

1215 Fox Run Place
Woodbridge, VA 22191

ANNUAL REPORT—2008

2008 SUPPORTERS

Recurring & Other Contributions	Recurring & Other Contributions	Corporate Grants
Amrit Pradhan	Pragya & Perry Joshi	Metrostar Systems, Inc
Anna & Kanak Basnyat	Pratistha & Nischal Shrestha	Rotary International
Bindeswori & Sanjay Shah	Reema & Lokesh Rajbhandari	Western Union Foundation
Christina & Diwas Adhikari	Rekha & Anil Katwal	
Peter C. Farster / Clark Construction	Ritima & Jayjeev Hada	
Edina & Sadeep Shrestha	Sandeep Puri	
Gita & Arun Bhandari	Sarju Shrestha	
Gitendra Malla	Shachi & Ranjan Pant	
Himashree and Pravin Rana	Shama & Sameer Khakurel	
Janaki & Bikash Thapaliya	Sheila & Prabodh Shrestha	
Johana Shah	Sujita and Sushil Bogati	
Lakshmi & Ajay Rawat	Sunny & Lava Maharjan	
Larry Bizette	Surendra Thapa	
Mela and Neeraj Shrestha	Susan Hellman	
Mona & Rajiv Hada		



Dear COMMITTED Supporters,

As a result of your continued support, significant number of children and their families in Nepal are receiving care in some form and they thank you for your generosity. In the past year we continued to focus on rehabilitation of Kanya Mandir School, the first girls' school of Nepal. Once a prominent affluent school serving girls of all class and race, now mainly serves the underprivileged girls of Kathmandu. Following up on the needs assessment survey conducted in 2006, we implemented the Kanya Mandir Computer Literacy Project, the most highly prioritized project. We started the first half of 2008 with purchase and installation of the computer lab. The school's management committee and the school alumni joined hands with us to a speedy start. Classes have begun in full swing. The computer lab is not just another showcase of computers but a center that provides computer related education to the underprivileged girls attending this school as well as the neighboring communities. With your kind contribution, the computer lab has helped bridge the digital divide for the underprivileged students as well as educate in the area of women's empowerment.

During the second half of 2008, we acquired funding from Rotary International group to implement the Kanya Mandir Health and Sanitation Project. This project, under implementation, will renovate existing toilets, build new gender separated toilets for staff members, install a safe drinking water supply facility, provide basic needs for an infirmary, and conduct health awareness programs. The grant was approved in December 2007.

We spent considerable time evaluating our true objectives: being involved in poverty alleviation, public facilities, health, and land use related issues through a comprehensive community planning approach: **one village at a time**. Our discussions have led us to believe that the time is appropriate to initiate projects where needed most. Along with formulation of projects in the urban areas, in 2009 we will also be involved in poverty, education, land use, and public facilities related projects in the rural areas. We have competent new board members who have been involved in development projects. I urge you to continue to foster our partnership directed towards rebuilding Nepal. On behalf of COMMITTED's project beneficiaries, staff and Board Members, I thank you and hope for your continued support to help build better Nepali communities.

Sincerely,

Jayjeev Hada
 Founder/Chairperson

	COMMITTED U.S.	COMMITTED Nepal
Founder	Jayjeev Hada	
Chairperson	Jayjeev Hada	Jun Hada
Vice-chairperson	Atulya Dhungana	Sanjeev Hada
General Secretary	Ritima Pradhan	Dinesh Shrestha
Treasurer	Johana Shah	Arati Pradhan
Coordinator	Sabina Panth	Rajasudan Pradhan
Member	-	Satish Pandey
Member	-	Amar Dangol

VISIONS AND CHALLENGES

COMMUNITY MEMBERS INTERESTED (COMMITTED) is a tax-exempt non-profit organization under section 501-(C)(3) of the IRS Code. COMMITTED's primary goal is to provide health, safety, and welfare to communities in Nepal by implementing projects pertaining to land use, poverty alleviation, health, and public facilities through a comprehensive community planning effort with active citizen participation. We continued to improve the quality of education and health and sanitation related concerns for the underprivileged children of Kanya Mandir school. In addition to ongoing efforts, we continue to brainstorm land use and poverty alleviation related projects suitable to the size and capacity of our organization. COMMITTED's success depends mainly on the ability to acquire grants and raise funds for worthy projects. Overall, a need for improvements in the ability to conduct creative fund raising events and increase in the number of grant applications is necessary and will be one of our focuses. Nepal's political instability also continues to be a concern.

