



TOUCH Ireland is a totally voluntary charity with no salaries paid to any member. 100% of donations for our projects go to our projects.

Asia Trip November 2018

Our trip to Sri Lanka and Nepal this year was as busy as always but a very fruitful trip as you will see in this Christmas edition of our newsletter.

We aim to give as good an overview of our trip, as possible, so that you can see that all the hard work you do to raise funds really does make a huge difference. To all our volunteers and supporters both at home and abroad, thank you for being with us as we reach the end of our 20th Anniversary.

Without your input and dedication to TOUCH Ireland, we would never have been able to help so many children, young adults and families.

Thank you!

Happy Christmas & we wish you all a peaceful New Year. Seamus & Pauline

Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter '18

TOUCH Ireland Emergency Christmas Appeal 2018

Christmas is a time of Love and Giving! Giving is Love in Action

I hope you are all well and getting set for Christmas! As you can see Pauline and I just returned from a visit to projects in Asia which included The Ladani Orphanage supported by TOUCH.

But unfortunately there is an emergency, the roof of the Girls Dorm and their Study Room is leaking very badly. It is still the Rainy Season there so the roof needs to be repaired as soon as possible. This will cost €1,650.00 approx.

So hopefully you and some of your friends can support this emergency appeal and make this a very Special Christmas and an Extra Happy New Year for the Children of Ladani.

Our first day working day in Sri Lanka in a temperature of 29 degrees and humidity of 92% we went to visit the girls in Ladani Home, Kurenagala. We were given a big Sri Lankan welcome as always which included the TOUCH band performance. Some of the older girls that were there last year are now back living with their extended families after gaining employment or skills training courses. So we were greeted by some new girls and made new friends in Ladani and shared gifts.



We began our second day early to go shopping for the girls in Ladani; shoes were top of the list followed by nightdresses. Happily we managed to get everything and had our party with the girls giving out the presents. In the afternoon we all went to the Cinema to see a Sri Lankan film about sport heroes. We also visited the children in the Ladani Dharma School for Special Needs Children. We had a lovely welcome from the children with singing and gifts of flowers. Our annual visit is really important as TOUCH Ireland with support from the Law Library of Ireland sponsors the education of these young girls.

Donate to TOUCH Ireland

You can donate by PayPal on the TOUCH Ireland Website: <http://touchireland.net/>

By Cheque made out to TOUCH Ireland or by Cash

Please send your Donation to TOUCH Ireland, 17 Monread Meadows, Naas, Co. Kildare

We left Sri Lanka arrived in Kathmandu, Nepal for the second part of our trip.

Child Sponsorship - Jalbire

Our visit to meet the children from Jalbire started at 06.00 am to travel up the hills of Kathmandu. Unfortunately we could not travel to the village to visit the school as the roads were too bad again. So we had arranged to meet the children at the same resort as last year and we stopped half way to buy 20 winter coats, hats, gloves and pairs of socks. When the children came from school they had their lunch first and drinks as they were starving. They played football and tennis and on the swings. Some went swimming in the pool which was a bit on the cold side but it didn't bother the children. They were all happy with their new coats, gloves and socks as the weather is getting cold now especially up in the hills.



Then it was time for Games and more drinks before they headed back home tired but happy from their day. These children that went through such a hard time following the earthquake are doing so well now thanks to the child sponsorship from TOUCH Ireland and the help of our friends in Nepal.



Our Young Friends at TOUCH House

As always we were given a lovely warm traditional welcome to TOUCH House. We gave the presents we had from all our friends at home and the children put on their usual welcoming show of singing and dancing mixing Modern and Nepali dance moves. Then it was time for fun and games and they were not games we had played before so it was great laugh with all the children and teenagers.



Our second day a visit to the cinema was the treat the children and young adults from TOUCH House wanted and so we all headed off to see 'The Crimes of Grindewald'. The fact that it was in 3D made it very exciting and brought the whole cinema alive. There were a lot of gasps and laughs from everyone and this added to the atmosphere. Popcorn and drinks were had during the interval and so the visit to the cinema was complete. After the film the children were still hungry and they were looking forward to Pizzas, chips and drinks.

