the edge of the emirate of Sharjah.

The funds raised will go towards our 10th Khakuua Klub!

11TH KK FUNDED!

Audrey Kolb and her son Kaleo [pictured with a friend in Kathmandu] travelled with us on the recent expedition to Tandrang. Unfortunately Audrey had to return to Kathmandu with the rest of the group because of the bad conditions. However like all Yaks Audrey is determined to return and this time reach Tandrang! Audrey now has a very good reason to return. In the few weeks since returning to Dubai, Audrey and a group of generous big-hearted friends has raised sufficient funds to open our 11th Khakuua Klub! We hope the weather will be kinder next tri. Why not join Audrey and Kaleo on the next trip and see how Audreys efforts impacts lives of children!

ROSES BLOOM FOR CHILDREN!

We are delighted to announce that the Dubai Rose of Tralee Association have partnered with COTM to organise a Fashion focused event in early 2014. The Event, which will raise funds for the cause, will be part of the activities related to the annual Rose of Tralee competition. A big thank you to present Rose Caroline Callaghan and past Rose [ still blooming!] Grainne Boyle.

If you are interested in joining us “get active get involved!” Contact: events@childrenofthemountain.org
Yalla! Climb for Children 2014
Now Open for Registration!

Standing at 5,732 metres, Yalla Peaks summit is higher than Everest base camp and is a genuine challenge achievable by anyone in good health and moderate fitness. Yalla Peak lies in the beautiful and remote region of Langtang, north of Kathmandu Valley. It’s one of Nepal’s most captivating non-technical climbs. This trip combines the magic of Kathmandu, the majesty of the Himalayas and will help build a school for Children of the Mountain.

ACTIVE YAKS!

Writing from Dubai, with the blazing summer behind us, and four to five months of mild weather ahead of us, we are looking forward to another successful outdoor fund raising season.

The 3rd Annual On Course was held on November 28th on the Earth course. It was again a wonderful ‘good walk spoiled’ and everyone had a great day. We would like to thank Jumeriah Golf Estates, all golfers and all our sponsors.

Many yaks are in training for the Dubai 5k, 10k, half and full marathons. The ‘Desert Yaks’ are very active indeed! In Austria where yaks now gather indoors for warmth, they are literally climbing walls!

Without your continued energy, commitment and passion we can’t continue our work so please: Wherever you are, whatever the season, we encourage you to get involved, get active!

Go to the Get Involved page on the website for information on all our activities.

VOLUNTEER!

The itinerary, dates and costs for 2014 volunteer trips are confirmed and registration is open. We have to date run six trips to Tandrang. For these trips we did not charge beyond cost of transport, Sherpa and food. However based upon requests by you for us to offer you a way to contribute we have decided for 2014 to include in the cost of the trips, a donation towards the projects. We have however kept the cost of the trips reasonable.

There will be two volunteer trips next year, a spring trip in April and another trip in October. These trips will provide Teachers the opportunity to support our teacher training programs, and non-teachers to help build the new school at Darome or teach in Kindergartens, with a little trekking thrown in! This is a unique adventure and a perfect way to introduce yourself to our work on the Hill and see how we utilize your dollars to build long lasting solutions in Nepal.

Priced DHS 8,000. Full details can be found in the Get Involved or Volunteer pages of the website.

We are thrilled to have Mairead Slattery join the Yak Herd. Mairead will assist John and Paul manage the Climb for Children and Volunteer Treks.

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Student Volunteer Trips Under Development
We are also responding to requests from schools to offer Student trips by engaging with third parties to develop unique student centric trips. The programs will offer activities suited to teenagers and they will hopefully qualify for Duke of Edinburgh or IB. These trips will be reasonably priced.

Prices start at DHS 5,000

A special thank you to Adventure HQ for providing us a space for our climb for children launch evening on 20th November

We move beyond the bricks! New teacher training programs to begin in January 2014.
Following a recent weeklong trip to Kathmandu, the Trustees have agreed to appoint new partners to implement early years teacher training. Early Years Education Center [ECEC] was established in 2001 and has a proven track record in the design and delivery of quality materials based training programs for ECEC teachers.

ECEC’s primary focus to date has been the private sector, however Children of the Mountain will engage ECEC to implement existing programs to our unique Khakuua Klubs across Tandrang and to develop and implement a similar program across grades 1 to 5; an innovation for Nepal.