Administrative

One of the highlights of 2008 was the inclusion of new energized board members who have been participating in Nepal's rebuilding efforts at the National Planning Commission (Nepal) and the World Bank. Their expertise will prove to be very valuable in understanding the needs of the country as well as provide directions in implementing our projects. Our website is currently managed by a volunteer. As our activities continue to progress we have realized a greater need to timely update the website. We are currently assessing the value of hiring a website management company in Nepal to assist us in delivering an efficient website to meet our current needs. Also in consideration is an online newsletter to keep all of our patrons abreast with all our activities and promotional videos to inform all interested parties of our activities and achievements. Such improvements will help us in reaching out to other potential donors and showcase COMMITTED's important role.

Fund Raising

COMMITTED's future depends on successful fund raising campaigns and acquiring grants for specific projects. In late 2008, we submitted a grant application through our Nepal office to the Western Union Foundation (WUF) to implement the Kanya Mandir Science Lab and Library Renovation Project. WUF approved our grant request for the 2nd year in a row. Late 2007, Rotary International approved our grant request for the Kanya Mandir Health & Sanitation Project. While COMMITTED is taking the lead on the project Rotary is managing the funds. We also conducted fundraising events during which we made powerpoint presentations to showcase our achievements and expressed our financial needs to implement the projects. Our patrons have continued to trust us with their continued support. In December of 2008, Metrostar Systems, Inc., a Reston based IT firm entrusted us with fifty percent of the funds needed for an upcoming education/public facilities project in Sindhupalchowk District, Nepal. Aggressive fund raising campaigns are necessary to implement more meaningful projects. As we move ahead in 2009-2010, we hope to be able to primarily acquire grants and in-kind contributions from various sources to implement much needed projects.

Growth

As we work towards acquiring significant grant funding for much needed projects, our goal is also to broaden stakeholderhood by including significant friends of Nepal to join our organization and help us achieve our goals. To accomplish this Ms. Sangita Sigdya (currently Dy. Director, Microcredit Summit Campaign) has joined COMMITTED as an advisory board member to assist in our poverty alleviation related efforts. In 2009, along with Samrat Upadhyaya and Matthew Handley we seek to add more members to the honorary board group. As a result of fully functional office with two hired staff in Nepal, we have successfully implemented significant number of small projects and continue to formulate new projects that can have significant positive impact to the population we serve. In 2008, we embarked on our 1st project that addresses health related issues for the Kanya Mandir School population. In 2009, in addition to traditional education and poverty related initiatives, we are in communication with Open Learning Exchange (OLE), Nepal to assist in their effort to further the "one laptop per child" (E-Pati) project throughout Nepal in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Currently we are formulating a project that will assist in providing facilities that utilize renewable energy to recharge the deployed laptops. In addition, we hope to venture into two new areas: 1. Good Governance, concerning anti-corruption monitoring; and 2. *Green Dream* Initiative that seeks to address ailing environmental conditions in the urban and semi-urban areas.

CURRENT PROJECTS : Kanya Mandir Rehabilitation

Kanya Mandir is an all girls' higher secondary school located in Nheokha Tole, Kathmandu. COMMITTED and the school's management committee are working together to revive Kanya Mandir's glorious history. The school's performance excelled immediate to its inception in 1948 and lasted the first four decades. Over the last two decades, the school's standard of education as well as its physical infrastructure has deteriorated and is now in need of rehabilitation. In 2008, we made further improvements to Kanya Mandir School's infrastructure in alignment with the needs assessment survey conducted in 2006. The survey results reflect the immediate and long term needs. With completion of emergency projects in the prior years, in 2008 we successfully completed installing the computer lab which the primary component of the computer literacy project. A health and sanitation project was also initiated in 2008. Computer classes have begun and the Computer Literacy Project is currently still ongoing. In addition health and sanitation project is still ongoing with completion expected by mid 2009.

