

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

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BACKGROUND

Community Members Interested (COMMITTED) was incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia on March 12, 2004 as a non-profit and non-stock corporation. COMMITTED's primary goal is to assist local governments of Nepal to provide health, safety, and welfare to their communities.

Even before it was officially organized, COMMITTED was involved in projects that helped establish its long term goal. We have so far implemented four small projects. The Board of Directors and the administrative team are currently volunteers, and the achievement, considering the available time in hand, is commendable.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

- *Jogimara Victims Relief Fund (2002)*

Community Members Interested raised \$1,200 to provide financial relief to seventeen families of Jogimara, Dhading District, Nepal. A mass mail fund raising campaign was organized targeting U.S. residents of Nepali origin in the Washington DC Metropolitan area. Mr. Mohan Mainali of the Center for Investigative Journalism based in Kathmandu with the help of the Chairman of the Village Development Committee (VDC) of Jogimara handed the amount to each family during a ceremony at the district office. COMMITTED's action encouraged another organization "Bichalit Bartaman" to organize an auctioning program which raised a further \$1,400 for the same cause.

- *Research Project on PM10 Dust Particles in Kathmandu (2003-2004)*

Particulate Matter of less than 10 microns in size (PM10) is a threat to Kathmandu Valley's air quality. Eventhough substantial investment has been made, no improvement has been realized. COMMITTED conducted a research to determine if construction related dust particles was one of the sources of pollution and also approximated its magnitude. COMMITTED's research indicates that the construction materials could have substantial adverse impact on the city's air quality. The research concludes that in the past thirteen years (1990-2003) approximately one million cubic feet of construction related dust particles such as sand, cement, bricks, and coarse aggregates were deposited on the streets of Kathmandu City. This accumulation is increasing every day and needs immediate measures to halt further deposition.

- *Engineering and Architectural Design of a Multi-Purpose Center for Home-study International School (2003)*

In 2003 - 2004 Community Members Interested contributed towards Home Study International - Nepal's multi purpose building. The multi purpose building serves the school as well as the Banepa Hospital. The building consists of a gymnasium, six class rooms, rooms for the school office, and two rest rooms. COMMITTED Nepal's board member Sanjeev Hada prepared the engineering design and board member Jun Hada, prepared the architectural design of the center at no cost. The contributed service on behalf of COMMITTED is valued approximately at \$1621. View the floor plan and the elevations of the multi purpose center.

CURRENT PROJECT

- *Classroom Furniture for Home-study International School (2004)*

Community Members Interested raised partial funds necessary for the purchase of classroom furniture for Home-Study International School located in Banepa, Kavre District Nepal. COMMITTED conducted a fund raising campaign and sent out contribution request letters to 700 U.S. residents of Nepali origin. As a result of this effort, COMMITTED raised a partial amount of the funds necessary for the furniture. COMMITTED recently submitted a grant request to the United Nations (UN) 1% Fund for the remainder of the necessary amount. The grant from the UN, if made available, will be used to purchase computers and to construct a kitchen for the school in addition to the classroom furniture.

PROJECT IN THE HORIZON

- *Renovation of Kanya Mandir Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Nheokha, Kathmandu, Nepal (2005-2006)*

Kanya Mandir Madhyamik Vidyalaya, the first girls' school in the country, was inaugurated by King Tribhuvan in the 1950s. The school was considered highly successful for almost 30 years. Kanya Mandir is currently under immense difficult times. With classrooms and laboratories in deteriorated conditions, the school is ailing and will eventually die if measures are not taken soon. COMMITTED is considering renovating the deteriorating buildings and help the school get back on its feet with a new school management.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

| <u>CONTRIBUTIONS</u> | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Regular | 360 |
| Other | 415 |
| Furniture Project | 3,284 |
| Sub Total | 4,059 |
| <u>EXPENSES</u> | |
| <i>General Administrative</i> | |
| Stationary | 21 |
| Website Hosting (@11.99/month) | 48 |
| Website Management | 0 |
| State/IRS Filing | 625 |
| Telephone/Fax Line | 0 |
| Internet Connection | 0 |
| Salaries | 0 |
| Sub Total | 693 |
| Project | 838 |
| Salaries | 0 |
| Pay Pal Fees | 13 |
| Nepalaya CD Cost | 186 |
| Sub Total | 1,036 |
| Net Fund | 2,330 |

CHALLENGES

Financial Stability

COMMITTED's future depends on successful fund raising campaigns to meet administrative costs and grants for specific projects. In the years ahead, COMMITTED will work towards administering fund raising programs to receive regular monthly contributions. The cash flow from this type of contribution will help us run the organization in an efficient manner with hired professionals to get the job done timely. Success of the fund raising campaigns will depend largely in our ability to acquire a tax exempt status. An application (501(C)(3)) is pending with the Internal Revenue Services (IRS) for a tax exempt status.

Credibility

In its first year itself we have surfaced in various Nepali communities in the U.S. as a topic of discussion. We have received numerous encouraging messages from people who are concerned with the well being of Nepali communities. They have exhibited strong support and we hope to show our appreciation by involving ourselves in projects that will serve a larger population. COMMITTED will gain credibility by not just spreading the words of its existence, but by implementing projects that are true to the needs of our needy communities in Nepal.

Establishment in Nepal

COMMITTED's ability to be involved in bigger projects depends on the success of acquiring a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) status in Nepal. The Nepal chapter of COMMITTED is in the process of being organized as an NGO. The political instability has burdened existing businesses with newer and stricter regulations. The burden on new businesses is even tougher especially on NGOs whose image in Nepal has been tarnished by selfishly run organizations that used NGO privileges for personal benefits. Since February 1, 2005 all existing NGOs are required to re-register. All board members of NGOs are required to produce clean police reports. COMMITTED is in the process of obtaining police records of all board members who have volunteered to become a part of our extended COMMITTED family.

Project Implementation and the Maoist Insurgency

The ongoing Maoist conflict has impacted COMMITTED's operations. Because of ineffective and in most regions non-existent local governments, COMMITTED's capacity to work at the desired level is restricted. However, recognizing the dire state of Nepali communities, COMMITTED is determined to conduct projects that can have immediate impact in safer regions. Over time, as the political stability returns, we shall focus on meaningful projects true to the visions of the organization.