



# Tewa

## Volunteers' Voice

Quarterly Bulletin

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### EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

It is my pleasure to be a part of the Tewa Volunteers' Voice Publication and I am grateful to my team and Tewa's Fundraising Volunteer Program officer Urmila Shrestha for believing in me and giving me this opportunity to encourage our volunteers, well-wishers and supporters through this publication.

Our team is working on making the Volunteers' Voice even more effective and informative and we hope you will help us in this by giving us good feedback in the future. From now on, we have also decided to publish three out of four issues in Nepali, to reach

the maximum number of targeted readers within our volunteer community and beyond.

We have been highly inspired and moved in recent months by the initiative women, and men, have taken in Nepal and globally to raise a voice against violence against women: Occupy Baluwatar, Delhi Rape Protests, One Billion Rising and so on. We therefore present to you glances into some of the efforts.

In this bulletin, we have also showcased one grantee group, recently awarded with Tewa's Founder's Fund grant to remind ourselves why the work that we do for Tewa is important. An update of Tewa's award winning volunteers from 2012 and a list of Volunteers' Voice Endowment Fund donors are also included. Through this publication, and on behalf of the team, I urge all our readers to contribute whatever amount you can to the Endowment Fund. This endowment will allow us to continue publishing this newsletter with no additional burden on Tewa, to allow for important information sharing between the volunteers to continue and for the work that we do for Tewa to be highlighted. We look forward to your support

Thank you.

**Sharati Devi Ranjit**

### Grant Making Information

Total Amount Disbursed as Grants

NRs. 1,93,37,259

No. of Grants Disbursed: 422

No. of Districts Reached: 65

### Volunteers' Voice Endowment Fund

Target: Rs. 5,00,000 in 2 years

Amount Raised Till Date : Rs. 3,48,502.00

## Where There is a Will.....

"Where there is a will there is a way". This proverb was brought to life by Tewa's board and general members, volunteers, supporters and well wishers who donated their own jewelry to honor Tewa's Founder Rita Thapa on the 10th successful anniversary of the organization. The amount raised has been put into the Founder's Fund, which allows for one grant of Rs 1 Lakh to be given each year to one outstanding women's organization.

On the occasion of International women's Day 2013, this grant was given to Women Forum For Women In Nepal (WOFOWON), an organization working with women in the entertainment sector in Kathmandu: dance bars, massage parlors, dohari restaurants amongst others. They have been advocating for fair wages and better treatment by employees, landlords and state actors, as well as spreading awareness about women's rights and laws through cultural events. They have also tried providing child care for the children of mothers working late nights but who cannot find adequate support for their children in their absence. The horror stories of children left behind, or taken along, is simply heartbreaking !

With these funds, WOFOWON plans to organize awareness programs, do capacity building and organizational development training for its members and plan a pressure and protest program, and an interaction program with various stakeholders. They hope these activities will ultimately lead to greater legal protection for women working in the entertainment sector.

## Volunteers' Contributions to the Sampanna Campaign



Pooja Upadhaya ('10) encouraged her mother-in-law Sarala Upadhaya to contribute to the Sampanna Campaign



Santosh Giri Gurung ('11) donated in the memory of her uncle Late. Shankar Bahadur Pandey



Janaki Shrestha ('08) together with her husband Dinesh Lal Shrestha, became donors of the Sampanna Campaign



Bishnu Thapa ('08) supported the Sampanna Campaign along with her husband D.B. Thapa

## Donor List- Volunteers' Voice Endowment Fund

1. Sunil Basnet
2. Sheetal Shakya Bjracharya
3. Sumitra Manandhar
4. Bimala Basnet
5. Kiran Sharma
6. Ranu Bhattarai
7. Irina Shrestha
8. Bisnu Thapa
9. Sheela Vaidya
10. Meena Gurung
11. Sharati Devi Ranjit
12. Urmila Shrestha
13. Susma Khatri Ranjit
14. Rosana Awale
15. Janaki Shrestha
16. Mukta Srivastab
17. Babita Shrestha
18. Mona Shakya
19. Shreejana Thapa Pathak
20. Riva Thapa
21. Dr. Suman Thapa
22. Puspa Awale
23. Shreejana K.C.
24. Tara Thapa
25. Pooja Sharma
26. Rumila Maharjan
27. Muna Shrestha
28. Sharmila Shrestha
29. Mallika Joshi
30. Rebecca Shrestha
31. Lata Poudel
32. Durga Adhikary
33. Sita Dhungel
34. Sharada Gurung
35. Rama Shrestha
36. Janaki Shah
37. Shreejana Jyoti
38. Brijju Bista
39. Anima Shrestha
40. Meera Jyoti
41. Sarala Shrestha
42. Lily Shrestha
43. Anjana Rajbhandari
44. Alpha Saving/& Credit Cooperative
45. Amita Adhikary
46. Atamaram Thapa
47. Anu Manandhar
48. Sabita Arjayal
49. Lalita Subba
50. Laxmi Bhadra
51. Kafu Khadka
52. Narayan Shrestha
53. Pooja Upadhaya
54. Sadhana Shrestha
55. Laxmi Bhadra Ojha
56. Shree Badan Shrestha
57. Kafu Khadka
58. Kamala Pradhan
59. Rita Tamang
60. Babita Shrestha
61. Saraswoti Thapa
62. Aruna Rajbhandari
63. Megh Bahadur Dahal
64. Bhai Raja Basnet
65. Subarna Prakash Singh
66. Suman Maharjan
67. Rama Raja Basnet

**"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead**

## ONE BILLION RISING (OBR) Campaign



On 14th February 2013, (Valentine's Day) celebrated playwright Eve Ensler's organization V-Day turned 15. To celebrate the anniversary of the organization she founded, Eve Ensler embarked upon a global campaign to spread awareness and to end violence against women and girls. The campaign, ONE BILLION RISING (OBR), encouraged men and women to strike ! dance ! and rise! in order to celebrate women and to take a stand against violence.

