

## **COMPANY ANNUAL REPORT**

2016



## 2016 SNAPSHOT



Photo (top): Photo of one of the orphans that we are sponsoring through our new Child Sponsorship Program; (next page) scene from the documentary Earth-Q that shows the conditions children face at school after the 2015 Nepal Earthquake.

10 schools assisted in 3 districts

500+
people benefited

new computer facilities installed

classrooms built (materials provided)

pathways program participants

long-term child sponsorships

85 scholarships awarded

## About us

The Logged On Foundation is a development agency dedicated to helping children and community groups in less privileged areas of the world.

Since 2011, Logged On has been working in Nepal with local people, businesses and community groups who share a vision for creating opportunities for children.

We have built lasting friendships and trusting relationships, founded on an ethos of partnership in community development.

Logged On has benefited over 4,000 individuals in Nepal by working with more than 13 communities through our scholarship, technology and education, earthquake assistance and volunteer teaching programs.

We are committed to the education of children and so our focus has been on supporting schools in their efforts to provide a quality education.

We support women's community groups through our "technology for education and training" program. Women have a key influence on decisions in the family that have a positive effect on the well-being and development of children. Therefore, not only are we committed to the empowerment of women, we also understand that by supporting them we can help create a positive future for their children.

Logged On's key objectives are:

- To work with local communities to help them access the resources, information, skills and technologies they need to provide educational opportunities for their children:
- To provide education and community empowerment programs that impact on the welfare of children and their families.

#### Activities include:

- Teacher training and providing educational aids and resources to schools;
- Scholarships and sponsorships for children;
- Training and community capacity building programs;
- School construction and infrastructure programs;
- Establishing computer centres and using technology to: empower teachers and students; help build communities; promote change; and foster the development of '21st century skills' for transformative and sustainable educational programs for children and their families.



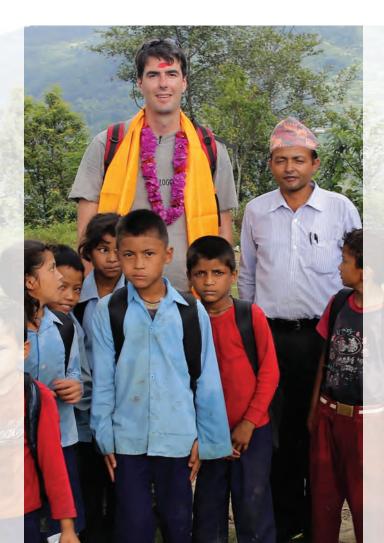
# **CEO** report

Last year we faced one of the biggest challenges in our five-year history, concentrating all of our efforts to help seven schools devastated by the 2015 earthquake. It was an honour for me to work with communities to help them recover from this tragedy.

This year, we were able to commence new initiatives as a direct result of our Earthquake Assistance Program. The Child Sponsorship Program was initiated as a result of an introduction by our project manager to an orphanage in the Gorkha District that was seriously damaged by the earthquake. At the time they were making preparations to accommodate children who had lost one or more of their parents or guardians as a result of the disaster. What started with the sponsorship of one child has now grown to the long-term sponsorship and support of eleven children.

During the delivery of assistance to the seven schools, I was able to film the impact of the disaster on rural communities, and the struggles they now face to provide a quality education for their children. What began as a project to document our work, turned into a documentary that is being shown around Australia to raise money to help rebuild one of the schools featured in the film. The making of the film was an intense and heart-wrenching journey and I have nothing but praise for the Nepali people and their resilience. I think that they are an embodiment of the human spirit overcoming adversity.

2016 was also the year a new Australian university participated in the Pathways Program, our volunteer program for taking students and professionals to the areas where we are working. We also awarded a record number of student scholarships and expanded our commitment to training women's community groups in Nepal.



A heartfelt 'thank you' to everyone who has supported our work in 2016. You are making a positive difference to the lives of children and their families.

We appreciate your continued support and hope you enjoy reading this report on the wonderful changes that we have helped to make.

> Mark Pinoli Chief Executive Officer





# Our projects

We present the details of our new programs and existing projects where we have made a contribution in the 2015/16 financial year.

#### Earthquake assistance

Last year, we were able to assist six schools devastated by the 2015 Nepal earthquake. With funds remaining in this reporting period, we were able to assist a seventh school.

