



# Newsletter August 2022

## CWA Children's Home in Pokhara, Nepal

Dear friends and supporters of the CWA Children's Home in Pokhara, Nepal

We are very happy to send you the latest Newsletter updating you about our stay at the CWA Children's Home this year 2022.

After ordering Nepali handicrafts for our sales at Basel's Autumn Fair later on in the year in Nepal's capital Kathmandu, we only had six weeks to work in the CWA Children's Home this summer.



On arrival in Pokhara again all children and staff gave us a very warm welcome. The day after our arrival, Barbara initiated the translation of the letters written by the children from the Wasserstelzen schoolhouse. This is every year a big thing and this time there were 131 letters. The children are always very happy about the mail and drawings from Switzerland.



Everyone immediately started answering the letters. The resulting English letters then had to be translated into German again. In doing this, Solan helped us tremendously by using the internet to our advantage.





The children always look forward to creative activities. They have in their practical skills class carved a big Christmas tree out of wood, on which the small wooden, carved Christmas decorations will be hung. Seema is fully absorbed in carving out the forms, Sapana shows proudly the newly created motifs and Jeevan is drilling lots of holes to hang the carvings from.



In their free time, several employees love to crochet Christmas trees, that, in a concerted effort with the children, will be adorned in due time. In Switzerland, these small works of art created by the children, will be turned by Barbara into Christmas cards to be sold at the Basel Autumn Fair.



Acting on our suggestion, regular Saturday Karate classes for self-defense have been held since the start of this year. Participation is voluntary. Excitingly, especially many girls participate enthusiastically in these classes.



Twice a week, it's music class. Besides guitar and keyboards, acapella singing engenders a lot of joy. In order to boost the children's musicality and delight, the music teacher and us sat down and decided to have smaller but more classes in the near future. In these classes the children's specific qualities can be better tended to. Yujan and Arjun have, e.g., eagerly been practicing playing the recorders.

With the proceeds from a benefit concert at the end of August, we plan to buy new instruments and finance expanding the number of classes of the music teacher. As early as autumn, the first children will compete in beginners' music competitions in Pokhara.



The daily homework, the regular work, and the dance, music and Karate classes, do not leave much free time to enjoy. But when making bracelets, when trying out new games brought from Switzerland, or posing with the two new puppies, the kids are delighted.



While Barbara did a lot of handcrafting with the children, Peter conducted the annual accounts check. Although in Switzerland we receive monthly reports and statements from Nepal, that does not preclude an on-site accounting check in the Home. A few minor deviations in the documentation were discovered where our high standards regarding transparency have not been fully complied with. The result of the test was discussed and resolved with the responsible personnel, our accountant, Prakash, and manager, Bijay.



In Nepal too, it was extremely hot this summer. Often as late as 10 p.m. in the evening temperatures exceeded 30 degrees Celsius in our room. The monsoon rains came very irregularly, initially very scantily and then very violently. Although hiking in the heat and high humidity is quite strenuous, both the children and the management pushed for a group hike.



On the morning of our hike, it rained cats and dogs and we had to postpone the start repeatedly. When in the end the rain stopped, we were finally able to set off. Fortunately, the sky stayed overcast, and the temperatures reasonable.



On the way to Kaskikot we encountered several floods and even landslides caused by the heavy rains. We overcame these by concerted effort and mutual support!



During the trip we had short breaks in which the snacks we had brought with us were enjoyed with great relish. Since, due to the rain, we hadn't been able to leave the Home until late in the morning, the latter part of hiking back home was accomplished in the dark. Here is a view of Pokhara at dusk.



Since the end of the lockdown last summer, our children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade attend the Himali School in Bakunde. This school is inspired by German didactics. During our stay this year, we revisited the school and were even more convinced of the superior learning conditions in the classes. We were spontaneously invited by the headmaster and the teachers' body to speak on the circumstances of our children. Our children were, in particular, praised for their discipline and cleanliness.





