

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Planting Seeds of Hope in Nepal

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Providing hope and opportunity has been our aim for the last 30 years.

Thank you for choosing to join FONNJ's Asha Project -Nepal and for your faithful support over the last year! As a humanitarian organization, our work depends on you and so many others like you; and we are grateful. 2021 has taken a toll on so many of us. For many, it seems like the world has been turned upside down... yet, we have seen the world come together to respond to a global pandemic; encouraging and helping each other in new and resourceful ways.



Due to Covid -19, we have not been able to travel to Nepal. However, our partners in Nepal, has been busy conducting variety of programs. As part of our 30th Anniversary, we started providing long term help with micro credit and scholarships for remote villages in Nepal.

As part of the Asha Project's mission we have been transforming lives by promoting Health, Education and Women's Empowerment. Our primary objective is to help people reach their highest potential.

With your support, we are bringing the next generation of young leaders into the movement, connecting them with community organizations in the pursuit of new ideas. Please read the story from our GAP participant "Guests are God".

<https://theashapro.blog/2022/03/14/guests-are-like-god-2/>

Our most important achievement of 2021, however, was to conduct three global grant projects worth \$100,000 to celebrate our 30th anniversary celebration in partnership with many Nepalese and international organizations to reach out to the earthquake victims in Nepal! We would not be where we are today without the support of many national and international supporters.

This annual report is one massive thank you note from Friends of Nepal- NJ's Asha Project to you. It's your work. We are humbled to be a conduit of change, through you.

Impact Report 2020-2021

<http://theashapro.blog/2022/01/23/2020-21-impact-report/>



2020-2021 PROJECTS CONDUCTED IN NEPAL

“Economic Empowerment of Indigenous Women” Projects – \$2,000.00

Food Distribution Projects – \$1,000.00

Library Project – \$1000

Goat Project in Dhulikhel – \$2,000.00 (Rotary Grant for \$40,000)

Computer Project in Dang at the Prison library-\$2,000 (Rotary Grant for \$15,000)

Banepa Hospital Project - \$3000 (Rotary matching grant for \$40,000)

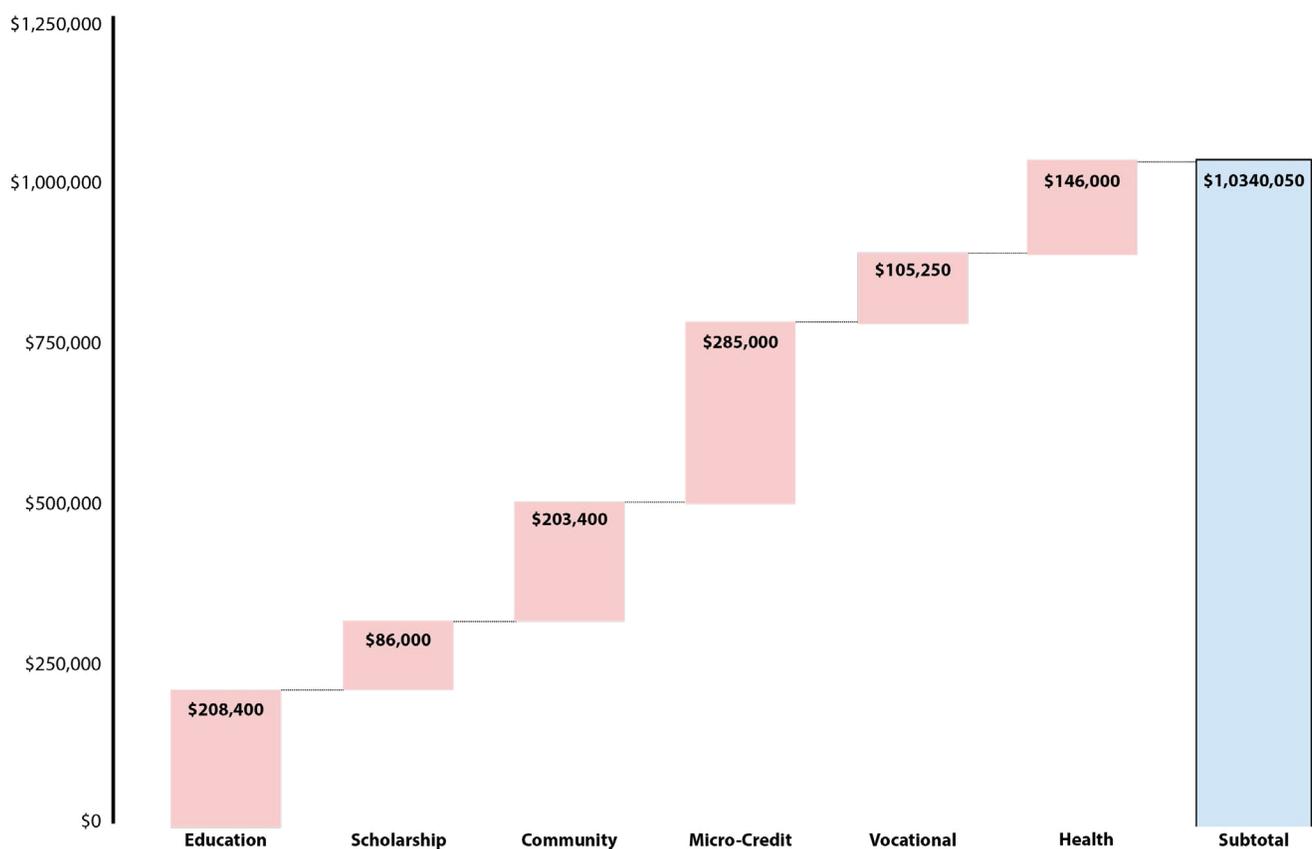
3 Health Projects – Helping youth group with hygiene pads and educational programs- \$2,000.00

