



President's Appeal
December 2012

We would like to take this opportunity to convey our heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the people of Himalaya to the Trans-Himalayan Aid Society supporters and benefactors whose kind contribution has brought great changes in the lives of the most deserving and needy.



Youth in Voice of Children's Bridge Program

Thank you is a small word for this big favor. We hope it conveys the depth of our gratitude. Your kind endeavor for the noble cause is a great message of brotherhood. We deeply appreciate and value it. Let all be happy; let all be free from diseases; let all see auspicious things; let nobody suffer from grief.

Voice of Children,
November 2012

Dear Donors, Sponsors, Volunteers and Friends of TRAS,

I cannot think of a better and more fitting way to express our thanks and gratitude than through the words of one of our partners and recipients of TRAS funding, Voice of Children. Thank you is indeed a small word for the support you give TRAS and, through TRAS, the children and youth of the Himalaya.

This time of year is one that typically marks endings and beginnings. For TRAS, this December marks a more significant 'ending and beginning' than usual as our 50th anniversary year draws to a close, and the next decade (or more) of TRAS work begins. When I reflect on what TRAS has achieved in 50 years, I am both amazed and impressed. What is it that keeps TRAS going strong?

TRAS's philosophy and approach: Run by volunteers in Vancouver, TRAS takes a grassroots approach to development, never imposing ideas, but rather listening respectfully to the needs and ideas of small, locally-run organizations in the Himalaya, thereby ensuring that projects are both relevant and locally managed. It is this approach to development that attracts many donors and volunteers to TRAS, and is also important to our Himalayan partners, such as SHARE in Manali. As Ren Madan, SHARE's founder, wrote recently:

We value very much the assistance given to the rural people of upper Kullu Valley through the partnership of TRAS and SHARE. Ours has been and is a partnership of equals. You did not thrust your views or push your pet concerns or ideas. You trusted our judgement and data on the ground realities. This has led to a number of very successful projects funded by TRAS.



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TRAS's track record: With five decades of experience in the Himalayan region, TRAS has thousands of success stories attesting to the value of its work. Kopila Budha's is one such story. Kopila comes from a remote village in Nepal's Humla District. Her parents died when she was four years old. Her older brother, Nabaraj, in Grade 3 at the time, left school to work in neighbours' fields in order to care for his five younger siblings. With the support of READI Nepal, a local NGO, and TRAS funding, Kopila is now in school for the first time.



Nabaraj and Kopila Budha

If READI Nepal was not established in Humla, my sister would have been deprived of an education. This organization has become like our parents. I wish this organization success and do hope that many other helpless children who are deprived of education due to poverty get the same support. Nabaraj Budha, November 2012

In March and April of this year, I had the opportunity to travel to India and Nepal and visit 10 of our partner organizations and 20 projects. I was continually impressed with the level of dedication and expertise with which our partners carry out their work, and reassured of the decisions that the TRAS Board of Directors makes in choosing where to allocate TRAS funds. You too can be assured that your donations are very well spent.

This December also marks the end of my term as President. I have been honoured to serve as TRAS President for three and a half years. It is now my pleasure to welcome Cheryl Sullivan, a director on the TRAS board since June 2009, serving as Volunteer Coordinator, Fundraising Chair and Vice-President, into the role of President on January 1, 2013. Cheryl brings to the role years of experience in management, as well as a passion for the people of the Himalaya and TRAS's grassroots approach to development. I am delighted that Cheryl will be TRAS's next President and know that the Society will continue to thrive under her excellent leadership.

Please help us continue TRAS's work in the coming year by donating to a TRAS project or sponsoring a child. You may mail us the donation slip below, or donate online. An updated list of projects and funding needs is on the last page of the December 2012 newsletter. Many children and youth need sponsors. Some of these are described in the newsletter, or you can contact Russil Wvong, Sponsorship Director, at sponsorship@tras.ca.

If you would like to make a 'gift donation' in the name of a family member or friend, we would be happy to send a Himalayan card to the recipient. Please call or email Armila (604-224-5133 or info@tras.ca) by **Thursday, December 13** to allow time for her to process your donation and send the card.

Thank you very much once again for your support of TRAS. On behalf of the TRAS Board of Directors, I wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season, and a happy, healthy 2013.

Jennifer Hales



YES! I want to help children and youth living in the Himalayas

HERE is my sponsorship donation of \$ _____ for (name of child/youth) _____
 my donation of \$ _____ for project (name of project) _____
 my donation of \$ _____ for whatever it is needed most

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Here is my cheque # _____ for \$ _____ payable to TRAS

OR Please charge my VISA/MasterCard No. _____ Expiry Date _____

Please send me information on Planned Giving: Yes No

I am interested in volunteering for TRAS: Yes No

A tax receipt will be issued for all donations. **Thank you for your generous support of TRAS!**