As reported last year, we discussed with government officials and school Principals what were the most pressing needs of the communities we had helped. Having considered carefully their needs and how we could best use our local resources and the funds raised, we chose to support seven schools spread across three districts of Nepal. Our support program focused on three core areas: assistance in temporary classroom construction; ensuring the health of children; and providing supplies and equipment for education.

Most of our attention was focused in the Gorkha District, the location of the first and most powerful earthquake, and one school in the Dolakha District. Dolakha was located in the middle of two of the strongest earthquakes to hit Nepal in April and May. So with the remaining funds we decided to support a second school in this District.

The full report on our efforts in the Earthquake Assistance Program is available in the 2015 Annual Report. Further information is also available at: www.loggedon.org.au/ear15

PROJECT DETAILS: SHREE DURGA HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL [Dolakha District | 300 Children | Grades 1 to 10 + pre-primary]

Given the impending monsoons and the need to wait for a formal reconstruction policy to be ratified by the Nepalese Government, we were restricted in what we could achieve to help rebuilding. Since we could not realistically provide a program of rebuilding entire classrooms, we decided to help by providing 84 high quality Corrugated Iron Sheets (CGIS) that the school used as roofing for four temporary classrooms.

## Child Sponsorship Program

We are supporting a growing number of orphaned children in the Gorkha District. Our sponsorship program covers all living and study expenses. It also supports infrastructure projects to create a better quality living and studying environment for the children.

LOCATION: Chhahare, Gorkha Bazar, Gorkha District.

INSTITUTION: Shree Bal Mandir Orphanage.







We initiated the Child Sponsorship Program for the first time this year, as a result of a request made to us during our 2015 Nepal Earthquake Assistance Program. We were introduced to an orphanage in the Gorkha District that was making preparations to accommodate children who lost one or more of their parents or quardians as a result of the disaster.

Our Gorkha Earthquake Assistance Program Coordinator, Sital Maskey, is a well-respected businessman in the Gorkha District. It was through Sital's efforts and extensive network that we were able to achieve a quick and successful completion of our Program in Gorkha. We initially planned to help three schools in this District, but Sital refused the wage we offered him and requested that it be donated to the Shree Bal Mandir Orphanage where he is Chairperson of the Management Committee. So we helped with a once-off donation thanks to his generosity.

At that time the orphanage had been seriously damaged, having lost an entire floor that housed the orphans and so children were forced to sleep in tents. In September 2015, our CEO made a return visit to the orphanage to follow-up on progress made with the rebuilding, and to assess the conditions faced by the orphans. The children were being forced to live in poor conditions as a result of the increase in numbers and the lack of proper accommodation.

Following discussions with the orphanage management, the first child sponsorship was provided personally by the CEO, and with support from the Board of Directors, a commitment made to find additional sponsors for the children.

The aim of the Sponsorship Program is to work with the orphanage to create lasting and meaningful changes by supporting the children through their years of schooling, and by helping to maintain a healthy and happy community and learning environment.

Funds donated are used to take care of all living and educational expenses including food, hiring caretakers, clothes and educational material – essentially everything they require to live and study. Some of the funds will be used to help improve infrastructure.

Child sponsorship is a rewarding and effective way for donors to help create positive futures for the children and we keep donors in contact with their sponsored child and provide progress reports. Not only is the Program linking sponsors more closely to the orphanage community, the orphans also understand and appreciate that there are families in other countries that are genuinely concerned with their welfare.

From September 2015 to the end of June 2016, the number of children sponsored grew from one to 11.

Photo (top): visit made on September 2015 by Logged On's CEO, Mark Pinoli (middle), to assess the progress made with rebuilding efforts at the Shree Bal Mandir Orphanage.

## New project locations



#### Women's **Empowerment**

LOCATION: Mayatari, Syangja District.

INSTITUTIONS: Pragati Women Cooperative and the Shree Nu Bahakot Secondary School.

We have been committed to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls since our inception. In September 2015, we installed a new Computer Centre with five computers at the Pragati Women's Cooperative in the Syangja District. The Cooperative serves the interests of women in the District, particularly women from traditionally marginalised groups, with training, social and financial support (microcredit loans) provided to members.

This year, we also supported a 15-day computing skills development training program, delivered to the Pragati Women's Cooperative and teachers from the Nu Bahakot Secondary School at the EkTara Multipurpose Hall in the Syangja District. The training program was organised in partnership with the Nepal Rural Information Technology Development Society (NRIDS) and Pragati Women's Cooperative (Mayatari).

