

KAM FOR SUD

Kasturi Mirga Forum for Sustainable Development

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Activity report 2010

LIFE AT THE FARM-ORPHANAGE IN TATHALI

A year after the inauguration, more than thirty children and three parent couples live together in the small complex, made up of three family houses and an organic farm. The Tathali farm-orphanage offers a new family environment and a new opportunity in the lives of these orphaned or abandoned children; in the near future we will be able to double the intake. Each child has his or her own story, but basic themes recur – severe poverty, nowhere to call home, and no loving adult care and protection. At Tathali the children learn to live together, respecting rules and enjoying the small pleasures of a life no longer on the edge of survival, and protected from violence and exploitation.



Life at Tathali goes by pleasantly, also thanks to Ram, Deepak and Chok Bahadur, who look after the animals and take care of the farm. Sushila, Ganga and Sharmila also have a very important role: as well as keeping the three family houses clean and welcoming, they are very fond of the children and willingly spend time with them, singing, helping them learn the alphabet and telling them stories.

The three parent couples are gradually getting used to the new life style in the small community, but above all they are learning to manage the problems of those children who come to the community psychologically damaged, sometimes very seriously. In order to support the parents in this delicate task, for which they do not have specific pedagogical training, our colleague and specialist Pietro Santoro, educator, gave an intensive seminar dealing with the main issues and questions with which they are confronted. The excellent results of this workshop and the trusting relationship that has been established are the basis for Kam For Sud's decision to plan further seminars of this kind on a more regular basis.





Rajan Shrestha, project coordinator in Nepal, is looked on as every child's 'uncle' and he makes sure a good balance is maintained within the structure of Tathali. He has set up his own office inside the farm-orphanage, so that he can keep in daily touch with how things are going and be immediately aware of any problems and available when needed. Thanks also to his natural cordiality and calm professionalism, he has earned the trust of everyone, both young and old.

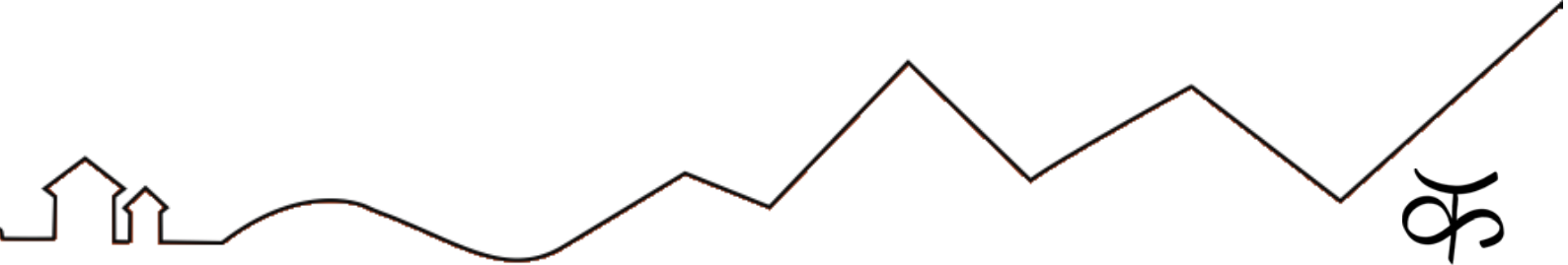
In the last three months of the year Vera Rachmuth, English and music teacher, conducted an artistic experiment with the children: Vera has given daily after-school lessons in elementary music, rhythm and dance for the young guests of the farm-orphanage. The children have been grouped according to age, and have taken to the world of music with enthusiasm, in some cases showing unexpected talent.



The positive experience at the school in Saipu has encouraged Kam For Sud to plan a didactic programme for the next few years at the village school in Tathali, which is attended by the children of the farm-orphanage. The object is to improve the quality of teaching, and spread modern teaching methodology in Nepal, methods which have produced excellent results in other parts of the world.

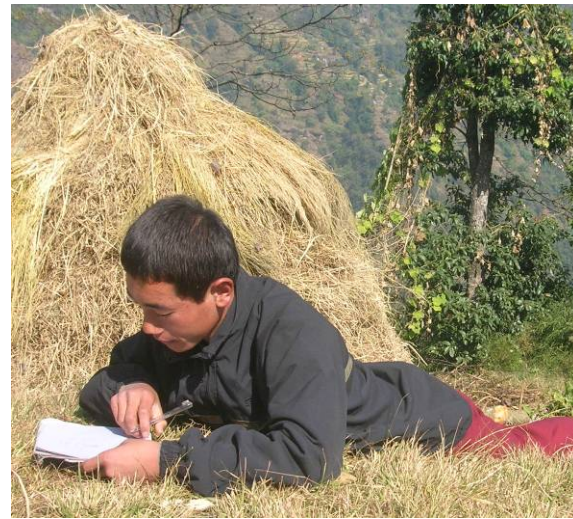
What can you do for these children? To allow all these children, and also the adults taking care of them, to continue to live in dignity and peace at Tathali, Kam For Sud warmly invites anyone who would like to share in the project to become a sponsor. To avoid creating differences in the treatment of the children, sponsoring of individuals is not foreseen; instead sponsorships are grouped together. In other words, all the sponsors unite to assure the efficient functioning of the whole structure. The cost for each child amounts to CHF. 90.- per month, and Kam For Sud is very grateful indeed to all those who would like to become a sponsor and thus participate in a concrete and direct way to the success of this project.





