



News from Nepal

The Sagarmatha playground gets a new look!

In November, the Yishun Town Secondary (YTS) School from Singapore came to visit Umbrella. In September, the side wall of the Sagarmatha playground had fallen over during heavy rains and the playground was in a general state of disrepair. Therefore, a rejuvenation project was undertaken to overhaul the playground. A clearance of the bricks was completed by the older Umbrella boys and volunteers, before the YTS school's arrival.

Then, the YTS school came, they rolled up their sleeves, sweated their brows and worked very hard to clear out the grounds, re-build the wall, lay a playing surface, set up Basketball, badminton, table tennis courts and re-decorate the activities room for all of our kids to enjoy! It was amazing work by the guys from YTS school and it was all done within the space of a week! Well done and Thank You guys!





News from Nepal

The New Team.....

Shane Cogan

Hello, I arrived in Nepal to take up the position of Country Director for The Umbrella Foundation in August 2011.

Over the past eight years, I have worked with several UN Agencies and international INGOs that deal with vulnerable children, women and indigenous groups, whom have been displaced and affected by conflict/wars in Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and South Sudan.



Shane and Macartan

On personal level, I have also been able to travel extensively to over 80 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, South and North America. This has given me a good understanding for issues that continue to affect poor people, in particular children who are the most vulnerable.

I hope to continue the excellent work that the guys have done here in Nepal, for the benefit of all our children here in Umbrella, into the future.

Shane

Macartan Gaughan

Hi, I have recently started working with Umbrella in Nepal as the Volunteer and Sponsorship Director.

I volunteered here in Nepal for a few months earlier this year and I was lucky enough to meet Amy (Mulcahy) through a mutual friend of ours and learn about the amazing work that Umbrella do here in Swayambhu and elsewhere in Nepal. I got to meet the Umbrella team, the volunteers and the children here, before leaving to work in Australia as an accountant.

However, the experience had left a considerable mark on me and so when I was offered the possibility to leave my boring bank job behind in Oz and come back to work with Umbrella, I jumped at the chance!

I am really looking forward to hanging with the kids, getting to know all the volunteers and to having our new volunteer teaching programme up and running in the rural community of Gurje this January!

Macartan





The Umbrella Foundation Newsletter



News From Around The World Ireland

Last week in Ireland, the now annual “Brawl 4 Nepal” took place. It was a great event that increased the profile of Umbrella in Ireland and raised some desperately needed funds. The Umbrella team would like to say a huge Thank You to those who helped organize it, and especially those who took part.

Check out the Facebook page for more pictures and information from the night here: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Brawl-for-Nepal/140882295959451>



News from the Web

Did you know that The Umbrella Foundation now has a Facebook and Twitter page? Just search for “The Umbrella Foundation” within Facebook or Twitter and we will pop up straight away!

facebook

twitter

The Facebook and Twitter pages are updated every week with details on what the Umbrella community around the world are up to and it gives our volunteers and sponsors a forum to talk.

In the past month alone, we have publicized the Brawl for Nepal in Dublin, showcased a video about Stephen and Macartan’s visit to our reintegrated children in Rasuwa, a photo gallery of Stephen’s leaving programme and pictures from the latest installment of “Umbrella’s Got Talent! “

So check us out!





The Umbrella Foundation Newsletter



Volunteering in Umbrella

British School Trip and Volunteers have Talent

On Saturday November 19th, the Umbrella children had a huge day of activities organized by our volunteers and the staff at the nearby British school for 120 children! The school organized various activities such as clay projects, textiles, photo manipulation, and drumming classes. It was an amazing morning and a great experience for everyone involved, especially the kids who were also able to bring their artwork home with them.



Later that day, all the houses gathered to watch a program performed by the volunteers: "Umbrella's Volunteers have Talent." As a thank you from the volunteers to the kids for their time in Umbrella, all the volunteers got involved by singing a song, performing (Irish!) dances and organizing fun competitions for the kids with small spot prizes for the winners, including 'Chubby Bunny', where the kids stuffed a piece of bread into their mouth and had to read a statement to their housemates to guess. Only if their housemates guessed what they were saying, did they get their prize!

It was a great day organized by the Volunteers and Lee, the Art teacher in the British school, and it was a fantastic and memorable experience for the kids!

