



Newsletter

Tewa

April– June 2017
Volume 1, Issue 2

A celebration program was organized to honor Rita Thapa, Founder of Tewa for being appointed as the Chair of Global Found for Community Foundations. The program was conducted at Tewa at the Kamla Hall with 33 Participations including Board Members, Members, Volunteers and International guests.

Some of the guests present were Friends of Rita and Tewa.

The program highlighted the work of Global Fund for Community Foundation and its important work on community philanthropy around the world. It was a very honorable and prestigious moment for Tewa to be honoring Rita our Founder , who has relentlessly worked for the last 3 decades for the empowerment of women . Her sensitivity , vision, farsightedness , continuous dedication for women's rights and strong belief in feminism was much appreciated and applauded. A speaker even commented that Rita's humility in not being in the limelight in any leadership roles whether in organizations or politics is her true strength which shines even brighter and is a light to all.

On the same occasion NRs 335,000.00 (\$ 33,500.00) was collectively raised by Board Members, Members and Staff and handover over for the building of Aanandi 3.



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SHADOW BAREFOOT VOLUNTEERS CLOSURE

Shadow Barefoot Volunteers/ Hamro Tewa Gaon Gharma Earthquake Recovery and Rebuilding Program had its closure on May 2017. The program continued for 23 months in Gorkha (Barpak), Sindupalchowk (Chautara), Dhading (Salyantar), Ramechhap (Manthali), Lalitpur (Dharmasthali) and Kathmandu (Jharuwarashi).

A closing meeting was conducted on 26th May, 2017 at Tewa premises. The program was conducted in the presence of Rita Thapa - Founder of Tewa, Nirmala KC- President of Tewa, Urmila Shrestha - Executive Director of Tewa, all program staffs including international donor representatives - Jenny Hodgson from Global Fund for Community Foundations, Phil and Chris from Big Lottery UK.

The Barefoot Volunteers from all 6 districts shared their achievements, challenges, success stories and unique experiences.

Nirmala Gupta, volunteer of Gorkha, shared her experience about challenges and achievements. Their entry in the community at the beginning was seen suspiciously which changed after few months of work activity and it turned into trust and environment of sisterhood. Women felt safe sharing their personal experience and trauma and were educated on different issues like Women's Human Rights, Gender Based Violence, Violence against Women, Gender Equality, Women Empowerment, Women Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, etc. Apart from that, the women's group formations have brought tremendous change amongst local women and communities. Women now had better clarity and learned importance of saving money and control over resources, being self reliant and self confident. They now talk about many social, cultural and economical issues that hinder women status quo. Besides, there has been a change in the attitude of local people towards these women's groups who are now capable of lending money to others. Basically, these women's groups were provided with NRs 50,000.00 to 10 women groups during the initial phase of the program which has now turned to NRs 1500,000.00 (USD 15000.00). They are now able of administrating savings and credit in the local community. They have also been revolving hen, duck and sheep rearing on regular basis and were able to administer credits. They also provide loan from that money. They have been involved in a revolving scheme where animals, and livestock are given on a revolving basis to the poorest members of the community as a means of earning a living.

Money is borrowed for house making or animal husbandry purpose. At present, they are able to offer loan upto NRs 90,000.00. These changes have brought confidence and trust in the local community where assets are built within themselves.

There was also a good interaction between Jenny Hodgson and the Shadow Bare Foot volunteers.

Jenny mentioned how their work has inspired her to write a story about them and share it to the global community which has admired the work of the Shadow Bare-foot Volunteers.

Social Welfare Council (SWC) Monitoring Visit for Shadow Barefoot Volunteers was conducted on 17th May, 2017 at Tewa Premises. Also, a team of two Officers from SWC visited Sindupalchowk on 23rd June, 2017.



GRANT MAKING UNIT

On 4th May 2017, Grantee Capacity Orientation was conducted for grantee partners of Gorkha, Dhading, Ramechhap and Kavre. Global Fund for Community Foundations (GFCF) grant was specially focused on earthquake survivor grantee partners where Grantee partners were oriented about the initiatives. Some of the topics discussed during the program were - values, community philanthropy, trust, ownership, transparency. The real strength of the community is the local people where the fund is intended to get invested. Topics like rights, power, resources and cooperation in the community were flagged for open discussion. It is hoped that the orientation would support their projects. The grants were focused on the Social- Political, Economic, Legal Empowerment, Health Rights of Women. Grants were handed over to 4 organizations from 4 different districts.

