

Nepal Dolpa children's home



Background

The Dolpa Children's Home was established to help orphans and other desperately poor children in the remote Himalayas, who receive no other care. A local Nepalese church leader was particularly concerned about these children and contacted ROPE. The children live in a remote area of the Himalayan kingdom, at 12,000ft, probably one of the highest inhabited places on earth. There are virtually no schools in the area and the children cannot afford to attend schools outside of the area. The children are hungry and often in need of medical treatment. Many children in this situation are placed in monasteries to learn from the Buddhist lamas and here they may spend the rest of their lives.

The church leader had a vision for setting up a home for orphans or very poor children in the capital, Kathmandu. The children would receive regular meals, proper schooling and Christian teaching, equipping them for a life of self sufficiency and breaking the vicious circle of poverty and illiteracy. It will also equip them to help their community and it's development in the future.

The school

The Dolpa Children's Home is run under the spiritual supervision of the Youth With a Mission (YWAM) organisation who oversee several orphanages in Kathmandu. ROPE are the sole income source of the home and ROPE supporters kindly funded the initial set up and equipping of the home. ROPE are now committed to funding the ongoing running and hopefully expansion of the children's home and hence has very close links with the local leaders and staff.

The Dolpa children's home formally opened in January 2005 with the arrival of 6 children. It is hoped that in time, the number of children will increase to 15. All of the children have a thorough medical examination on arrival and the first intake of children were found to have various medical conditions including scabies, pneumonia, low iron, skin disorders, chicken pox. All of these are being treated and the children have settled in the home well. They seem to act like a family, helping each other, relating freely. They appreciate having regular meals and a place to play. They are very excited about being able to go to school. On arrival, they initially went to a nursery school for one to two hours a day to establish a routine for study, preparing them for the new Nepali school year. They are all significantly behind in their studies and will take time to catch up with other children as they have had no previous education.

The home's leaders have been very pleased with the responsiveness of the children. They are fairly compliant, and willing to learn. They have to learn to use toilets for the first time. They are learning to wear the rubber sandals common in Nepal, brush hair and teeth, as well as many other daily life skills. In particular they are pleased at how eager the children have been in the family devotions, willing to pray and learn about who God is and what He is like.

The cost of sponsoring a child at the home is **£30/month, £360 per annum**. We are happy to accommodate joint sponsorship of a child if donors feel they are able to contribute only half of this cost (£15 per month or £180 per annum)

This costs covers the child's school fees, food and lodgings at the home, school uniform and books. ROPE will send you a photograph and brief description of the child you are sponsoring and will endeavour to provide at least an annual update on the child.

Below is a photograph and brief profile of one of the children at the school. The other 5 have very similar backgrounds.



Jomma Lamu is from a high northern mountain area of Nepal. It is a five-day walk from the nearest airstrip. Her village is at about 3600 metres. There is no school or health post in her area, the nearest health post is a three-day walk. In this arid land, they grow only barley and potatoes and they are very dependant on yak for milk, meat, clothing, hides, and an energy source as they burn the yak dung for cooking.

Jomma's Buddhist family is very poor. Her mother died when she was 2 months old and her sisters have been raising her. She has 3 older sisters and one brother. The family has no yak to provide their needs which has led the family further and further into poverty. No one in her family has ever had schooling. Since arriving at the home, Jomma Lamu's house parents have been tutoring her in Nepali, preparing her to enter school. They are also teaching her own language so that she will be able to retain her heritage and ability to function in her own culture. She has many things to learn, such as how to walk in shoes, how to brush her teeth, and many basic skills that she finds new to her.

Other photographs of the children and home are shown below:



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