100 Scholarships for minority students – \$2,000.00

25 schools -Distribution of books, bags and copies – \$3,000.00

Microloan redistribution (Rotary grant \$95,000)

A Million Dollar Impact



CREATING LASTING CHANGES FOR PEOPLE OF NEPAL

We continue to work in Nepal fighting disease, providing clean water, saving mothers and children, supporting education as well as scholarship programs, and growing local economies.

YOUR IMPACT THIS YEAR To Bring Help and Hope to the Hidden and Hurting... Our purpose is to provide opportunities and support to the neediest people in the world who want to raise themselves out of the cycle of generational poverty. Thanks to you these communities are learning to transform themselves and gain a new sense of hope for a brighter future.

CELEBRATED 30 YEARS OF HUMANITARIAN SERVICE PROJECTS IN NEPAL

In 1991, we started a scholarship program in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Patan. What started with an initial contribution of \$500 has grown into a foundation that has invested \$100,000 in scholarships. Rotary Club of Patan continues to provide scholarships, however the Asha Project in collaboration with many other Rotary clubs in Nepal have started our own Rays of Hope scholarship program in Nepal to help poor communities in Nepal.

With support from Rotary Foundation grants, Rotary Club of Branchburg and the Friends of Nepal-NJ's we continue to make progress in helping people of Nepal. Since 1993, 25 global grant applications were approved. In total, we have completed almost one million dollars' worth of projects in Nepal.

PEOPLE OF ACTION

Guided by our FONNJ - Asha Project's Three pillars, Rays of HOPE, Legacy of HOPE and Homes of HOPE, we have been supporting projects that inspire a promise of hope for the people of Nepal.



Over the last 30 years, we have made a positive difference in the lives of countless people.

Goats for Prosperity - Goat Naming Project

With the Goat Project, we provide women with goats, along with plants for fodder, access to group savings & micro-credit, basic literacy, and gender equity training.

Goats are relatively inexpensive to raise. Before sale, they provide these women with milk for their children. As their herds increase, the women gift animals to others in need. Thus, they give forward their gifts from us.



We have raised \$10,000 and received a grant of \$43,000 from Rotary International grant which has enabled us to give 100 goats to 50 women across the district. We aim to reach 1,000 women in 10 districts by 2030.

Celebrating the 5th anniversary of the Rotaract exchange program. *Opening doors of opportunities...*

International Youth Exchange – Building Peace and Understanding one young at a time. Rotaract club students have a great opportunity to discover new cultures and become a true global citizen as part of our Global Action Project (GAP) program. Rotaractors were sponsored by the Rotary club of Branchburg and the Asha Project, USA-Nepal.

Since the inception of this project, more than 35 students have so far participated in this program where they have the opportunity to learn a new language, discover another culture, and become global citizens through Asha Project Youth Exchange program called GAP – Global Action Project. This project has contributed more than \$25,000 thousand dollars' worth of school supplies and other projects as well as invested more than 1000 hours of Humanitarian service hours.

<https://theashapro.blog/2022/03/14/guests-are-like-god-2/>

For Manny, it was the opportunity of a lifetime. Manny grew up in a middle-class family in US. But he had never travelled outside of the US. He excelled in the college and became the President of the Rotaract club, and his fellow students recognized him as a leader. After a few years, he was invited to do something even bigger: spend his winter break in Nepal as an Asha Project Youth Leadership Program.

In 2018, Manny co-lead the trip to Nepal again with three other students. We are in the process of bringing Rotaract students in an exchange program soon.

Manny has continued to involve with the Rotary Alumni Association of the New Jersey as the charter president of the organization. Whatever path he chooses, his future looks bright with his extensive travel experience.



<http://theashapro.blog/2022/02/10/what-is-rotarys-service-above-self-means-to-me/>

EMPOWERING YOUTH – I Can Do it (Ma Garna Sakchu)

Setting students up for success and on the path to a brighter future.

“What will really stick with me for the rest of my life are the youth leaders. They are such an inspiration to me, and I can only imagine the great things they will accomplish in their lives. When you think about the ripple effect that will have, you really start to feel a sense of the scale of what is being accomplished by our ASHA PROJECT.”