S. No.	Organization Name	District/ Development Region	Grant Theme	Grant Amount
1	Digo Samudayik Bikash Kendra Gorkha	Gorkha/ WDR	1. Socio -Economic Empowerment & Rights 2. Women's Political Rights	300,000.00
2	Mahila Sanjal Nepal	Ramechhap/ CDR	1.Socio -Economic Empowerment & Rights	300,000.00
3	Didibahini Mahila Krishi Sahakari Sanstha Ltd.	Dhading/CDR	1.Socio -Economic Empowerment & Rights and VAW	300,000.00
4	Shree Saraswoti Naari Chetana Bachat tatha Rin Sahakari Sanstha Ltd	Kavre/CDR	1.Socio -Economic Empowerment & Rights 2. Health Rights 3. Women's legal Rights	300,000.00
Total Recommended Amount				1,200,000.00



Similarly 16 regular grants(Aadhar, Samman and Surakshya (Discretionary)) were disbursed in Dang, Dhanusa, Dhanakuta, Udaypur, Rupeandehi, Ramechhap, Lalitpur, Dhading, Bajura and Kathmandu on women empowerment issues and activities.

Meet our Grantee Partner

Juna Rana Magar – a journey of a women activist from humble beginnings to a Leader!

Juna Rana Magar started her career with a Forest Preservation Program in Dhading district 22 years ago. She is now the President of Didibahini Mahila Krishi Sahakari Sanstha Ltd. – an organization which has been working for the awareness and advocacy of violence survivor women, sexual harassment survivors of Dhading. Their special focus is on people with disabilities, orphan children, single women and survivor women of trafficking and violence.

Didibahini Mahila Krishi Sahakari Sanstha was provided a grant by Tewa to conduct awareness programs on the issues of women's right and awareness in 2014/2015. According to Juna, the impact made from the training is noteworthy as women are now talking about violence against women, and they are aware that any such act is a crime. Prior to these program, domestic violence was taken as part of their day to day culture, and women were unaware about their rights. They did not know whom to reach out to in case of violence. After talking with the women's group who took the training, she explained that the situation is different now as there a noticeable change in their attitude. They are also teaching their children and neighbors about the different causes of violence, and the addressal systems in case of violence. The organization has successfully established a small survivor shelter home with the support from Woman and Children Administrative Office Dhading, which also supported by Tewa. They have also been able to receive funds from international organizations like UNICEF.



In 2016/2017, she was further granted a grant of Rs300,000.00 from which she has committed to do activities like -

1. Leadership development and public speaking training
2. Skills development training
3. Awareness on human trafficking
4. Legal services to violence survivor women
5. Providing core support

The organization also aims to enhance opportunity at local level by making women capable with skills and knowledge to be independent. For her dedication and contribution towards anti-trafficking activities at local level she was also honored with an award from the District level as a recognition towards her contribution.

Her goal to eradicate human trafficking from her district has made her very popular at the local level and she decided to stand in the recent local election in May 2017. This turned out to be the right decision as she won the local elections as the Ward Member. Her motivation now has grown even stronger than before. Talking to one of our staffs, Juna said "I will work for the benefit of women and children, and my special focus would be towards children and women with disabilities from far remote areas where no one has ever reached out to them. My first priority would be to educate them and provide them with skills".

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

The children of today are the future of tomorrow; with this powerful statement, comes the responsibility to mold the character of our children in order to bring out the best in them. With the aim to embrace Tewa's work of community philanthropy to the future generation, it started the Children's Program in 2007. The program provides a platform for the children of Dhapakhel and nearby areas for their personal growth, to learn and understand philanthropy, women empowerment, equality and gender discrimination, and most importantly, moral values. Besides, it has played a role to bridge between the community and Tewa.