In addition to ECEC, we have appointed two other partners. They are NELTA, the Nepalese English language Teachers Association, an organisation that is striving to improve the quality of English language teaching, and HER TURN - a small but proactive advocate of Girls rights. We are delighted to be working with these partners.

This program provides two of the six courses that form our unique Mala teacher training program, the others being, English language, Nepalese Literacy, School management, and Girls.

CHECK OUT THE CIRCLE OF HOPE VIDEO ON THE PIE HOLE TV WEBSITE!
FIVE YEARS ON THE PATH AND THE JOURNEY CONTINUES...

5 years ago, disillusioned with my involvement in charities where efforts weren’t reflected in results, I met John Matthews. 5 years later I am a trustee of Children of the Mountain, founded by John to build schools in poor and remote areas of Nepal. In that time we have built 4 schools and 10 nurseries in Nepal and the results of the efforts of our ever growing team are there for all to see.

When I met John I was struck by his single minded determination to make a difference. A successful business man in his own right he had given up work to follow his heart and I couldn’t help but be impressed by his selflessness. I decided I wanted to help.

I think after my first trip to Tandrang it was clear that I could not come back to Dubai and do nothing. Seeing the complete lack of school facilities, the disrepair of the buildings and the absence of any teaching aids was shocking. It made me realize how lucky my own children were to attend their beautiful bright classrooms every day. Colorful walls, glitter and pictures that the kids had made adorning every wall was in stark contrast to the rooms in Tandrang which resembled the farm outbuildings of my native Wales.

The children however were a joy. So happy and enthusiastic for any help, I couldn’t come back and forget that, so I offered to help in any way I could.

Most of my time over the years my efforts have centered around awareness and fundraising. Our support in Dubai and overseas has grown hugely and I am proud of what we have achieved. But moreover the effect that children of the mountain has had on my own family deserves a mention.

My children are 12,11 and 7 and so my involvement in the charity has been a normal part of their lives through me. I love that they don’t question that giving back is a normal part of their lives. Just like parents work and they go to school, doing charitable things for others is taken for granted.

Growing up in Dubai I feel my children are all extremely lucky. I will always want the best for them but I also want them to appreciate what they have and acknowledge that not all parts of the world are so fortunate. Both of my older boys have been to Tandrang many times.

The first visit was unforgettable as they looked for the “fridge in the kitchen” and realised that with no electricity there was none, that cooking was done under a tree and no there was no where to charge their IPODs. No running water meant primitive bathroom conditions and all of the things they took for granted didn’t exist on the Mountain.

Before long the universal language of football took over as they started a game with a ball fashioned from wire! That visit many of the kids learnt their first words of English. PASS! and HERE! Could be heard on the pitch as the ball was passed. It was a touching moment.

My children now don’t take things for granted and visits to the Mountain are the highlight of the year.

As a trustee my journey has been memorable. The friends I have made, Nepali and otherwise we be friends for life and I am proud of the combined achievements that we can see and celebrate every day.

Our plans for the future are Ambitious and include widespread education for teachers and pupils alike. It’s a big hill to climb but one that we will be relentless in achieving.

Written by Amanda Harkin
SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS

Children of the Mountain does not request the sponsorship of individual children, however following requests from our corporate supporters we now offer opportunities for individuals or businesses to sponsor the recurring costs of programs that support groups of children, teachers, or our cause. We only ask for a one-year commitment.

**TEACHER SPONSOR**
£500

**SCHOOL SPONSOR**
£1000

**CAUSE SPONSOR**
£2000

*FULL DETAILS OF THE PR BENEFITS CAN BE VIEWED ON THE WEBSITE.*

As Yaks you will soon be able to display publicly your support for the cause. We are currently designing fashion ‘Ts’ and hope to launch them for resale very soon.

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**YOU LIKE US!! ........... 1,500 TIMES!**

**WE’VE LAUNCHED OUR UNIQUE JUTE BAGS**

and they are proving very popular! Order yours for only DHS 50 from John or Amanda.

We are very excited to announce that we have teamed up with the Product house Dubai to offer Yaks the chance to buy Children of the Mountain branded gifts. The full range is still under development but will include candles and Nepalese Tea. Needless to say we will offer only products of the highest quality!

Our first product will be candles from the E18HT range. E18HT have created a unique range of stunning, hand made candles, which are crafted to the highest standards and finished beyond compare. We have chosen to brand Relax8ion - with bluebell & lavender scent.

This can be ordered via John 050 5517982 or Amanda 0504504301 at a cost of dhs285. We hope to be make these gifts available on line and in Dubai outlets in the near future.

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