



Reaching Out

Faced with the current global atmosphere of uncertainty and anxiety, many of us find ourselves feeling powerless and overwhelmed, and wondering what one person can do. During her recent visit to the United States, ETC's Nepal Country Director Mira Rana addressed this question in a talk titled "... what in the world can I do?" and inspired us all with her firsthand accounts of what ETC supporters are accomplishing in Nepal. She encouraged Americans and others, to act on their desires to reach out in a positive way across borders, joining hands with the members of our Nepal program area communities.



ETC's Nepal Director, Mira Rana, during her recent US visit.

Mira spoke of the hope for a better future felt by ETC program communities, and of the positive change that is underway thanks to ETC supporters around the world. With political instability in Nepal and public anxiety in the U.S., Mira's visit reminded us of the vital importance of ETC's work. When nothing else seems to make sense, realizing our mission of education, literacy, self-

Committing for positive change

reliance, improved nutrition and income generation for our partners in Nepal, and maintaining an awareness of that global bond, becomes more imperative than ever.

ETC Board President Donovan Russell summed up the feelings of many. "The war on poverty, illiteracy, poor health and ignorance is the real war on terror," he said.

Mira also discussed the ETC program elements that contribute to our success. She emphasized in particular the importance of sustainability in ETC's fieldwork. Building local capacity, so as to leave behind capable organizations (women's groups, cooperatives, and local NGOs) that will carry on community development in ETC's stead, is a high priority, she said.

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An Enduring Legacy: The Gift of a Lifetime

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 have affected many of us on a personal level. Here at ETC we mourn the passing of supporter James M. Roux, a passenger on United Airlines Flight 175, which crashed into the World Trade Center's south tower.

After his death, James' family requested that memorial donations be made in his name to ETC. Friends, family, neighbors, and business associates of Mr. Roux have given ETC almost \$37,000. We are profoundly grateful to James' family and to the many people who have remembered him through their gifts.

James Roux was an attorney in Maine who specialized in helping families affected by asbestos and lead poisoning. He was an avid climber who had trekked in Nepal many times, and who helped support the studies of children whose fathers had died in climbing accidents. His firm, Roux & Ghimire, also handled legal aspects of

high-altitude expeditions in Nepal. He and his family came to know of ETC through James' Nepali law partner, Jiban Ghimire, who also runs the trekking and climbing company Sherpa Shangri-La. Jiban says of James, "He was a very kind man, always interested in helping others. I'll miss him as a colleague and friend."



James Roux, 42, died in the World Trade Center attacks. His legacy lives on through memorial gifts to ETC from his family and friends.

We send our sincere condolences to the Roux family, including his two sons, James Michael Junior and Patrick Kelly Roux; his mother, Constance Roux Scaleria and her husband Frank J. Scaleria; his brother, David Roux; and his four sisters, Donna Hart, Catherine Moin, Sally Tartre and Mary Train.

While we at ETC did not know James Roux personally, we feel deeply touched by him and by his kindness and generosity. The more than 40 contributors to James Roux's memorial fund clearly feel that way as well.

ETC's New Co-Directors

The Board of Directors of ETC named Susanna Pearce and Colleen Flynn Thapalia as new Co-Executive Directors, effective July 1. Susanna and Colleen bring a great deal of personal experience to the position, both with ETC and in Nepal, and are excited to be on the job at this time of so many challenging transitions. Having worked together in the mid-1990's as members of ETC Board of Directors' Executive Committee, they begin the Co-Directorship with a previously established strong track record of cooperation and effectiveness and with a sincere and heartfelt commitment to ETC.



Colleen Flynn Thapalia and Susanna Pearce, ETC's new Co-Directors, greeting the Ithaca community at a recent ETC-sponsored cultural celebration.

"I am very pleased with the choice of Colleen and Susanna to carry on the leadership of ETC," says former Executive Director Linda Farthing. "They are a strong and effective team, and I have the utmost confidence in their ability to build a solid future for ETC, working from the successes of the past." Linda continues to be closely involved with ETC as a volunteer.

Susanna Pearce served as Associate Director of Educate the Children from August 1999 to July 2001. She has been involved with ETC since 1992, when she went to Nepal as an ETC volunteer. From 1993-1998 she served on the ETC Board of Directors; during part of that time she was a graduate student at Cornell in

the department of Asian Studies, focusing on issues concerning the intersection of religion, development, and health. She also served as Interim Director of ETC for six months in 1997. Prior to joining ETC as Associate Director in 1999, Susanna spent three semesters during the 1997-98 and 1998-99 academic years as Resident Coordinator of the Cornell Nepal Study Program in Nepal. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Himalayan Explorer's Connection.

