



# NAMASTE children's fund

Supporting community-based education for women and children in underserved regions of Nepal

## Mission

Namaste Children's Fund is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to supporting the underserved communities of Nepal as efficiently as possible. NCF believes that education is key to breaking the cycle of poverty and empowering individuals to improve socioeconomic conditions for their families, communities, and future generations.

## Hindu VidyaPeeth (HVP)-Nepal



Hindu Vidyapeeth-Nepal is a Nepal based non-profit educational institution which consists of three schools, two near Kathmandu and one near Dang in Southern Nepal. The organization also supports the Shanti Sewa Ashram in Kathmandu, a number of related projects for the selfless service towards humanity through peace and non-violence, and various programs on spiritual and philosophical awareness. The guiding influence and principal leader of HVP is Dr. CM Yogi, an internationally renowned teacher and community leader. The boarding school is called

Children's Peace Home and is located in Dang. There are 25 children in the home and currently two are under full scholarship from NCF.

NCF is supporting the work of the HVP organization in a number of ways:

- Providing scholarships for 2 children to stay at the Peace Home and attend school at HVP Dang.
- Providing 60 scholarships for impoverished children from the local Dang area to attend the school.
- Providing funds for materials, equipment and services at the HVP schools and in the Ashram.



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### Thehe Village & School



Within the Humla district, NCF works with the village of Thehe, a four hour walk from Simikot. Over 450 families live in overcrowded conditions, with no running water or sanitation facilities. The villagers are predominantly from the Chetri ethnic group, they are Hindu and also follow the lead of a number of local shamans.

The children in Thehe have limited access to education. Only select children are able to attend the local school. Most work on farms with their families to provide food. The local school operates with virtually no resources and Thehe families are not able to send their children outside the area to continue their education in a secondary school. In the Humla region, only 2.6% of children pass from Primary to Secondary school. The literacy rate in the region is 27.1% (female 11.8%, male 41.3%).

The NCF strategy in the village:

- Employed a native villager to be the NCF representative in Thehe (Suresh Bohora).
- Established a committee consisting of 10 respected leaders from the village to provide guidance for the village development.
- Planning the construction of two toilet and washing stations for the village.
- Planning for the expansion of the school buildings in a joint venture with another NGO operating in the region.
- In response to feedback from the teachers in the school, NCF is working with the villagers to provide:
  - o Specialist English teacher
  - o School supplies, teaching materials, books, stationery, etc.
  - o Nutrition program for the kids to improve health and encourage the kids to attend school regularly
  - o Provide running water and other amenities to the school
- Offer scholarships to the very brightest children to attend boarding school outside the Humla region. Two children from Thehe are currently attending the HVP School in Dang on full NCF scholarships.
- Committed to offering an equal number of scholarships to Thehe girls and boys, to increase the girls' chances for self sufficiency and close the education gap between men and women.



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## Gargen Chyoling Nunnery



Gargen Chyoling is a 380 year old nunnery established in the Lower Mustang region with a branch near Kathmandu. NCF representative Chimey Sherpa has been a volunteer and English teacher at the nunnery for the last decade.

The region falls along the popular Annapurna Circuit, but only a handful of people benefit from the tourism and the area is still lacking many essential things. A health post was recently established by Mr. Sherpa through his Project Himalaya organization.

Gargen Chyoling houses over 40 nuns, elder and novice. The novice nuns at Gargen Chyoling are primarily disadvantaged girls and orphans from the region. NCF is dedicated to supporting their education and is currently facilitating the hiring of a specialist English teacher. Classes are first beginning at the Kathmandu branch and NCF is facilitating expanding the program to Gargen Chyoling in 2009.



## Contact Info

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