



The Umbrella Foundation Newsletter ***May 2008***

Long live the Republic of Nepal!

May 28, 2008, was declared a national holiday in Nepal, and the masses lined the streets waving flags, waiting for the declaration to come from the newly elected constituent assembly, that Nepal is officially a Republic and that the rule of the 239 year old Shah Dynasty is over.



Art Auction in Dublin



Several well known Irish artists have pledged their support to Umbrella, in a bid to help us raise the vitally needed funds to continue our work.

Organised by sculptor Lettie Le Jeune and her son, Umbrella volunteer, Jonjo Le Jeune, the charity art auction will begin in the former Berkeley Court Hotel in Dublin on Tuesday, 10 June, 2008, by John de Vere White of deVeres Art Auctions.

We appeal to our supporters and art enthusiasts to come along and support us on the day by buying some magnificent art and raising money for Umbrella at the same time. Whether its oils, watercolours, or prints you prefer, there is sure to be something that appeals to everyone from the beginner to the seasoned collector alike. Paintings start from €200 and viewings will take place for several days before the auction. Without the help of John de Vere White or deVeres Art Auctions or indeed the artists who have kindly donated their work to charity, this event would not be possible. The money raised at the auction will be based on a percentage of the selling price and some artists have chosen to donate up to 100% of their sale proceeds. Umbrella would like to wholeheartedly thank everyone involved for their support and generosity.

***For further information about the auction,
please contact Lettie or Jonjo Le Jeune on
+ 353 863628478***

SILENT ART AUCTION & CHARITY PRIZE DRAW
In aid of The Umbrella Foundation, Nepal.

SATURDAY 7th - TUESDAY 10th JUNE
Venue: D4 Hotel (formerly The Berkeley Court Hotel),
Lansdowne Rd., Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

Supported by: de Vere White & Smith

Artists to be included:
James English, Sean Fingleton, Lorcán Walsh, John Brabbet, John Kingerler, John Behan,
Leo Higgins, James Le Jeune, Sarah Le Jeune, Elizabeth Le Jeune, Maria Levinge & Jackie Mitchell.

Prize Draw Tickets 100 euros
available to purchase during viewing of de Vere's sale.



1st Prize: 'Kote'
 (Bronze Sculpture, 2'6")
 Elizabeth Le Jeune.



2nd Prize: 'The Edinno Kist'
 Colonnade Harbour
 (Acrylic on Canvas, 12"x14")
 Jackie Mitchell.



3rd Prize: 'One Fine Day'
 (Oil on Board, 9"x13")
 Maria Levinge.

About Umbrella: For the last two years, Umbrella has focused exclusively on rescuing, housing and feeding trafficked and destitute children. Now that the civil war is over, however, Umbrella can focus on reuniting the children with their families where conditions permit or, when reunification is not possible, providing them with the education and vocational skills they need to ensure they can find gainful employment when they become adults. Now a new objective has been set in motion, but which still requires the strong support of sponsors: The Umbrella Village Project. This project will provide hundreds of orphaned, trafficked and conflict-displaced children with the education and vocational skills they need to be able to ultimately return to, repopulate, and rejuvenate their villages following the ten year civil war in Nepal. Nepal is over 90% agricultural; thus it is crucial that the children both live and learn relevant skills outside the polluted and overpopulated urban setting of Kathmandu. The village of Gurje is situated just 20 km north of the city, yet it is still virtually undeveloped, making it an ideal environment in which to teach Nepal's post-conflict generation the vocational skills they need to revitalise, and in some cases save, their rural communities.



The Umbrella Foundation
www.umbrellaneel.org
 Registered Charity number: chy17247

For more information please contact:
 Jojo Le Jeune, tel: 086 362 8478, email: jojo@jojojeune@gmail.com
 or Lydia Sasse, tel: 087 252 1031, email: lydia@sasse@yahoo.com.
 Cheques for Prize Draw Tickets should be made payable to:
 The Umbrella Foundation, Ireland,
 and addressed to: Umbrella Charity Draw,
 c/o Elizabeth Le Jeune, 71 Manor St., Dublin 7.

Dear friends of the Umbrella Foundation,

May has been a historical month in Nepal and one of reflection at Umbrella. With the children returning to school in April for the new school year, and the ever rising costs of staples, such as rice and cooking oil, Umbrella took its chance in the quieter month of May to reassess its financial plan, and to begin new initiatives to ensure the future financial security of the current 340 children currently in our care.

The Annual Cost of Sponsoring a Child

When we began our efforts to help destitute children in Nepal back in 2003, we set an annual sponsorship of 250 US dollars a year per child; the sum barely covered basic expenses at the time and we managed to pay the bills chiefly because of supporters like Dave Cutler and Harry Coogan, going the extra mile on fund raising and putting their hands in their own pockets.

