

NCEF GYAN

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NEPALESE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

What's Inside:

Highlights:

NCEF receives a grant that will assist the Fundraising Committee

Interview with Mr. Jay Shrestha, a member of 2006 Selection Committee



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by direct perception

NCEF receives a grant that will assist the Fundraising Committee

NCEF received a one year 10-user license grant for a software from the Salesforce Foundation (www.salesforce.com). This software is a standard platform used by many large businesses and non-profits to manage their fundraising information, and volunteer as well as donor relationships. We will be using this software for recording donor information, maintaining relationships with donors, and more performing detailed analysis to make our fundraising projects effective. Thanks to Atul and Olivier for all their hard work in acquiring this grant.

Interview with Mr. Jay Shrestha, A Member of 2006 Selection Committee

Mr. Shrestha served as one of the members of 2006 selection committee. Currently residing in Chicago, Mr. Shrestha is a graduate student in Molecular Genetics and Cellular Biology at the University of Chicago. Besides helping NCEF, he enjoys photography, biking, watching movies and reading.

Q. You served as one of the members of the selection committee this year. How was your experience volunteering with the NCEF?

Volunteering for NCEF was a good experience for me. I knew it would be a difficult job deciding which of the applicants deserved to be funded, when most of the applicants have a genuine need for financial assistance. At the end of the day, I feel the process was a good learning experience for me and for other members of the selection committee.

Q. What inspired you to participate in NCEF's works?

I have followed the work of NCEF right from its inception in 2002, and I have admired how this organization has taken up the task of educating deserving but marginalized students with such great dedication and efficiency.

MEET TRISHNA

Trishna's mother was abandoned by her husband and earns less than \$15 a month by running a small shop, which is barely enough to cover household costs. In the hope of improving her and her daughter's situation, Trishna's mother is trying to continue her own education in the ninth grade. She desperately wants Trishna to receive an education but can not afford the fees at even an inferior school without the help of NCEF.



MAKING DONATIONS

Online:

www.nepalchildren.org/donation.html

Checks:

Make checks payable to:

Nepalese Children Education Fund or NCEF

Mailing address:

Nepalese Children's Education Fund

P.O. Box 380061

Cambridge, MA 02238-0061

Questions?

Website: www.nepalchildren.org

Email: contact@nepalchildren.org

THANK YOU!

My personal view is that every person has a duty to contribute in some capacity to help people in need. Education for children from marginalized backgrounds, in my opinion, is one of the best ways to extend such help because education is a gift that keeps on multiplying. Education for one child not only positively impacts the life of that student, but also that of the family, and potentially the community as a whole.

Q. Did this experience meet your expectations? If so, what aspects were most meaningful?

I think the most meaningful experience for me was the opportunity it provided me to re-connect with the “ground reality” that exists in a third world country like Nepal.



Q. From your personal viewpoint, what changes do you think will make the selection committee’s work more efficient?

The work done by the area coordinators and volunteers out in the field was commendable. However, I feel that in a few cases, there was room for improvement in the way the applications were filled out by the volunteers. Sometimes, pertinent information was missing from student applications, which made it hard for the selection committee to make an informed decision. I can understand that collecting information for each of the applicants is a very difficult task for the volunteers. Many of the volunteers may need to take time off of work to have the time to search for deserving students and fill out their applications. I think NCEF should start thinking of providing financial

compensation to these volunteers for their time. I think this would also improve the application pool and make it easier for the selection committee to perform its task.

Q. In past issues we had interviewed other members of the selection committee.

Please share your experience working with these and other members of the committee?

There were instances during the selection process when members of the committee had differences in opinions. It was interesting to see and appreciate the fact that people can have differing viewpoints even on a seemingly simple and straightforward issue!

Q. General comments:

NCEF is a great example of how a small organization with relatively modest financial resources can make such a big difference in the lives of so many poor families in a country like Nepal.

As I have mentioned to some members of the selection committee, NCEF is a great example of how far money can go if a non-profit organization honestly dedicates itself to pursuing its goals. I think NCEF has set an example to many of the non-governmental organizations based in Nepal.