For the children the highlight of our stay every year is the grand birthday party we throw. Many fun and interesting group games were organized. The "tastiest" game was "Suckling on" and transporting chocolate candies, which of course afterwards were eaten with a lot of satisfaction.





After a delicious dinner, the well-wishes ceremony, and the delicious birthday cake, there were small gift bags that Barbara had put together for each individual child.



This year we were again awarded the "Grade A" children's home degree, which has by now become a prerequisite for the authorities to allow more children to be admitted. At the end of June, a seven-year-old girl from Achham District, Laxmi (right) joined us, from the remote west of Nepal (approx. 800 km from Pokhara). Her mother died after child-birth and she grew up with her grand-mother. After his wife had died, the father left the family and never returned. Meanwhile, the sick grandmother can no longer take care of Laxmi.

Anjali, 12 years of age, her brother Arun and their cousin Ramesh, both 5 years old, joined our Children's Home at the end of July. Their homeland is in Jugal in the Sindupalchok district, about 350 km north-east of Pokhara. Last year, Anjali and Arun's mother died in a large landslide, while shortly afterwards their father died in a bus accident. Ramesh's father died in an accident at a construction site of a hydroelectric power plant 4 years ago. Afterwards, the mother abandoned the family. Ramesh grew up with his grandparents.

When Anjali and Arun were orphaned last year, they were initially taken in by Ramesh's grandparents. Caring for three children, though, is a heavy burden, especially as the grandparents themselves suffered health problems and their small-farm income was never meant to support so many. The authorities then went on a quest to find a children's home where these three children could be placed together.



These four new members of our family are bursting with joie de vivre and have quickly found their way around the Home. At first, Anjali seemed quite shy, but she has since made various friends among the other girls and is happy about her new home. She is now in Year 8 at Little Step Boarding School. Laxmi is in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade, Arun and Ramesh are now in kindergarten at the Himali School.



Although our time in Pokhara was short, we were able to meet up with some former Home children, whom, due to corona restrictions last year, we had not been able to see then.

Bishal (left) is a sophomore in business administration. Santosh is now in the second year of his computer engineering studies. Bibek left his studies after six months and has opted for a manual training as he wants to start working in construction. Binod is facing his first exams for his Bachelor's degree in Hotel Management.

In Kathmandu we had planned to meet Sophia, who is in the fourth year of her BA degree in business management. Before leaving Pokhara we had, however, both caught a serious cold and decided to cancel our meeting with her. That turned out to be a good thing, as after returning to Switzerland we both tested positive for Corona virus in our PCR test.



At the end of February, a heavy hailstorm with 300 gram balls of ice pummeled Pokhara. It was so violent that one of the hail protection nets was torn. The heavy ice even bent the metal rods of our oldest greenhouse so much that repairing them was unrealistic.



After seeing the extent of the damage for ourselves, we ordered a new green-house of 12m x 6m. Our organic gardener, Ganesh, is very happy with this new cultivation area as it is protected from hail and heavy rain. In the foreground you can see the okra in bloom.





Our departure date was coming closer and closer. The night before, a small farewell program was organized in which the children danced, sang and played music.



After a last dinner together, small gifts were handed out. With great energy, Barbara once again produced many photos for the personal photo albums of each child and employee alike. Everyone is delighted with good memories of the past. Some of the teenagers have collated their albums for over 10 years.



The following morning, we left with a heavy heart. When saying goodbye, we were given gorgeous drawings and farewell cards by the children.



To finish this Newsletter we include a group photo of all children at our Home, and send you Namaste greetings. Currently, 33 children are residing in our Home. Thanks to your support, they are receiving proper schooling, professional training, a balanced diet, proper medical care, as well as loving care from trained employees and therapists.

Our deepest thanks go out to you for your support, especially on behalf of all children and employees, and wish you all the best, good health and a gorgeous summer.

Many greetings  
Barbara and Peter