New Project in Kathmandu- 'Twin Otters'



On a bright sunny morning we went to visit the site for a new project TOUCH Ireland is now involved with in conjunction with 'Help Nepal Rise Again' Monty's Restaurant (Dublin), Dinesh and Birendra both of whom are our contacts in Kathmandu and who help us with our other projects.

This new project in Kathmandu for street children is called 'Twin Otters Foundation'.

At the moment there are 11 boys who have come through rehabilitation from alcohol abuse and glue sniffing and they are living in a rented ground floor with a family who are looking after them. The construction for the new house is well underway and being constructed with earthquake proof specifications. There will be 2 dormitories, Kitchen, bathroom, toilets, storeroom and Guardians room. We met with the Committee and discussed setting up a child sponsorship scheme to help the boys with their education.



Winter Warmth for the boys in 'Twin Otters'

As a treat we took the boys to an amusement centre where they played video games, bowling, table football and other amusements. They too went for pizzas and drinks after the day and they had really worked up an appetite.

They needed winter coats and cosy shoes to keep their feet warm during Kathmandu's winter months and we had great fun in the market buying everything they needed.

It is hard to believe that these boys were living on the streets and dealing with all the troubles that the life style on the street brings! They are so deserving of our love and kindness as all children are!



What to do in Kathmandu!

To complete our trip we also met with some of our third level students, Astha, Puja Shavyata, Esther, Surju BK, Rita, Sushmita and Sonu.

They are all doing well and it's great to be part of this chapter in their lives. While it is lovely to treat them to something special while we are here, it is also very important to see how they are getting on in school, college and University as their education is sponsored by TOUCH Ireland.



So meeting the individual children/young adults to discuss how their education is progressing is a priority. It is also important that they feel secure in their education support from TOUCH Ireland and that they know we are with them into their future

Misisi Community School, Lusaka, Zambia

Misisi Compound is a [shanty town](#), which is located in [Lusaka, Zambia](#). Misisi has been identified as one of the five worst slums in Sub Saharan Africa. Due to a lack of resources there has been poor record keeping, but according to best estimates, there are between 80,000 and 90,000 people living in the area.



During our trip to Zambia in April/May we visited Misisi Compound in the heart of Lusaka to see a 'The Cherise Foundation' project. This project is a school in the middle of a compound that is badly in need of upgrading and could do with an extra new school block. We met with some of the Community members and Teachers. This community struggles in a very dignified manner to raise their children in an extremely poor environment.



As a result of our visit TOUCH Ireland as agreed to build a new School Block in Misisi starting in 2018.



To date funds have been sent to build the foundations for a New School Block, Library/Kitchen & Toilets for the Vulnerable Children of Misisi. Here we see photos of the Foundation Trenches just finished!!

Sanghamitta Seba Sangha Orphanage, Bangladesh

Extract from Report as received!! It is happily update the report to the TOUCH Ireland. I am paying respect to you & you're Groups. Organization try to have support from national and international donor try to ensure quality education to 172 poor and disadvantaged children of Bandarban Hill District. who are belonging to tribal minority community providing necessary facilities like; accommodation, food, education, Medicare, recreation and cultural facilities.

Food & Education for children: Children were happy to have sufficient food. Now the children are healthier with more strength. We are very pleased to provide them regular food. The previous situation is improving day by day.



We express our heartiest gratitude and thanks to Touch Ireland and your kind

hearted friends for kind support toward removing the food insecurity and helping education. Best Regards, Paimong Marma



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Just another Crutch! Or Not!!

https://s3.amazonaws.com/PublishedCobl.../cmf/Donation_2.mp4...



I dedicate this video to all involved in TOUCH Ireland with the delivering of support through our Aid Containers. There is always a lot of hard work and cold days sourcing and packing items for our containers. How many times have we heard someone shout out 'More Crutches'!! When we see the result of support and joy they can give to people that have to use a wooden stick we must treat crutches like Gold in the future!

This shows the power of us all working together here in Ireland and the Cherise Makubale Foundation in Zambia to make people's lives a bit better. Thanks to George for delivering these items to Chipata, this is about 800Km from Lusaka.

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