The campaign was designed to show collective strength and solidarity and to highlight the issue of violence against women and girls. Research shows that one in three women around the world are violated at any given time, a horrific statistic presented by the UN which motivated Ensler, most famous for her award winning play the Vagina Monologues, to launch the largest global movement to end violence against women and girls. The idea was that if there are roughly three and half billion women in the world a modest estimate of the number of women who face violence surpasses a billion therefore one billion rising. This event was celebrated in more than 200 countries by organizing special walks, dances and by simply rising up and demanding an end to the violence.

Tewa celebrated February 14th by helping organizing and being a part of OBR Nepal. The celebrations were linked with the volunteer driven Occupy Baluwatar Movement, which was protesting against symbolic cases of violence and injustice against women in Nepal. At 9:00 am, volunteers, organisations, artists and well wishers arrived at Baluwatar. Thousands attended to express their solidarity. At 11 am, a rally going from

Baluwatar to Shanti Batika in Ratna Park began. Participants marched with placards and banners with slogans to highlight various issues of VAW, and stopped in strategic locations to make symbolic protests. In front of the police headquarters, the rallyists yelled out "Guhar! Guhar!" (Help! Help!). In Durbar Marg, a visual art performance was put on for all to see. Finally, at Shanti Batika, three thousand balloons (white, red and pink), of which the red and pink balloons symbolized violated women, were released. Tewa was represented by her Board, General Members, staff, grantee partners and volunteers. When the OBR celebrations ended in the city, some of Tewa's staff and volunteers also attended a flash-mob performance in front of Krishna Mandir in Patan. The occasion was joyous and represented the true spirit of the OBR campaign with women and men dancing to the tunes of Break the Chain (OBR's anthem) and a remixed version of 'Yo Man Ta Mero Nepali Ho'!

Tewa's grantee partner organizations also celebrated OBR in their own districts. Twelve organizations from Banke, Baglung, Kapilbastu, Baitadi, Khotang, Rupandehi, Dang, Bajhang, Lamjung, Ilam, and Jumla districts celebrated by organizing various colourful programs like assembling in prominent places and expressing their outrage through songs, dance, signature collection campaigns and demanding an end to violence against women. In some districts the program was also aired through the local FM radio stations to raise maximum awareness. These activities highlighted VAW in creative ways, and showed strength and solidarity against such acts.



### Guns and roses

An Occupy Baluwatar campaigner offers rose to armed police standing guard outside PM residence. (Upendra Lamichhane)



**"This is my body, my body's holy; No more excuses, no more abuses; We are mothers, we are teachers; We are beautiful, beautiful creatures" chorus from OBR anthem, Break the Chain.**

## Upcoming Fundraising Programs

- \* Tewa Spring Fest
- \* Shanti Deep Prajwalan
- \* Cycle Rally and Tree Plantation

## Upcoming Event

- \* Volunteer Training  
June 23-25, 2013

## New Committee for year 2013 - 2014



**Sharati D. Ranjit**  
Editor



**Sunil Basnet**  
Co-Editor



**Laxmi Ojha Bhadra**  
Member



**Shreejana K.C.**  
Member



**Sushma Khatri Ranjit**  
Member

### Support team:

Sheetal Shakya Bajracharya  
Sarala Shrestha  
Sharda Gurung



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# Tewa Volunteers' Award

Tewa Volunteer Awards were initiated in 1997. So far four recognition awards have been instituted, two by Tewa's members, one by Tewa herself and the last one by a well-wisher and donor.

### Quick Facts about Tewa Volunteer Awards:

**Tewa Outstanding Volunteer Award:** This award was instituted by Tewa to honor one outstanding volunteer each year who has blazed the trail with her/his exceptional participation and support over the years. 2013 recipient: Babita Shrestha ('09)



Award winner  
**Babita Shrestha**

### Amir Thapa Award:

This award was instituted by former Tewa member, and Founder Executive Director of WHR, Lily Thapa in memory of her late husband Dr. Major Amir Thapa. This award is given to the volunteer who raises the largest amount of funds for Tewa during her/his mentoring period. 2012 recipient: Kiran Shrestha ('12)



Award winner  
**Kiran Shrestha**

### Birendra Shrestha Award:

This award was instituted by Tewa's current President, Sadhana Shrestha, in memory of her late husband, Birendra Shrestha, who always had a very keen interest in social work. This award is given to the volunteer who raises the maximum amount of donations from the maximum number of donors during her/his mentoring period. 2012 recipient: Bhawani Newa ('12)



Award winner  
**Bhawani Newa**

### "Master" Adhya Prasad Pradhan Award:

This award was instituted by Mrs. Narayan Devi Picton, in loving memory of her late father, who was a teacher ("Master" is a honorific term for a teacher in Nepali). Adhya Prasad Pradhan was a strong believer in equality and respect for women. This award is given to a volunteer who has been supporting Tewa consistently for a long period of time. 2012 recipient: Sunil Basnet ('99)



Award winner  
**Sunil Basnet**

## 2013 Volunteers (1st Batch)

From L to R:  
Smitri Sharma  
Pratima Shakya  
Babita Shrestha  
Sharvesh Raj Sharma  
Archana Karna  
Indira Khati (Pariyar)  
Urmila Shrestha (Tewa Staff)  
Tripti Bataju  
Nirmala Gurung  
Sumita Rai  
Nirmala KC (Tewa Board)  
Aruna Rajbhandari  
Soniya Rai  
Saraswati Thapa (not pictured)