Colleen Flynn Thapalia was an ETC Board member from 1993 through 1998 (Vice President 1995-1998) while doing graduate work in Intercultural Communication at Cornell. Most recently, she directed the School for International Training's semester abroad program in Nepal for three years, where she led students through an educational seminar and field study of Nepal's diverse physical and social landscape. Colleen has also worked for the United Nations Volunteers in Kathmandu and Geneva (Switzerland) and served as a Peace Corps volunteer with the National Institute for Nature Conservation in Burundi (Central Africa).

"ETC is very fortunate indeed to have energetic and talented Co-Directors carrying on the work of my late sister Pam," notes Gail Carson, ETC Founder Pamela Carson's older sister. "She knew and admired both women and undoubtedly would have chosen them herself, had she lived a few more months. The Co-Directors are doing the think-

We'd like to get to know you better

An impressive and committed group of supporters has emerged over ETC's eleven years of existence. Some of you have been with us since the early days when Pamela ran ETC out of her home; others have joined in more recently, or even over the last couple of months. We're proud to have your support — we view each contribution, regardless of size, as a vote of confidence in our work in Nepal, and as an indication that you, too, view this work as important and feel a commitment to providing educational opportunities for women, children, and communities on the other side of the world.

We would love to hear from you about what you most value about ETC's work, about your relationship to ETC (including why you first got involved, and what keeps you involved), and about what suggestions you might have. Each of you is an important member of our global ETC 'team'. How can we better keep you informed? What you would like to hear more about? Please drop us a line at info@etc-nepal.org — or call us at (607) 272-1176.

Students Join Hands Across the World

American youth have given Educate the Children a vote of confidence! Operation Day's Work (ODW), a youth service and education program, selected our rural project to receive its 2001 award.

The grant, \$40,000 over three years, will be used for school improvements, teacher training, and scholarships in Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts.

Students at 28 middle and high schools throughout the United States participated in the fundraising, contributing all of their earnings from one "day's work" to support ETC. Activities included community clean-ups, car washes, landscaping, and working at local businesses.

The students at one participating school, Broad Meadows Middle School in Quincy, MA, performed their "day's work" aboard the USS Salem, their city's floating

shipbuilding museum (see photo, left). Local businesses and neighbors pledged minimum wage for every hour of community service undertaken by students.



Broad Meadows Middle School students raising funds for education in Nepal. Students are: Drilon Loxha, age 11; Katie O'Driscoll age 14; Genevieve Humez-Rousseau

Each year ODW students nationwide choose a developing country and seek proposals that assist young people through education. The students of Broad Meadows nominated Nepal as the third country to receive ODW-USA funds. Educate the Children was one of four organizations that applied; students cited our emphasis on girls' education as a critical factor. More than 1,500 students across the United States participated in making the decision!

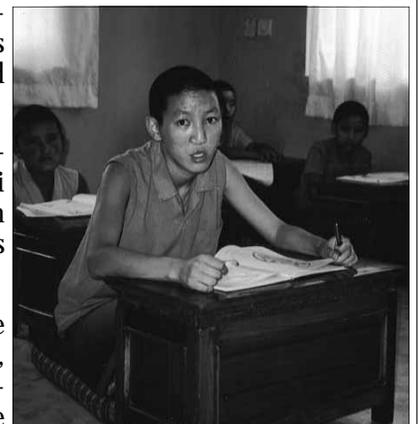
ODW proceeds all go to support education. "This wasn't 'charity'", explains Ron Adams, who advises the Broad Meadows ODW group. "This was kids helping kids to help themselves. Education is the key."

ETC Children Moving Toward Independence

Our goal for the children receiving ETC support through the private sponsorship program has always been to give them a strong foundation and the tools they need to build their lives. To better prepare students for the future, we are now increasingly encouraging older (class 10+) students to pursue technical certification that can lead to employment and self-reliance.

Sundar KC, Sunita Chhetri and Dinesh Tamang are studying to be Health Lab Assistants. This training will permit them to work in a clinic, hospital or pharmacy. Ani Tsundru Tsangmo (Tashi Dolma) is a young nun in the Tibetan tradition who is in the second year of a three-year course at the Arya Tara School, which emphasizes community service as well as the Buddhist religion.