In 2005, we raised the cost of a sponsorship to

500 US dollars a year, the dollar was at an all time high and we believed that this figure would allow us to maintain a decent standard for our children for years to come.



No doubt standards at Umbrella are high, with 340 children in residential care and 63 employees we have a 5 child to 1 staff ratio: not bad at all by any standards! Our children are excelling in school, their overall health is excellent: in short we are running a first-rate project here, just as we hoped we would!

World shortages of food, political and economic instability in Nepal have now derailed our plan and we find that 750 US dollars a year is closer to the ACTUAL cost of keeping a child at Umbrella—if we also hope to continue work on reunifying children with their families, and on creating vocational training opportunities for our older children in our Gurje Village Project, we need to raise around 1000 US dollars a year per child to actually cover our costs.



Umbrella's school feeding project in the village of Gurje in Nuwakot ensures 100% attendance rates

Matching Sponsorships

We believe that we have come up with a creative solution to this rising costs problem, which we appreciate is affecting people all over the planet.

To our sponsors who feel they can bear this extra cost, we invite you to increase your annual donation to 1000\$ (650Euro) (500 Sterling) or monthly standing order, to 80\$ (55Euro) (40 Sterling).

To our sponsors who cannot manage such an increase, we would ask your permission to seek “matching sponsorships” or “top-up sponsorships” from other individuals and organizations. If you currently pay 500\$ we would look for a matching sponsorship of 500\$, and if you currently sponsor at 250\$, we would seek a top-up sponsorship of 750\$.

We await your feedback, and invite your comments and suggestions on this plan. Write to us at umbrella@wlink.com.np

SolHimal and Umbrella

We hope our readers can find the time to check out SolHimal’s excellent website and read all about the admirable work they are doing, and have been doing for the past 20 years, in Nepal. www.solhimal.org

Our current exceptional batch of volunteers is working feverishly in our overcrowded offices to update all our child profiles. Using the laptops, donated by our recent visiting international schools, and using a Microsoft Access system, recently installed by Umbrella super-volunteer Barry Roberts, our volunteers are really turning our administration into the command central we’ve needed for a long time.



The children and staff of SolHimal Boys House

As well as supporting SolHimal Boys House and SolHimal Girls House (both administered by Umbrella) SolHimal and Umbrella plan to work together to find matching sponsorships for all our children.



The children and staff of SolHimal Girls House pose for a photo while playing at Sagarmatha Playground

A Half Anniversary for Umbrella and the Social Welfare Council

Umbrella is exactly half way through its five year project agreement with the Government of Nepal, and this month, Regina Thapa, the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Umbrella Organization, Nepal, Jacky Buk, Country Director of the Umbrella Foundation, Nepal, and a representative of the Social Welfare Council, met to review Umbrella’s work to date and to discuss Umbrella’s plans for the future. We are very proud of the excellent working relationship we have developed with both the Social Welfare Council and the Child Welfare Board and we look forward to continuing this excellent working relationship.

UNICA fuelling Umbrella

Umbrella is delighted to announce that through a generous grant of 10,000 Euro, we will soon begin work on the construction of 3 Bio-gas units, and solar energy units for 3 schools in Nuwakot near our project in Gurje.

On completion of the project the 3 schools and their 170 students will have gas to cook on and light to study by, and all done with sustainable, renewable, and eco-friendly energy.



Roy Voss of UNICA visits the site of the new project

The UNICA Foundation is based in Holland and supports bio-diversity projects in developing countries all over the world. Securing a grant of this kind takes a lot of commitment and effort and our hardworking director Jacky Buk is especially grateful to Eric Haynie, a long serving volunteer from California, for all his work on the grant proposal. Umbrella looks forward to implementing the project, which is scheduled to be completed in December 2008. Many thanks to UNICA, long-time friend of Planet Earth and now friend of Umbrella too; it feels great to help these children while preserving the environment for their children!

Umbrella Mini-Olympics

Olympic fever has reached Umbrella, and in the spirit of sportsmanship and athletic excellence the children of Ama Dablam House and SolHimal Girls House got together with a group of our dynamic volunteers for an afternoon of fun and games.



You could hear the squeals of delight for miles at our Umbrella mini Olympics at Ama Dablam House

Three-legged races, sack races, tug-of-war and all sorts of wonderful games were expertly led by our volunteers, and the children had a wonderful afternoon of friendly competition.

Farewell to Lizz Demarkar

Umbrella bid a fond farewell to our volunteer Lizz Demarkar, from Canada. Lizz will be much missed by all our children and staff, but she will be particularly missed at Ama Dablam House, where Lizz spent much of her time.

