



Alive and Kicking!!!

We are very happy to announce that after a long hiatus the Umbrella Newsletter will once again become a regular publication. During Viva and Jacky's time, they managed to fill us all in with news of Nepal on a regular basis, but since then the various editions have been a little haphazard. The new management team of Shane Cogan and Macartan Gaughan, who will introduce themselves in the next edition, are committed to keeping all Umbrella supporters updated from now on, with news of what's happening in Nepal and how the fundraising efforts are going around the world!

We apologise if this lack of contact gave off the perception that Umbrella wasn't doing so well. The reality is that with 50+ children returning to their families and the opening of our first reintegration centre in Rasuwa (northern Nepal) all in the last six months, as well as more of our school leavers entering our successful Next Steps Youth Programme, things have never been so good on the ground here.

2011 has also seen a much bigger investment by Umbrella in getting quality Nepali staff on board. We have a new Programme Director in Kailash Khadka and our Child Protection and Development Department, headed up by Gopal Ghimire, now boasts five committed members, who, among other things, ensure all our reunified children are happy and safe back with their families.

I hope you enjoy it and feel free to get in touch if you have any queries, concerns or recommendations at enquires@umbrellanepal.org!





The Umbrella Foundation Newsletter



News From Nepal

Rasuwa Reintegration Centre

Some regions of Nepal are more vulnerable to trafficking due to their proximity to Kathmandu or the regions lack of education and/or low economic status. The district of Rasuwa is one such region and it is the region of origin for fifty-nine of our youngest children. So in April 2011, Umbrella opened the Rasuwa Reintegration Centre to bring these 54 children home!



Through our work with Next Generation Nepal (NGN), we were able to safely reunify twenty-seven children directly their families. In addition, we opened a reintegration home in Shyaphrubes, Rasuwa, as a means of reuniting the other Rasuwa children with their communities of origin, while maintaining their health, well-being and safety. The transition home will be the centre for our continued efforts to reconnect the children with their families. Thirty-two children are now living in this home, surrounded by their own customs, culture and most importantly, their families.

We are still working closely with the other families through our social workers in the area and our ultimate goal will be to get all the children back to their families, hopefully within the next year.

Next Steps Youth Programme

We have successfully set up the Next Steps Youth Programme by renting two youth flats in Kathmandu for our oldest Boys to move into.

So far 20 boys have grown up and moved out into the flat with great success. Here is one of the guys cooking himself and his roommates some Dal Bhat in their new home.





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News from Nepal

Going Home

As my time with Umbrella in Nepal comes to an end there's obviously a lot of mixed emotions. I'll definitely be very sad saying goodbye to the kids and staff, who have been my family for the last three years. I feel very proud of what myself, Amy and Conor were able to achieve, relieved that the place didn't come crashing down after Viva and Jacky's departure and fortunate to have worked with and met some amazing people.

I could probably throw in a few others but the ultimate emotion that will always spring to mind straight away when I think of Umbrella is how lucky I was to have had this amazing experience.



Stephen, Conor and Amy with the Kids

It hasn't always been easy, and there's a few grey hairs to testify to that, but there is definitely something very special about Umbrella that almost everyone who visits or volunteers with us picks up on.

When I first met Jacky in 2007, who is the reason I've decided to get into this line of work, and saw his passion for this place, it was inspirational. At the risk of sounding corny...too late...Umbrella was started with a lot of love, from Viva, Jacky, Dave, Harry and countless other staff and volunteers from around the world. I like to think that even though there has been a big change in the personnel down the years, the reason behind why we're all here supporting these kids, be that in Nepal or around the world, hasn't changed!

I am delighted to be joining up with Audrey and the rest of the Umbrella team in Ireland and staying involved for many more years to come!

Stephen

Recently Departed...

In June of this year, after two and a half years of dedicated service in Nepal, Amy Mulcahy and Conor Fox bid the Umbrella children and team farewell. In their time here, Amy and Conor made a number of significant changes to how Umbrella was being run and as a result, the children under Umbrella's care now have a more secure future ahead. Three specific achievements of note are: the establishment of our first Reintegration Centre outside of Kathmandu in Rasuwa, where we returned 54 children to their families and community; the inception of the already very successful Next Steps Youth Programme, catering for 30+ youths; and the complete revamp of the Volunteer Programme.

Both formed close bonds with the children and those still in Nepal get asked daily about how 'Conor Brother' and 'Amy Sister' are getting on. Although they are no longer in Nepal, both remain very involved with Umbrella from Ireland.

All involved with Umbrella know just how much time, energy and creative thinking Amy and Conor brought to the organisation and although they're gone a few months now, they are still sorely missed.

On behalf of all the kids - Thank you both!