Kanya Mandir Computer Literacy Project

The Kanya Mandir Computer Literacy project was initiated in 2007. The complete lab was set up in March of 2008 and classes commenced in April 2008. The lab is set up with 25 computer stations, a printer, a multi media projector, and UPS for each station. The computer lab project was funded by the Western Union Foundation and kind U.S. based individuals. Costs associated with maintenance, utilities, and instructor are being borne by the school. Along with providing formal computer education for the children as a part of the curriculum, the surrounding community members and the alumni are also benefiting from this project. Certain hours during the day is allotted to the community members and the school alumni for their learning purposes. A volunteer teacher from the community conducts the classes for adult students. The project is addressing women's empowerment, poverty, and education related issues by assisting girls to be equipped for the 21st century's job market.



Health & Sanitation Improvement

With funds made available by Rotary International COMMITTED is currently implementing the health and sanitation project. The project is making renovations to the existing toilets, building new toilets, setting up a drinking water supply system, setting up an infirmary, and conducting health awareness classes. The girls will benefit from the new toilets and the staff members will appreciate the privacy of using gender specific toilets after completion.



FUTURE PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS

As we embark on our fifth year we are interested in carrying out the following initiatives:

1. Education: Sri Raithane Secondary School, Sindhupalchowk District & One Laptop Per Child

- a) Students at Sri Raithane, near the Tibetan Border have classrooms with boarded windows during winter. Along with providing classroom lighting we are seeking to make improvements to the classroom floors, install glass windows, initiate extra curricular programs (music and sports) with volunteer input from the local Thanpalkot VDC community members.
- b) We are also seeking ways to assist OLE, Nepal in furthering the One Laptop Per Child Project (E-Pati) by providing renewable energy sources to recharge their laptops deployed through pilot projects. The E-Pati project seeks to bridge the digital divide by providing a laptop for all children and create a computer based learning environment to prepare children for the 21st century. The Ministry of Education is on board with the concept and is in the process of formalizing E-Pati as a part of the national curriculum.

2. Environmental/Poverty: Green Dream Initiative

- a) Cash for Trash: Collaborate with organizations involved in solid waste management in the cities and assist in reducing poverty and climate change by participating in door to door recyclable trash collection
- b) Bagmati River Cleanup: Team up with the local governments and other environmental groups to assist in Bagmati River reclamation efforts.

3. Good Governance: Ensuring appropriate channelization and utilization of government funds in public/community schools

Acknowledging ongoing rampant corruption and misuse of government funds in the education sector, the project plans to forge partnership with the Nepal government for policy reform and to improve efficiency in proper channeling of public funds to improve the quality of education/schooling system in Nepal. As a starter, we will be monitoring and tracking funds made available to Kanya Mandir and Sri Raithane public/community schools. This project hopes to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the existing processes, highlight areas where misuse is occurring and provide remedies, and increase awareness on need for anti-corruption activities.

TREASURER’S REPORT

COMMITTED U.S. & Nepal— Report of Financial Activities

Income	
Grants	23,484.00
Individual Contributions	4,023.89
Total Income	27,507.89
Expense	
Nepal Projects	16,656.51
Kanya Mandir Computer Literacy Project	10,836.00
Kanya Mandir Health & Sanitation Project	5,820.51
U.S. Operating Expense	474.57
State Registration Renewals	35.00
Web Hosting	47.88
Total Expense	17,213.96
Net Fund as of December 31, 2008	10,293.93

Note: Income and expense figures presented are consolidated figures from COMMITTED U.S. and COMMITTED Nepal. Also included is the grant money approved by Rotary International for the Health & Sanitation Project. The Rotary Club is managing the finances and included expenses for this project in the report is approximated costs based on completed activities.