Dr. Tulsi R. Maharjan, Chairperson, Past District Governor

ASHA PROJECT knows that poverty isn't the result of a single cause: that's why we created the THREE PILLARS to help people of Nepal, an effective model built on more than 30 years of experience collaborating with dedicated community members and international development experts. You are part of this incredible story of change as we partner directly with communities in Nepal to find solutions that work. This model focuses on creating sustainable, transformative change in partnership with communities, giving them a hand up not a handout. Each of our THREE PILLARS of Impact aligns with one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

“I truly believe in the work ASHA PROJECT does, and I think they are making a huge impact in Nepal, not only with the services and support they provide, but also with the inspiration and education they provide to youth all over Nepal to make a difference and change our world for the better. ASHA PROJECT creates global citizens.”

Man Bahadur Budha-Magar, Rotary club of Mahabouddha

EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITIES

We have also adopted 5 orphan centers, distributed school supplies.

For a long time, Three Sisters, Orphans did not have house to live. The Asha Project build them a house and gave them 6 goats to start their livelihood. Now, two young sisters have completed high school and older sister had gotten married and they are still earning income from those goats we provided them in early 2016.

Success Stories -

<http://theashapro.blog/2021/02/13/three-sisters-of-sindhupalchok/>

Growing local economies - Let there be Hope and Opportunities

The Asha Project in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Mahabouddha has distributed \$95,000 in a micro credit grants to start new businesses. Our initial investment since 2000 has helped more than 1000 women. The second phase of the grant redistributions will help more than 150 participants in 2022-2025.

SUCCESS STORY...

<http://theashapro.blog/2018/11/02/empowering-women-in-nepal-through-microcredit/>

Creating opportunities to help marginalized people and communities thrive, financially and socially

Indigenous Community

This year, we helped the Dumsi Darai Village of Tanahun District with chicken farming, Covid-19 protection materials. The Darai are a marginalized ethnic group. They depend on agriculture and fishing; and suffer from low literacy and poverty.

In January 2021, we distributed 150 chicken to villagers. According to founder-chairman Dr. Maharjan, "Villagers will have a GIVING DAY CELEBRATION (to give forward their gift). This way the community will learn how caring and sharing are essential for development."



As part of the Indigenous Community Economic Development project, we hope to distribute more chickens, develop a bee project in the village as well as promote their homestay (hospitality) business and school programs.

More than 1000 women have benefited from the program, not only increasing their incomes but also gaining the leadership experience and knowledge necessary to lift their families out of poverty.

Link

<http://theashapro.blog/2021/03/05/darai-project-an-indigenous-people-of-nepal/>

PAD PROJECTS

With this new project we are helping young students not to miss school in Nepal. No matter how modern we become, the natural bleeding process (menstruation) in women is still considered taboo in Nepal; many students miss their school during this time. This taboo has resulted in students missing school, as well as women dying from exposure because they are forced to remain outdoors. This special project has taken place in different parts of the county.



<http://theashapro.blog/2022/01/19/the-asha-project-nepal-conducts-reusable-pad-project-in-rural-communities/>

SUSTAINING THE GOOD WORK OF ASHA PROJECT

ASHA Project's Three Pillars:



- **Homes of HOPE** - For a Stronger Family - Assist in the re-building of homes, community centers and Schools. Conducted 3 health camps, 4 Pad projects and established one library
- **Legacy of HOPE** -For a Prosperous Future - - Redistributed \$100,000 in micro-credit loans to grow micro-businesses. Grant received from the Rotary Foundation.
- **Rays of HOPE** - For a Bright Future – Provided scholarships and school supplies to more than 1000 students in Nepal in 2021 for under-represented ethnic groups. As part of the Rays of HOPE, we are establishing \$100,000 deposit in Nepal and provide scholarships from the interest deposit.



Our Partners

The Asha Project works with many local and international organizations and educational institutions to carry out our humanitarian programs. Learn more about our partners at Asha Project.org.

Service partners:

These organizations support club activities and offer opportunities for collaboration on local Asha Project projects:

2020 -2021 PARTNERS + SUPPORTERS FONNJ-ASHA PROJECT is grateful for the partnership and/or support of the following organizations and foundations, among others

Rotary District 7475
Branchburg Rotary Foundation
Friends of Nepal-NJ
Rotary Club of Rudramati, Nepal
ALL4BALL



2020-21 GRANTS

Goat Project – Rotary International \$43,000
Hospital Project -Rotary International \$42,000
Computer Project in Dang - \$15,000

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Together we can end the cycle of extreme poverty and offer hope! The quickest way to get involved in FONNJ's Asha Project is to join The Legacy Circle. The Legacy Circle is a group of passionate champions who believe we can help end extreme poverty together. By joining with a yearly contribution of \$100 you are helping to support people lift themselves out of poverty. No matter how small ... Every gift transform lives! Recurring giving provides these communities with dependable and stable support year-round.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY & STEWARDSHIP

The foundation of trust is transparency and accountability. This work isn't possible without your support. We know that it's important to you to know that your gift is being used effectively. Our goal is to honor your generosity by being transparent about how your investment is being used, what is being accomplished and how it's being done.



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