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Newsletter of 1st December 2008

Namasté,

First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Farid for those 4 years spent to make Nepalese children smile again. He accomplished a noble mission within Karya to welcome these children, to help them growing up with happiness and by totally respecting their culture.

For a little light in the back of the eyes, for an even more beaming smile, there was still something missing for these kids. So, Farid worked hard in order to track down families, recreating bonds with a mum, a dad, a sister, a brother, a grand-mother... Now, Farid wants to explore a new way but he is not abandoning Karya. He is still a member and a strong relation will always be there.

Karya - that also means many actions to increase public awareness in France. Exhibitions, slide-shows and Nepalese handcraft are available to organize events around humanitarian aid in Nepal. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to organize one of these events in your region.

Karya is also active within educational institutions as part of the "15 days of public school" or "International Solidarity Week" programme. A slide-show "Humlako keta keti" is inviting pupils and students to discover the story of a child from Humla.

Karya - this is you above all. You are reading our news, you are following our actions, you are supporting us and we are very grateful.

Christine, chairwoman,
For the Karya Team

➤ Farid's departure

« Namasté,

Around 4 years ago, I set my first foot in Nepal. I learnt how to discover a country with wonderful sceneries but with sufferings of all kinds. I was able to spend a lot of time and effort, helping children, particularly those who are victims of traffic. In 2006, we wished to go further in our action, to have an impact more important on Nepalese children's status. A fantastic project of reunification was born with the creation of Karya.

Today I have decided to retreat, to reduce my activities in order to think about my past experiences and to turn towards my own path of life. I need some time for reflection. Because of this, I will leave Nepal for some time in December.



Shared moments between Farid and the children living in Hattigauda

But I am still a member of the organization and I am still defending its values. I do not know if the writings sent through the newsletters are enough to make you understand what is being done for the children, but believe me, the impact of Karya is

significant and the organization deserves being supported.

Tens of smiles will be engraved in my mind. Karya makes it possible for some children to smile again after having starved, begged or been ill as well. And a wonderful team is there to carry on the work we have begun.

Farid”

➤ A new volunteer : Julien

Julien is 25 years old, he is working as a social worker, but he has taken a sabbatical year in order to follow a training to obtain a University Degree in Cooperation and Development.



Discussion in Humla between a family, Sandup (in the middle) and Julien (on the right)

So Karya is welcoming him as a volunteer to help him with his professional development. Julien’s mission within our organization will last for around 9 months. He arrived at the beginning of September 2008 and will leave in May 2009. In concrete terms, he lives with the children at “Karnali House” and also takes part in the actions carried out within the scope of our project of reunification of the families (he went to Humla with the children during the first trip).

➤ Closing down the transit home

After almost a year of activity, it has not been possible to set up the routine of the transit home. Initially, it was supposed to welcome children for a 3 months period maximum in order to allow a reunification with their family or to find a children home with another NGO if a reunification was not possible. Unfortunately, these 3 months were far too short to set up a stable situation for these kids. Now, the 10 children have been living there for almost one year, waiting for a more stable situation.

We’ve been looking for their families since the beginning. These children cannot be reunified with their families because they are too poor or because the situation is too complicated (death of one parent, remarriage...) to allow a secure return of the child. The problem is then to find a place in an existing children home, avoiding the separation of children who already have a common past.

That is the reason why we decided to close down the transit home for the moment. We decided to limit ourselves to the reunification of children under the responsibility of partner NGOs (such as VSN). This will then vacate some places in children homes in the Kathmandu Valley for kids who cannot be reunified.

The 10 children currently living at the transit home will stay under our responsibility until we find a home for them.



Karnali House: the former transit home.

➤ Karnali House !

Monsoon is over and the little daily troubles linked to the lack of water are starting again in Hattigauda: power cuts every day (up to 8 hours in the whole Kathmandu Valley), lack of water at home to have a shower or to clean the clothes...

The monsoon period had given us some time to find another house for these 21 children, but the increase of house prices did not help us at all.

In the end, the best solution was to bring together the 21 children from Hattigauda with the 10 children from the transit home.

Indeed, the transit home is big enough to welcome all the 31 children. There is no problem of getting enough water and the house has the advantage of being located in the middle of fields, with no tarred road, at a 20 minutes walk from school.

Therefore, during Tihar festival, the relocation was organized.