As well as being endlessly devoted to the children, Lizz also served as our Volunteer Coordinator, corresponding with new volunteers and helping them to settle in once they arrive. Thank you so much for coming to help us Lizz, we wish you good luck for the future and look forward to your next trip to Nepal.



The children made sure that Lizz received plenty of good luck tika at her farewell party

Feeding Ourselves in Gurje

Our Umbrella projects out in Gurje, a small village just 20 kms north of Kathmandu in the Nuwakot Valley, are going very well. We continue to provide a nutritious school lunch of rice, lentils, and vegetables to about 100 children every school day (and even on holidays) at the Gurje Village School there. Umbrella's agriculture project is also running well and more and more of the food we feed to the 100 school children of Gurje and the 340 children of Umbrella is being grown at our agriculture project in Gurje. We are not even close to being sustainable yet but it is now a real possibility in the future.



Fields of potatoes growing well in the excellent soil and climate out at our project in Gurje



Fields of cabbages growing not far from the school where they will be eaten!



If you would like to sponsor a child or have any questions about our projects, please do email us. Feel free to email us at the main office in Nepal or email your contact in your own country.

Nepal: To contact Jacky Buk or Viva Bell umbrella@wlink.com.np
Or Jackie McPherson at jackie@fhi.org.np

Ireland: Dave Cutler: theumbrellafoundation@yahoo.ie
Or Harry Coogan: harrycoogan@eircom.net

United Kingdom: Zoe Boyd: zoe.boyd@re3group.com

USA: Bryan Van Vranken: bryan.vanvranken@libertymutual.com

Italy: Lucia Tomba at luciatomba@virgilio.it

Germany: Sabina Starz at sabine.starz@web.de

Holland: Henny Coppens: ha.coppens@home.nl
Or Gerard Meeuwsen: tbartje@wlink.com.np



**The Umbrella children are so grateful to Nepal's very own number-one Internet provider
WORLD LINK**



The Umbrella Foundation Ltd: Ashford, Co. Wicklow, Ireland + 353-404-40309

Standing Order Application Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

You are authorized to set up a standing order on my/our account as specified below:

Bank Account Details

Account Name: _____

Bank Name: _____

Bank Address: _____

Sort Code: _____

Bank Current Account Number: _____

Signed Account Holder: _____

Date: _____

To The Bank Concerned:

Please arrange to have the sum of _____ paid monthly to:

Account Name: The Umbrella Foundation

Sort Code: 93.35.54

Account Number: 13636156

Account IBAN IE63 AIBK 9335 5413 6361 56

Account BIC AIBKIE2D

Bank Name: Allied Irish Bank

Address: Greystones Branch, Greystones, Co Wicklow, Ireland

Commencement Date: _____ Frequency Monthly Day 01



Making Donations to the Umbrella Foundation.

Sponsorship	NRPs	EURO	Sterling	US \$
Proposed Increase	67,000	650	500	1000
Full	36,000	400	300	500
Part	18,000	200	150	250
Monthly Standing Order	3,000	33	25	40
Proposed Increase	5,500	55	40	80
General donations are also very welcome				

Ireland Office

Make checks payable to: The Umbrella Foundation, Ireland.

Dave Cutler (Country Director), Ashford, Co. Wicklow, Ireland. Phone: +0404 40309

theumbrellafoundation@yahoo.ie

Telex transfers or standing orders to:

Allied Irish Bank, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

Acct Name: The Umbrella Foundation Acct# 13636156 Sort Code 93.35.54

Account IBAN IE63 AIBK 9335 5413 6361 56 Account BIC: AIB KIE2D

UK Sterling Account

Account: The Umbrella Foundation, Ltd. GBP CURRENT ACCOUNT

Allied Irish Bank, 11 OLD JEWRY, LONDON EC2 8DP

Sort Code: 23 - 85 - 90 Account No: 10178046 Tran/code 85

Account IBAN GB22 AIBK 23859010178046 Account BIC: AIB KIE2D

Nepal Office

Send SWIFT transfers directly from your bank account to:

Account Name: The Umbrella Foundation, Nepal

Himalayan Bank Ltd, Tridevi Marg, Kathmandu, Nepal

Swift: HIMANPKA Account number: 01901112790013

USA Office-

Bryan M. Van Vranken --Wings of the World, Inc.

JP Morgan Chase Bank

ACCT: 151193997665

ROUTING: 021000021

TAX ID: 20-4622899

(Phone) 803-315-3090

(E-Mail) info@wingsotw.org WEBSITE: www.wingsotw.org

PLEASE EMAIL US IF YOU MAKE A PAYMENT OR HAVE ANY PROBLEMS MAKING A PAYMENT

It's better to light a candle than curse the darkness