On the occasion of 10th year anniversary of the Program, a mini carnival was organized at Tewa premises on Monday, 29th May, 2017. The program was coordinated by Tewa volunteers- Sarada Gurung, Tara Thapa and Pragya Maharjan. The program was organized to encourage and motivate children to believe in their creativity and promote the program.

The celebration was full of fun with games, food stalls and cultural programs. Cultural dance was performed by our children of Children Program- Mansu KC, Nirjala Acharya, Shejal Karki, Rosy Maharjan and Nelima Basnet. Similarly, a song was presented by Sapana Lama and Bibek Lama. Puspika Thapa, who gave the welcome speech to more than 200 visitors in the carnival, said how the program has helped her build new friends and inculcate values of modern philanthropy and community development.



Children today are obsessed with gadgets where holistic development is not possible these kinds of platforms gives children opportunities to explore their creativity.

HAAT BAZAAR

Haat Bazaar is a fund raising event conducted by Tewa every year as a unique way of fund raising. At the Haat Bazaar we put stalls of clothes, cosmetics, jewelry and other items donated by friends of Tewa and sell it in a common market place. The funds raised will be given as grants to the most marginalized groups of women through our grant making program.

This year, Haat Bazaar was conducted on Saturday, 20th May, 2017 near Bangalamukhi Temple, Lalitpur where there were hundreds of visitors. There was also good participation from volunteers, grantees and community people of Dhapakhel. Board Members and staffs contributed equally to make this event possible.

The event provided a good platform to demonstrate Tewa's work. Visitors learnt about Tewa's goal behind the event and were glad to buy items on reasonable prices. Besides clothes stalls, there were food stalls, jewelries stalls, drinks stalls, bag and shoes stalls. Stalls were organized by our grantee partners and volunteers.

The total funds raised from the event was NRs 61,000.00 (USD 610.00) which marks the success of the event as this is the highest amount raised through such events so far.



VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM



Volunteer Exposure visit for the volunteers of 2015-2016 was conducted at Nepal Muslim Maheela Kalyan Samaj, Bagbazar.



Similarly a picnic to appreciate the Volunteers contribution and efforts, for solidarity and bonding as well as further engagement was conducted on Saturday, 3rd June at Osho Tapoban where 32 volunteers participated.

A three days volunteer training program was conducted at Tewa from 27th -29th June, 2017. This is the 44th batch of Volunteers training that has been conducting since 1996. This year we have 16 volunteers from all walks of life contributing to the training including 13 female and 3 men.

The objective of the program is to develop modern philanthropy and advance feminist philanthropists who can give it back to the community.

The training illustrated the value, vision and mission of Tewa. Volunteers were educated about modern philanthropy and its value that can pave roadmaps for the development of community and the country. Apart from that the training highlighted the core issues like Women Empowerment, sustainability, Feminism, Gender Equality and etc. The training provided opportunity for participants to meet grantee partners working on different women empowerment. Similarly, participants volunteers met with Nepali donors, volunteers highlighted on the impact made by local fundraising.

Volunteers Training Program is a two -way learning process where volunteers learn about the value, mission, vision and goal of Tewa. Whereas for Tewa, it is an opportunity to share the concept of modern Philanthropy to the young and enthusiastic participants motivated for community philanthropy. Volunteers act as a catalyst to inspire the local community to value the power of giving for women's empowerment.

TEWA CENTER

This June, Tewa and TC staff participated to plant rice in their new plot of land. This was the first time rice was planted in Tewa's land. Tewa staff immersed themselves in the slush and enjoyed themselves thoroughly, looking forward to next year's rice planting day! Everyone said they connected with nature and it also helped in team building.

Out gardens are producing a good share of fresh vegetables and other farm products. Around 155 kg of potatoes and 144 kg of wheat were harvested this season besides greens. In the last 3 months alone, TC has sold in-house, organically grown vegetables and fruits worth NRs 14,450.00.

Tewa Center (TC) was the venue for a number of national and international organizations to host their programmes. In the reporting period 14 organizations hosted their programmes. Every visitor expressed and appreciated the warm hospitality, services, and delicious healthy meals. All visitors loved the peaceful ambience TC offers. Both I/NGOs and even the foreign universities with their counterpart Nepali universities are using the TC and they have promised to continuously use the TC in the coming days as well.