Devaka gave a big bag to each child to put his or her clothes, copybooks, books, pencils and his or her toys. After this, all the children cleaned up the whole house – with lots of support from Julien of course!

Loading the van – ready to move!

On Monday morning, a van arrived. Julien went to the future house with half of the children. Adeline and the other children stayed in Hattigauda to load the van. The older ones, Binod and Kamal, took matters into their own hands:

“Bring two writing tables and two benches... then the big bookshelf... now the bags to fill in the holes!.. Ok it’s full; we come back in half an hour for the next loading.”

We needed almost one day to move and many days to tidy up the new house – but all of this was done

with happiness and in a very good mood. The children from the previous “transit home” were delighted to see 21 new playmates arriving. The children could celebrate their arrival with the Tihar festival – during this festival children are dressing themselves up and go dancing and singing in front of houses in order to get some sweets and coins.



Dances for Tihar festival



Offerings to welcome the goddess Lakshmi who is blessing homes on the 3rd day of Tihar festival

This new house is still managed by Ganesh and Devaka who live there with their son. There are now two didis to do the housework and we are currently looking for a dai (big brother) to take care of the children during their free time (especially for the younger ones) and to help them with their homework.

Everyone racked one’s brain to find a lovely name for this house. In the end, it is going to be called **Karnali House**. Karnali is the biggest river of Humla and it is along that river that most of the children’s villages are situated (all are coming from this region except for 3 kids).

➤ Karya's involvement during the International Solidarity Week

The members of Karya decided to be active during the International Solidarity Week in France in order to increase public awareness on the issue of child traffic in Nepal as much as possible (Karya is affiliated to the Educational League). These actions will be carried on during the whole year of 2009. Karya is also member of the organization "Planète Village" coordinated by the "Fédération des Oeuvres Laïques" in Haute-Savoie, France.

For the opening of this week, Karya organized a one-day event to increase public awareness in Thyez (Haute-Savoie, France) on 15th of November. The afternoon began with an exhibition about Nepal, suggesting thoughts about humanitarian aid. Then, we approached the very emotional topic of child traffic by means of a slide-show "Humlako keta keti" telling about the story of little Dharma who became a traffic victim. The evening went on with a daal bhat (traditional Nepalese meal) and a documentary slide-show about Nepal.



"On Népalla pour rien", one-day event in Thyez (freely translated: "We are not here for nothing")

The event was a success and we could gather more than 1000€, the sum we need to run the children home for one month. We would like to thank the municipality of Thyez as well as the Municipal Office of Activities for welcoming and supporting us.

In order to reach a larger public, Karya organization decided to be active in the educational environment this year. Therefore, the exhibition

was set up for two weeks in the high school "Mont Blanc" in Le Fayet, Haute-Savoie, France.



Exhibition: "Yes to humanitarian aid but not without thinking", in the information and documentation center of the high school "Mont-Blanc" in Le Fayet, France.

From 8th of December, the exhibition will be set up in the high school "Pierre du Terail" in Pontcharra, Isère, France. On pupils' initiative, a one-week event about Nepal will be organized just before the Christmas holidays. It is going to be the opportunity for presenting slide-shows and discussing with pupils about child traffic in Nepal, about humanitarian aid and its consequences on the concerned country.

➤ Postcard selling

We remind you that the organization published a set of 8 postcards about Nepal.

This is a way of sending your best wishes to your family and friends and supporting our projects at the same time.



Set of 8 postcards

If you wish to buy or sell some postcards, do not hesitate to contact us via Karya's email address (8 postcards size 4x6 inches and 8 envelopes: 10€, carriage costs: 0,87€).

Thank you again for your support.

The whole Karya Team wishes you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

How to help those children...

Karya depends on sponsors to run its projects.

Here you can see what we can do with your donations...

- **Basic food** for a child for one month: 23 €
- **Education** in private school for a child for one year: 120 €
- **Total expenses** for a child for one year: 800 €
- **Water** for 25 children for one month: 60 €
- **Rent** of the house for one month: 150 €

Every Dollar can help us in Nepal!

If you wish to help us:

- **Internet (credit card):** safe donation with PayPal from our web site:
<http://association.karya.free.fr!>

- **Cheque:** to send to Karya at:
KARYA
57 Route de La Plaine
74300 THYEZ
France

Do not hesitate to visit our website or to contact us to get more information concerning our actions.

Thank you for your support!!!