We are also pleased to report that a number of sponsored children's families are now contributing in some way toward their children's school costs. Chitra Gurung, our Education Coordinator for private sponsorships, is working with parents to assess their ability to contribute to their children's education. A few families have seen their financial situations change over the years, and can make significant contributions. Bimala Lama's family, for example, is now able to partially support their daughter's education. Most families, however, will be making small but symbolically meaningful contributions according to their abilities. They may pay only small fees, or even just buy the belt of their child's uniform, but the importance of these efforts cannot be overlooked. This parental participation serves ETC's continued mission of encouraging self-sufficiency, and these parents are sending a powerful message against dependency to their children. We are heartened by their involvement.



Ani Tsundru Tsangmo

ETC Women's Voices . . .



ETC field worker Bishu Karki
with Lal Kumari Lama

Send girls to school

By Som Maya Gurung, Yam Kumari
Thokar and Tul Maya Gurung

Oh father! Oh mother!
Send daughters to read and write
Don't give them conflict
For their whole lives

Time to read and time to learn
Give them no trouble in return
Let them read, let them try
They will make their names high

Give no scythe, put no baskets on their back
Let them read
Keep household chores and baby care away
Please keep them away

Hey father! Hey brothers!
It's the time to read and write
Send us to school
Don't consign us to a miserable plight

Every child goes to school in today's world
We should go, no trouble come to us
Father it is time to read!



Lal Kumari Lama, Chairlady, Shreejana
Management Committee

"I am 45 years old and have one daughter and one son. When I got married I was 15 years old. I joined an ETC women's group in 1994 because I wanted to fight against social discrimination. In my women's group we have learned about women's capabilities, the importance of literacy, the value of economic status of women, and the importance of unity of women. Our management committee has been involved in working with newly formed women's groups on literacy, how to run their group, and how to run a revolving loan fund and what can be done with the loans to easily make a profit. The best income generating activity is goat raising — it is actually amazing how successful this has been.

"We're proud now that our management committee has become a Savings and Loan Co-operative. We've registered with the district government, and soon will be able to access funds enabling us to share our fund with more women and carry out income generating activities on a larger scale."

"To the teller, a garland of flowers."

"One woman can't do any of this alone, but it turns out that many women together can do it. That's what we've discovered."



Shreejana Management Committee

we are like a tiny baby chick inside an eggshell. Starting to hatch out of that eggshell, and getting to try to walk on our own, to find our own food to eat. For now we still need ETC's guidance, we are growing strong and preparing to function on our own.

At the beginning, we had no idea about our potential. We were just in our father-in-law's house, looking after the children there. Since we were married at a young age, we had no idea about other things, or about what we could do together with other women.

Now when we've been learning many things, bit by bit. To boil water over a small fire it will boil slowly and unevenly, and for a long time, but if you boil it over a large fire it will boil over, make a mess, and be all over the place. We have a small but effective fire, and it will

Before we were weak, like straw. Now we are like a bamboo stick. Before we didn't dare talk with outside people, we go to meetings with men. But now we can."

"Now we can see. Before we were blind. We understand so much more than we used to."



Our Message

By Yasodha Tamang and Lok Maya Tamang

Woman of the earth I am, the mother of the world,
This country still has no place for us —
Females in the village fetch firewood and fodder,
While males go to school and college to make their lives better.

Our hearts rend, sisters, when we recall childhood —
We couldn't ever see the inside of the school's walls, nor
understand what education is.

Now we finally have hope, and feel such joy to be in literacy class.
The light of education is glimmering.
Come on! Let's go to our literacy class! Let's learn!
Let's bring light into our life of darkness!
Let's stand up, we women folk together with ETC,
Be literate and march ahead for progress!



To the listener, a garland of gold."

- Nepali folk saying

Board News

Sandra Clifford, who has worked as a volunteer with ETC in the US and Nepal, joined the Board in May 2001. As a marketing expert for General Mills, Sandra brings special expertise that will help us learn to share our work and enthusiasm effectively with an ever-larger audience.

Yogendra Shakya, a University of Toronto PhD student who studies micro-finance programs in Nepal and Vietnam, is the most recent addition to the Board. His experience with analysis of grassroots action in Nepal and his unique perspective are already much appreciated.

Carol Chapman, a long-time Board member (since 1991!), resigned after deciding to relocate to her home country, England. Carol has seen ETC through many transitions and we'll miss her!

Duane Diviney, ESL teacher, has also resigned from the Board after a long tenure.

Mukta Singh Tamang and **Laurie Vasily**, are both in Kathmandu conducting dissertation fieldwork. They are active volunteers and resources for the staff

self-improvement to the entire community, Mira said.