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News From Around The World

Ireland

On 26th November the 'Brawl for Nepal 3' will be taking place in Dublin again. This is the third year of this event and it is guaranteed to be a great night so we encourage all of Umbrella's friends to make it there on the night to support the guys taking part and enjoy the atmosphere! Watch the promo video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dno56sYqVKw>

September saw the creation of a new Fund Raising committee in Ireland. If there is anyone (from around the world!) who would like to link in with their activities, please drop the Irish office a mail on: irishoffice@umbrellanepal.org



Asia

A documentary was shown on the Al Jeezera English language channel in October 2011 on illegal adoptions child trafficking in Nepal. This documentary featured the family of one of girls whose sister was illegally adopted from Nepal. The Documentary features interviews with her and her family as paints Umbrella in a very positive light. To see the show, please follow the link below: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Grys7KSqrX8&feature=share>



World Wide

2011 saw the release of Conor Grennan's book: 'Little Princes.' This non-fiction book beautifully describes Conor's experiences in Nepal 5 years ago, when he first volunteered in Kathmandu. Conor didn't have the typical volunteering experience and what started out as a quest for the perfect chat up line became a mission to bring the trafficked children of Nepal home!

We were delighted to receive Conor Grennan and Farid from Next Generation Nepal (NGN) at Umbrella in October 2011 for a discussion on their work and ours, with some of our volunteers and staff.



Farid, Macartan, Niamh, Céline, Jessica, Conor, Caryn and Hanna



Volunteering in Umbrella

A Trip to Namma Buddha

During the Dashain festival, myself and Travis took 18 boys from the Annapurna and Machhapuchere houses for a two-day trek between the cities of Panauti, Namo Buddha and Dhulikhel.

After an hour and a half bus ride out of Kathmandu, we were able to visit the culturally rich city of Panauti. Panauti is one of the oldest cities in Nepal, famous for its temples, particularly the Indreshwor Temple. During 5 hours of walking we observed the rice harvest, with various techniques (manual and mechanical). We arrived at the top of the last mountain, at the monastery of Namo Buddha which we visited, and watched the sun set on our day. The 360 degree view of the valley was beautiful!

We spent the night in the village of Namo Buddha, where the prince Ngingdui Tshempo donated his body to a hungry mother tiger and her children before he was re-born as Gotam Buddha. When we woke up the next morning, we observed the towering mountains of the Langtang range, Manaslu, and Ganesh before resuming our walk for 4 hours among the mountains to reach Dhulikhel, the last step of our trek.

This trek, rich in images and cultural aspects was greatly appreciated by children and it was a great way to celebrate the festival of Dashain.

Ludo and Travis



Ludo with some of the guys at Namo Buddha Monastery

Current Volunteers

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





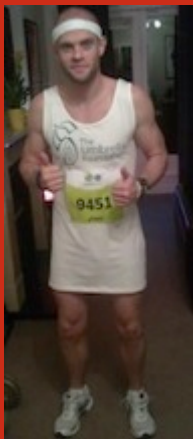
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Thank You

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;



- Our wonderful Child Sponsors whose continued financial and emotional contribution to the Umbrella children is treasured and greatly appreciated.
- EVERYONE who donated their time and resources towards our current and past volunteers here in Swayambhu over the past few months/ years. There are so many of you guys who have helped enable our volunteers to travel over here to be loving Big Brothers/Sisters to our kids and we are all very grateful for your continued support!
- Irish rugby star Jamie Heaslip and his girlfriend Sheena (who's since joined our fundraising committee in Ireland!) were out in June to show their support. Jamie has is Umbrella's Patron and has been a huge help in raising awareness!
- Kellie and Caroyn Deigan from Sydney. Kellie undertook the Annapurna trek only months after sustaining a serious injury and received an amazing donation from Neil Palmer upon its successful completion. Kellie also visited us in Kathmandu recently and with the help of her mother, is keen on registering Umbrella in Australia! All at Umbrella wish them both the best of luck with it!
- Father Eanná and all those who contributed to the Terenure College groups trip to us in Nepal. We are looking forward to seeing them again next year.
- Áine Gaughan and everyone who contributed to Quiz night in Raheny GAA.
- Annette Lipkovits who held a very successful Golf Fundraiser in Canada in September.
- Mick Bromley, of Wilderness Trekking, who brought four more of our boys with him on one of his successful Himalayan treks. Look out for Umbrella Trekking...!
- Jakarta International School who helped us in post-earthquake clean up work.
- Fiona Smith who contributed to the Haul4Nepal's success and volunteered with us here in Swayambhu for a period.
- Dennis Desmond from MCD for his generous donation in October.
- Eoin Fitzgerald and Maser, for their enormous fundraising efforts with the Haul4Nepal. It was great to have them over to Umbrella in August!
- Another special mention to Eoin again and Tom McCauley for running the Dublin marathon. Great work guys! Also as a treat; here (on the left) is a nice picture of Eoin in his lovely marathon outfit! Eoin's also taking part in the Brawl!
- The Angela Blume Estate, who made a very generous donation after hearing a talk from Conor Fox during a Sunday mass at his local church.





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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 and tear off this form and return to: AIB, Church Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.