60 women of differing age groups, castes and educational backgrounds registered along with 10 teachers from the Nu

Gender equality and the well-being of children are inextricably linked. When women are empowered to lead full and productive lives, children and families prosper.

Bahakot School. Both the Cooperative and School were provided with Computer Centres by Logged On and represent the first set of Centres in the Syangja District. The training course is part of our commitment to empowering locals with the knowledge and skills to be able to effectively use and sustain the computer facility for the benefit of members and the community.

Participants were divided into three daily shifts so everyone was able to receive individualised assistance. Training coordinator, Sudip Aryal, reported "it was a touching moment to see local women curiously learning computers who have managed to join the class after completing their regular agriculture working in their field. I am very happy to have dedicated my time to the training to help them realise their aspirations."



One of the participants, Kamala Poudel (50), cried after adding her son to her newly created Facebook account and talking with him using Messenger for the first time. Her son was surprised to see his mother's unexpected friend request. He said "what will you do with Facebook Mum?" "It is a common situation that many of our family members and relatives are outside of Syangja District or even outside Nepal. So I will use Facebook to communicate with them from time-to-time," Kamala said.

One of the key motivations for running the two-week course was to train members to be able to better manage the Cooperative using their newly acquired computers. Members are now able to write letters and prepare reports in MS Word, create bills in Excel and make presentations in PowerPoint. They are also able to use the facility to access information, use the computers as an e-library resource, communicate more effectively with clients, friends and family using Gmail, Facebook and Skype.

Participants were introduced to the many ways computers could be used effectively in their daily lives, the basics of operating systems and folder and file creation, MS Office products, multimedia, internet and the basics of trouble shooting and security.

The teacher who attended were also taught digital literacy skills, but the focus of their training was on using computers to prepare materials for lessons and to use them in classroom activities for children.





Photos: pictures taking during the two week intensive computer training and empowerment program (credit Sudip Aryal).



#### **Scholarships**

More awards were made available this year than any other, thanks to our sponsors and because of the decision made by participating schools to allow more children to have access to scholarship awards. Congratulations to all 85 students who were awarded scholarships in 2015.

The students originate from the six schools where Logged On has installed Computer Centres or supplied computers, in the Kaski and Syangja Districts.

We would like to thank the Australian Scholarships Group (WA) and the 2015 Pathways Program teachers from Flinders University who donated funds to the Program.

81 general scholarships were awarded to students who were good academic achievers from economically or socially disadvantaged backgrounds and have the potential to achieve even better results in their studies with assistance.

Four of the children were awarded a prestigious Anne van Riel (AvR) Scholarship. The AvR Scholarships are awarded to girls who are facing significant obstacles that are affecting their education, have the determination to study hard and value education, and with help can achieve better educational outcomes.





Photos: pictures taken during the scholarship award ceremonies at schools in the Dhital VDC (credit: Flinders University volunteers).

#### Pathways Program

The Pathways Program is an initiative that strives towards being a best practice model for volunteering by responding to the needs of local communities. Together with our local partners and community leaders, we have created opportunities for volunteers from around the world to share their knowledge, time and goodwill by contributing to our development objectives and the needs of the schools and community groups we serve.

The program is also tailored towards helping participants gain practical experience in their chosen field of study. By being immersed in Nepali culture, living in a village and working in the local school, past participants have experienced life-changing moments as well as professional challenges.

This year for the first time, we had five pre-service teachers from Flinders University in South Australia. The teachers were placed in our Astam school location where they spent four weeks. In terms of the time they spent teaching and the feedback received from all stake holders, they have been our most successful group of volunteers to-date.

2015 was an exemplary year for educational cooperation between Australia and Nepal. Thank you to the Shree Bhumeshwor School and the Flinders University group for being wonderful partners in our program.

#### Early Career Leadership Program

Congratulations to Monica Lamperd on being the first participant in our Early Career Leadership Program (ECLP).

The ECLP is a leadership development and skills-strengthening opportunity for passionate, creative and determined young people who have recently completed or are in their final year of study in the areas of education, development studies, engineering or other fields that are complementary to the Foundation's core areas of work. The program provides leadership training and identifies and builds on the strengths of participants as leaders.

The program also provides the opportunity for participants to put these skills to the test during their Nepal assignment through helping to contribute to long-term community development goals in a cross-cultural environment.