DIDACTIC PROGRAM AT THE SCHOOL IN SAIPU

At the school in Saipu, 2010 was a year rich in exchanges and learning experience. Two Swiss teachers, Laura Poretti first, and Julien Rey second, shared their teaching skills with local teachers and students, bringing with them practical proposals for innovative teaching methods. Laura and Julien showed their Nepalese colleagues how to transmit knowledge at school, stimulating young minds to thought and reflection as an alternative to chanting in chorus. With great tact, and starting from the principle that a convincing example will be spontaneously imitated, the two young teachers have left an indelible mark at the school: the teachers of Saipu are now enthusiastic and keen to learn more. This training work will be continued in future years, with the ambitious medium-term objective of spreading the experience of Saipu, which Kam For Sud is documenting through films, to other schools in the country.



HE WHO FINDS A SPONSOR FINDS A TREASURE

They are already over 200, the children from different areas of Nepal who can attend school thanks to a distant sponsor. They live with their own families, but escape the sad fate of child labour and illiteracy thanks to a sponsor who funds their school expenses each month. In this case the sponsoring is individual, and it is possible to support a child for just CHF. 30.- per month. To cope with the huge demand, Kam For Sud is launching an appeal for this project: for the equivalent of just two cups of coffee a week, you can give a child the means to protect him or her self from exploitation! Aurora Guggisberg (091-7434386, info@kamforsud.org) will be happy to give you all the information and explanation you need.

COLLABORATION WITH THE SWISS CIVIL SERVICE

From the Spring of 2010, Kam For Sud has been entitled to employ the young people on Civil Service duty. This new form of collaboration means that Kam For Sud can count on capable and qualified manpower for relatively long periods and at greatly reduced cost. Kam For Sud's experience this year with two motivated and committed young civilists has been very positive. The contribution of the civilists concerns not only the projects in Nepal: for six months Ivan Deschenaux assisted the Kam For Sud coordinator in Switzerland, among other things he completely renewed the association website. Two more assignments for civilists are planned for 2011, in support of the projects in Nepal.





THE HEALTH POST DEDICATED TO GIANNI GOLTZ

The health post staff have started their training, while the health post itself should be completed in 2011. Thanks to the possibility of employing health-care and medical staff through the Swiss Civil Service, Kam For Sud also intends to propose to the local staff the training of Swiss colleagues as additional team members.

STREET CHILDREN IN KATHMANDU

The activity day centre in Kathmandu continues to assist the 50 children –abandoned during the day - who are taken in and cared for in collaboration with the local NGO, RODEC. In addition to schooling, the children at the centre receive a complete meal in the morning and an afternoon snack. They also receive help with after-school activities and basic medical care, at a total annual cost of around CHFr. 40'000.-.

NEW ARRIVALS AT THE KAM FOR SUD BAZAAR IN LOCARNO

Thanks to the enthusiasm and commitment of the group managing the Kam For Sud *bazaar* in Locarno, the shop finished its first year of business with excellent results. Naturally this has fired up the energy of the group of volunteer salespeople, who discreetly, with great persistence, do their share and participate every week. From December 2010 a wonderful new selection of Nepalese handicrafts will be available, and the stock will be renewed regularly during 2011. There is a good selection of woollen and textile goods, as well as jewellery and bronze ware, essential oils, spices, hand-made paper, photographs and sacred art. Let yourself be tempted by a visit, it's really worth it!



YOUR DONATIONS

Given the ever-increasing scale of activity and projects of Kam For Sud, the association has partly professionalised the management side. This is possible thanks to the financial support of members and local fund raising activities. Consequently all your donations can still be used entirely for projects in Nepal. Every donation you make, of any amount, is greatly appreciated and Kam For Sud promises to use it in the best way for the success of all projects.



DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF ALL THIS? BECOME A MEMBER!

By becoming a member of Kam For Sud, at an annual fee of CHFr. 100.-, you are actively contributing to, and participating in our common goal, allowing us to manage the projects in Nepal in a serious and professional way. Our members are precious, and Kam For Sud is very grateful for your participation!

Associazione Kam For Sud, Banca dello Stato, CH - 6000 Locarno
Account Nr. 3582660001000001,

Post account of the bank: 65-433-5, IBAN code CH83007643582660C000C

Via SMS: max CHFr. 100.- per SMS at the number 339, writing the key-word DONO and the amount one wishes to donate