Many of the ETC supporters Mira met while in the U.S. expressed their wish to have a constructive impact on the world. Jemma Macera, a longtime community sponsor, decided to take on another child when her property taxes went down this year. "I thought this 'extra' money could make a difference for a child ... more than it would for me," she told us.

Also during Mira's visit we received the latest Norm Thompson catalog, which features a handmade sweater from Nepal; \$5 of each sale comes to ETC. After ordering a sweater, Glynis Ludlum of Ketchum, Idaho called to express her pleasure at being able to support Nepali families with her purchase.

Nepal News

Education Reforms: Nepal's Lower House of Parliament has approved a bill requiring the licensing of all teachers. The estimated 150,000 government teachers will get temporary licenses, which must be replaced with permanent licenses within five years; teachers who fail to get permanent licenses will face forced retirement.

Meanwhile, the Nepali Times reported that the Education Ministry received resignations from 8,000 teachers after it recently began checking credentials. Nepalese public opinion holds that teaching positions are often reserved for the politically connected, and that many teachers' diplomas are counterfeit. How the government plans to replace unqualified teachers is unclear, as existing teacher education facilities are already inadequate. ETC continues to address the issue of teacher preparedness through our Teacher Training Center initiative, as well as in our community-based school programs.

Political Instability: While unrest among political parties continues throughout much of the country, ETC's work is largely unaffected — despite recurrent strikes, school closings and protest rallies. Our visible accomplishments and apolitical stance have won over adherents of all parties, who generally praise and support our work. Nevertheless, as radical groups become more active, some programs may need to be adjusted to ensure the safety of staff and our local partners.

Royal Family Massacres: The massacre of much of the Royal Family of Nepal made headlines throughout the world and the loss of the late King Birendra and his family was deeply mourned by the entire country. ETC staff, while profoundly saddened, carried out planned activities except during the long official mourning period of 10 days.

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Evidence of success in this regard is the formation of two Savings and Credit Cooperatives, which represent members of about half of the ETC women's groups. Mira recounted how the Srijana and Samyukta management committees have evolved into cooperatives — organizations with legal standing recognized by the government. They are self-managed by the members and have already begun training new women in the cycle of literacy, savings, and income generation.

"Basically we focus on leadership development and management skills," said Mira, adding, "After working as a partner side-by-side with ETC for some time, the cooperative can work independently." Already a new management committee has been formed in the rural project area, and urban women's groups are slated to become co-ops soon as well, Mira noted.

In education, Mira addressed the importance of an integrated approach. Community sponsorships, as well as other scholarship support, encourage education for children while mothers gain ground in literacy and empowerment at the same time. This cross-generational work serves to reinforce the program outcomes, ensuring lasting and sustainable change while at the same time bringing awareness and a desire for



Travelers on a Journeys International group tour visit and dance with ETC women's group members. Other visitors, including a Himalayan Explorer's Connection group, have also toured ETC's projects this fall, expanding their understanding of life and social change in Nepal.

Dhanyabhad — Thank You . . .

Thanks yous to:

- ◆ **Aaron Pines** and **Leslie Eliet**. We've said it before and we'll say it again, you guys rock!
- ◆ **Terry Koch**, who not only keeps track of funding deadlines and paperwork with good humor, but who also took minutes at our last board meeting.
- ◆ **Karen Adler** and **Kathy Sholtys**, for their reliable Thursday contributions to our program activities.
- ◆ **Anne Posel**, our former Administrative Assistant, who volunteers via e-mail.
- ◆ **Kate Pearce**, **Leslie Eliet** (again!), **Sue Eyster** and **Bonnie Hascup**, who pulled off a beautiful ETC event at the Tompkins County Public Library in Ithaca.
- ◆ The **Tompkins County Public Library** for allowing us to hold our event in such a welcoming environment.
- ◆ The performers at the library: **Chenga Drury** and **Shriya Pokharel**, who danced; **Meena Joshi Dhamala**, who choreographed; and **Steve Curtis** and **Yotam Haber**, who played and sang Nepali folk songs.
- ◆ The Ithaca **Wegmans**, which enlarged the lovely photographs displayed at our library event.
- ◆ **Terry Cullen**, for sharing his experience and insights into fundraising.
- ◆ **Ricky Stewart**, computer guru extraordinaire, who found an only slightly used computer for us and helped sort out nagging software problems.
- ◆ **Jane Clark**, of the Caroline Elementary School, and her fourth grader class, who raised funds for ETC and celebrated Nepalese culture.
- ◆ The folks at the **Norm Thompson** catalog, who contribute \$5 for each Nepalese sweater sold, and who put us on their cover this holiday season.
- ◆ **Jiban Ghimire** of **Sherpa Shangri-la** trekking agency in Nepal (www.shangrilatrek.com).
- ◆ **Linda Farthing** for her continued efforts, especially on the Curriculum Project
- ◆ **Gail Carson** for her support and her valuable advice on publicity.
- ◆ Monks of the **Namgyal Monastery** in Ithaca, who led the Board in a ritual marking the one year death anniversary of our Founder Pamela Carson.
- ◆ The many organizations that hosted Mira Rana during her visit to the US, including **Rotaries** and the **Unitarian Church** in Wilmington, DE, and the **Congregational Church**, the **Plantations**, and **Kendal** in Ithaca.
- ◆ The **Family Reading Partnership**, which included us in their annual 'Bookfest'.
- ◆ **Cornell South Asia Program**, for sharing its 'Nepali basket' and other materials with us.

