



*Asian Heritage Foundation (AHF) Nepal, Newsletter 3, May 2011, [www.ahfnepal.org](http://www.ahfnepal.org)*

## **Necha Community Hospital welcomes its First Volunteer**

*In November 2010, Necha Community Hospital welcomed its first volunteer when New Zealand Registered Nurse Anne Taylor spent a month in Necha observing the workings of the hospital and assisting with staff education. Here is her report:*

“What does volunteering at Necha Community Hospital mean?

It means being welcomed with open arms into a community very grateful for its new hospital. It means staying with local people in their farmhouses, learning to live as the villagers do and discovering the unique warmth and kindness of the Nepali people.

Before I went to Necha, all my nursing experience had been in modern hospitals in developed countries and I wondered how well I would adapt to the very different conditions of rural Nepal. But I needn't have worried. Necha is fortunate to have a very dedicated staff led by Dr Robin, who has the difficult task of diagnosing medical conditions without a laboratory or an x-ray machine. The Auxiliary Nurse Midwives and Medical Assistants were cheerful, enthusiastic and

provided good nursing care despite having limited equipment. While I was there I was able to help them use the hospital's equipment and to teach good hygiene practices, effective wound care, and to offer help in the emergency room.



**Being welcomed to the hospital**

There were difficulties of course.

It is difficult to help a distressed patient to breathe when the oxygen concentrator can only provide a weak flow because of a poor power supply. Likewise, how do you clean a wound properly without hot water? Or remove sutures without proper lighting. Training the staff in small cramped rooms was also challenging while tracking consignments of medicines ordered from Kathmandu was frustrating.



### **A beautiful place to volunteer**

Despite these difficulties, my time in Necha was very rewarding. The beaming smiles of gratitude on the faces of the people we helped were humbling and I am looking forward to returning soon!"

*Postscript: Anne has just returned to Nepal and is delighted to see all the wonderful developments since her last visit. Please read on to see what's been happening...*

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If you wish to know more about volunteer opportunities with AHF please contact us at [www.ahfnepal.org](http://www.ahfnepal.org)



**My kind host, Nilam's mother (Amma)**

## **We're on the Move!**

The Necha Community Hospital has already outgrown its current premises and will shortly relocate to a bigger, better building. The new building will boast improved treatment and inpatient facilities while its central location near the Necha market will provide easier access for patients and their families.

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## **Managing the Changes**

Mr Kumar Adikheri has been appointed Manager of Necha Community Hospital. Kumar will be responsible for liaising between the Doctor, the Hospital Committee and the Foundation in addition to staff management and quality control. He will also supervise the ordering of medicines and stock for the hospital, and equipment maintenance.

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## **Let There Be Light**



Necha Hospital's new solar power system will soon be installed. Purchased with a very generous donation from the UNICA Foundation in The Netherlands, and designed specifically for our hospital, the plant will supply enough energy to provide adequate lighting, operate our new laboratory and our proposed x-ray machine.

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## Special Request:

### Telemedicine



To empower the local staff we wish to enable coordination with healthcare workers in other hospitals, and to

promote communication with stakeholders outside the hospital environment.

Connecting with other hospitals will help staff to share knowledge and evaluate difficult medical conditions. Connecting with suppliers, such as pharmaceutical suppliers, management experts and donors will help staff to manage and develop the hospital.

Key to coordination is communication through an online portal known as 'Telemedicine.' To get Telemedicine into Necha Hospital requires an internet connection. As the internet is not available in Necha we have to engineer a private connection.

The cost for three years is € 5000.

### Can you Help?

#### Staff Education

The AHF staff education programme is up and running! Two members of staff from Necha Community Hospital recently completed a 3 week placement at Dhulikhel Hospital.

Mr Bikram Rai and Miss Youba Dahal enjoyed their time at Dhulikhel Hospital. Both said they have developed their skills and are looking forward to delivering improved care on their return to Necha.

#### To make a donation:

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**Account number:** 458171

**Name of Company:** Asian Heritage Treks and Expeditions

##### In Nepal:

**Account Name :** Asian Heritage Foundation Nepal

**Account Number:** 01-2238489-01

**Bank Name:** Standard Chartered Bank Nepal Limited

**Swift Code:** SCBLNPKA

**Correspondent Bank:** Standard Chartered Bank London

In case of any queries, please contact us at [info@ahfnepal.org](mailto:info@ahfnepal.org).

**Thank you!!**

**AHF Nepal would like  
to thank our donors  
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With special thanks to Joakim  
Zetterberg, family and friends



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Helping AHF Nepal to help these children

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