(Travis)



Travis watching his fellow volunteers in action at the Volunteers Got Talent show.

Current Volunteers

Annapurna: Ludo (France)
Gauri Shankar: Niamh (Canada)
Kanchanjanga: Céline (France) and Hanna (Germany)
Machapuchure: Travis (USA)
Manaslu: Caryn (USA)
Sagamatha: Jessica (USA)





The Umbrella Foundation Newsletter



Thank You

Everyone involved with The Umbrella Foundation would like to say a HUGE Thank You to all those who have donated towards our work over the past few months.

These people include:



- Everyone who took part in the Brawl 4 Nepal and contributed to it being a very successful night for Umbrella!;
- As always, our wonderful Child Sponsors whose continued financial and emotional contribution to the Umbrella children is treasured and greatly appreciated;
- Bill Kite, for his amazing support of our work and the continued facilitation of international visitors to us here in Umbrella;
- Jakarta International School (JIS) Indonesia, for their kind donations and support;
- Wan Ling Wong and everyone from Yishun Town Secondary School from Singapore, for their enormous effort during time here and considerable donation in the form of the new Sagarmatha playground;
- Victoria Secondary school from Singapore, for their very generous donations and cultural exchange activities performed with the Umbrella kids and those in the local Pachakanya school;
- Dawn Voon (past volunteer), for her continued support of Umbrella and her help with bringing schools from Singapore to Nepal and Umbrella!;
- Lee, Josie, Ian, Alice-Anne, Harvey, Rajendra and the year 10 students at British school Kathmandu for their great help and effort for our Art and Activities day;
- Acupuncturists without borders, for visiting us here in Swayambhu and performing relaxation 'ear' acupuncture with our kids;
- Regina and the Lincoln school in Kathmandu for generously lending us the use of their stage for our Umbrella's Got Talent programme;
- Nynke van der Veldt and friends, for their amazing support for our De Paraplu counseling centre over the past number of years. We were delighted to have Nynke visit us here again this month;
- Declan Devery (past vol) and friends, for their visit and kind donations to Umbrella;
- Kenneth Thompson, Ambassador of Ireland to Nepal for visiting us in Swayambhu;
- Ciara Tallon (past vol) who come back to visit the girls in Gauri Shanker this month!;
- Justin, Pineapple and everyone at The Big Umbrella for their time and effort with our Umbrella's Got Talent programme. Best of luck with the new home in Kathmandu guys!;
- and Natalie Gauci; for her visit to us here in Umbrella. Natalie, Australian Idol winner in 2007, shot some of the video for her new song "Grow Up" at Umbrella with our kids over the course of a great day! (keep an eye out for more on Natalie's video shoot in next month's newsletter!)





The Umbrella Foundation Newsletter



How you can help Umbrella

There has always been a need for donations and child sponsors to help Umbrella maintain its projects. Today Umbrella needs your help more than ever, our number of sponsors are dropping while our costs are increasing.

Your help could make all the difference!

If you are interested in supporting Umbrella, sponsoring a child or making a donation please visit our website.

Umbrella work hard every day to make sure every cent donated goes to where it needs to go... to the children.



Contact us

For further details on any of our projects or how to help, please visit our website, or contact us on:

International: enquiries@umbrellanepal.org
Ireland: irishoffice@umbrellanepal.org

For details on the contact person in your country please visit our website.

We hope you may consider supporting The Umbrella Foundation in the future and help make all of this possible.

Irish Standing Order Form

I wish to set up a standing order of €_____ to 'The Umbrella Foundation'

To the manager of (your bank/ building society name) _____

Bank Address _____

I / we authorise you to debit my / our bank account and credit The Umbrella Foundation account with the above monthly payments.

Please debit account number sort code

Please credit account number 1 3 6 3 6 1 5 6 sort code 9 3 3 5 5 4

AIB Greystones, Co., Wicklow, Ireland. (The Umbrella Foundation's bank address)

Signed _____ Date

For correspondence purposes, please fill in your name, phone number and email address.

Name _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

The Umbrella Foundation is an Irish registered charity. Our registration number is CHY 17247.
For international sponsor enquiries please consult our website and we will be happy to put you in touch with a contact in your country.

Please complete the attached form and return to your bank branch.