Major Gifts Campaign

Help us reach our goal!

ETC's major Gifts Campaign is now in its third and final year; \$186,058 of \$200,000 has been raised. Please consider making a special donation to help bring in the final \$13,942 to make the campaign a success! Funds from this campaign go to support ETC's continued growth from a small organization to a more professional one whose work reaches more and more people in rural and urban Nepal. Currently, ETC's field area is being expanded to include more Dalit and Tamang communities in

Staff News

In addition to the departure in June of Executive Director **Linda Farthing**, ETC lost Administrative Assistant **Anne Posel**, who moved out of the Ithaca area. She is now a "virtual volunteer," taking on tasks via e-mail!

Many thanks to **Jyoti Bhattarai** for her work as secretary in the Kathmandu office and best of luck in her future endeavors. And welcome to **Kusum Maharjan**, who has taken over the position since August.

Wish List

- Pentium computers
- Scanner
- Paper cutter
- Digital postage scale
- New phones
- Zip 100 disks
- Office chairs



EDUCATE THE CHILDREN

Founded by Pamela Carson

Co-Directors:
Colleen Flynn T hapalla
and Susanna Pearce

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or or

Board of Directors

Donovan Russell, President:
*former Director, Peace Corps Nepal;
Asian Development Bank project
leader*

Karen Knudson, Vice-President:
midwife and volunteer

Dan S isler, Ph.D., Secretary:
*Professor Emeritus of Development
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Barbara Cook, project administrator/
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Susan Hangen, Ph.D., Assistant
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Freema Hillman, educator/graphic
designer

Berniece Patterson,
*M.B.A., President, Pioneer
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Kathy Rankin, Ph.D., Assistant
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of Toronto*

Yogendra Sh akya, Ph.D. candidate,
Geography, University of Toronto

Mukta Singh Tamang, Ph.D.
*candidate, Anthropology, Cornell
University*

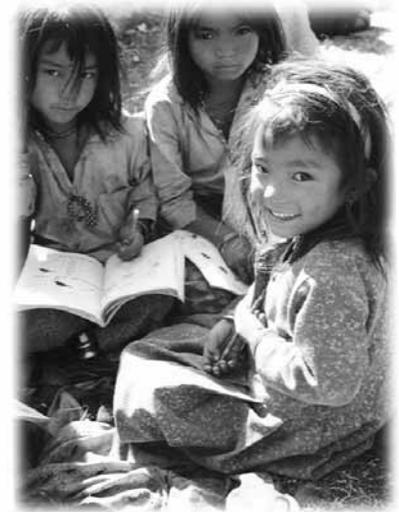
Laurie Vasily, Ph.D.
*candidate, Education, Cornell
University;
Teaching Fellow, Cornell-Nepal
Study Program*

Phyllis Wynn, teacher and volunteer

or or

Advisor to the Board

Ursula Ziebarth, Professor,
University of Bremen (retired);



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Pamela Carson, ETC's Founder

In October, we commemorated the one-year death anniversary of ETC's founder, Pamela Carson. In Nepal, this anniversary is an important milestone, marking the end of the mourning period. It was therefore a fitting time to celebrate Pamela's life and generosity and to reflect on our role in carrying on her legacy. The ETC Board of Directors, staff and other friends, including Pamela's sister Gail Carson, marked this occasion with Buddhist prayers led by monks of Ithaca's Namgyal Monastery.