Monica worked on a number of projects in Nepal but her primary focus was to work with local teachers for three months at the Chhonup Winter School on the outskirts of Pokhara city. The children, who are from the Upper Mustang region near the Tibetan border, migrate to the warmer Pokhara area to continue their schooling during the winter months.

Monica's focus was to work with local teachers on improving the reading and communications skills of the children. She also worked on the professional development of teachers and helped them to plan classroom activities and prepare teaching resources.

Photo: Logged On CEO, teachers from the Shree Bhumeshwor School, and Pathway Program volunteers.



#### **Teacher Training**

LOCATION: Dhital VDC, Kaski District.

INSTITUTIONS: Shree Bhoomeshwor, Kalika and

Himalayan Schools.

Logged On organised for two teacher professional development trainers and career teachers, Ekkehart and Marion Mundana, to conduct a teacher training course at the Shree Bhoomeshwor Secondary School, the location of one of Logged On's Computer Centres.

The rationale behind the training was to expose 17 teachers from Bhoomeshwor and nearby primary schools to a variety of teaching methods, feedback techniques, organisational strategies and activities that could enhance their classroom practice. It was hoped that teachers would learn and apply new methods within their own classroom settings. Although a big goal, it was the aim of the course to expose teachers to student-centred methodologies and to build their confidence in the application of these methods.

At the completion of the ten-day course, participants were asked to complete an assessment sheet. The feedback was positive with participants expressing that "the strategies were very helpful for teaching" and most having understood the value of the techniques taught. Most teachers felt that they could and would apply the strategies in the classroom and felt comfortable and confident during the course. Participants also indicated that they would like further training and reinforcement of the use of the techniques in the classroom setting, since they are quite new for many teachers.

The professional development course was a success and opened the teachers to new methodologies and approaches in the classroom. The trainers reported that "the long-term success of the training would be improved significantly if there were a consistent follow-up program and further training."

### Earth-Q the documentary

Duration: 41 minutes | Format: Color (24P 1080P HD)

Release: 4 June 2016

Director & Producer: Mark Pinoli (Australia)

Co-Producer: Sudip Aryal (Nepal)

Filming Location: Kaski, Dolakha, Gorkha & Tanahun

Districts of Nepal.

Production Location: Melbourne, Australia. Official website: earthqfilm.loggedon.org.au Award: Silver, 2016 Spotlight Documentary Awards.



Photo (top): Marion Mundana with one of the participants in the teacher training course; (bottom) training in action at the Shree Bhoomeshwor School.



Screen Australia: www.screenaustralia.gov.au/the-screenquide/t/earth-q-2016/35430

Within a month of the 2015 Nepal earthquake, Mark Pinoli, CEO of Logged On, went to Nepal to help seven schools affected by the disaster. During his journey, Mark filmed the impact of the disaster on rural communities and the struggles they face to provide a quality education for their children.

What began as a project to document the work to show supporters how their donations were used, turned into a documentary that is being screened around Australia to raise money to help rebuild one of the schools featured in the film.

The film portrays a country faced with not only the challenge of rebuilding after a disaster, but the political strife that followed the introduction of Nepal's first Constitution and plunged the country into deeper economic turmoil, delaying efforts to rebuild.

Earth-Q is a journey through the beautiful Himalayan region of Nepal, a celebration of the welcoming nature and selflessness of its people, and a witness to the heart-wrenching appeals of teachers and parents for help to get their children out of tents and tin shelters into proper classrooms.



So far, the film has been shown at the ACMI in Federation Square, RMIT and La Trobe Universities in Melbourne, and The University of Western Australia in Perth, with screenings planned for other cities in Australia. We have had participation at events from Sam Almaliki, Victorian Multicultural Commissioner and ABC Advisory Council Member, the Honorary Consul-General of Nepal in Victoria, Mr Chandra Yonzon, and Dr Raju Adhikari, founder President of the Nepali Association of Victoria and President of the South Asian Community Link Group.

The film is allowing us to:

- Raise awareness of the situation facing many children in afflicted communities in Nepal;
- Celebrate the effort made by the multicultural community not only in creating the film, but in helping with fundraising efforts that allowed Logged On to help schools in Nepal;
- Raise funds to help rebuild the school that is featured in the film (all proceeds from film screenings will go towards completing this project); and
- Raise awareness of the work of the Foundation.

The completion of the film was in no small part thanks to wonderful individuals from the Melbourne Nepalese community who gave their time without question to help in the production by translating and shaping the content of the documentary.

Australians are known for their generosity following disasters, but they don't often know what happens with their donations. Earth-Q tells how a small charity can deliver effective aid, a kind of shareholders' report for our donors and people interested in our work. They have invested in the betterment of the lives of the Nepali people in a time of great destruction, irrespective of national borders, and we are proud to be able to report on that investment through film.

So far we have been given a donation \$9,000 from the La Trobe University Nepalese Association to start rebuilling the Chandra

Kala school which is featured in the film and we have transferred half of that amount to the school to start the construction.

In the Director's notes, Mark Pinoli writes:

Imagine trying to learn in a tin-clad classroom when it's raining, you can't hear the teacher and the classroom floor is flooded with water. In summer it's so hot that you have to go out of the class to cool off, or it's so cold that holding a pencil can be a challenge. Yet despite the trauma of the disaster and the hardships endured, the children are laughing and the people are concerned for my welfare, telling me they have nothing to give me for my help except food and love?

The making of the film was an intense and heart-wrenching journey and I have nothing but praise for the Nepali people and their resilience. I think that they are an embodiment of the human spirit to overcome adversity. I am thrilled that I was able to produce a film that not only brings attention to the serious issues faced by many Nepalese children, but highlights just how selfless, considerate and giving the people in the villages are. Earth-Q gives voice to villagers so they can share their experiences and struggles. This is their story and ours and we want to promote this film to also raise funds to help rebuild schools. We want to help get the kids out of tents and tin sheds and into a safe and child-friendly environment.

#### **Publicity**

www.nepalesevoice.com.au/site/news/3048/Award-winningdocumentary-Earth-Q-being-screened-at-ACMI www.weekendnotes.com/earth-q-documentary-screening-acmi www.rmit.edu.au/news/all-news/2016/may/hope-in-theaftermath-of-dedication-earth-g-film www.local-eyes.com.au/earth-q-screening-acmi

#### Other successes

HEALTH INITIATIVE: we raised a small amount of funding in the previous year to construct a simple online website that promotes health and hygine to children in collaboration with Sambridhi Adhikari. We are happy to report that the content has been completed and now being loaded into a course management system.

HIMALAYA SCHOOL: we provided two computers and UPS backup power supply to the Shree Himalaya Primary School in the Dhital VDC. Dhital VDC is the first site of our cluster of Computer Centres installed in local schools and takes the total schools we helped in this area to five.

SHREE BHOOMESHWOR HIGH SCHOOL: we expanded the existing Computer Centre at this school in the Dhital VDC from 11 terminals to 15 terminals as per our agreement when we first installed the computer centre.

WEBSITE: we are happy to report a new look Logged On Foundation website (www.loggedon.org.au). A new website was also created for the Earth-Q documentary film at earthqfilm.com.

CHUNNUP WINTER SCHOOL: we have been supporting a group of children from the Upper Mustang area of Nepal. During winter, the children migrate to the warmer areas of Nepal on the outskirts of Pokhara. We supported this school by providing stationery and text books, and we also placed a volunteer teacher in the school for three months to help local teachers.

We also provided \$5,000 in the previous year to help construct a new school to be built near Pokhara. We are happy to report that they commenced the building of the school and found support from a Korean organisation that has agreed to put in a substantial amount to finish the building.

TOURS AND EXPEDITIONS: in April this year, we brought two people plus the CEO on a tour to the Upper Mustang region of Nepal. The three-week tour went through Kathmandu, Pokhara, the village of Astam and into the Upper Mustang areas to visit tourist spots and homes of the children the Foundation is helping.

The group was also present during the Tiji festival, a three-day Tibetan Buddhist festival that celebrates the renewal of the year, and trekked part of the journey through the Upper Mustang region to visit meditation caves and monasteries.

We have also commenced a second documentary film to highlight the issues faced by children in the Upper Mustang region.

Operations personnel

We would like to thank the Board of Directors for their contribution to overseeing the activities of the Foundation: Bruce Mackintosh (Chair), Sudip Aryal, Michael Broomfield and Mark Pinoli. We would also like thank the following people who freely gave their time to help us fulfil our development objectives in Nepal and Australia.



**Sudip Aryal Country Director** 

Sudip was central to the success of all of our work in Nepal and the coordination of all activities.



Sital Muskey Gorkha Coordinator

Sital worked extremely hard to coordinate our efforts in the Gorkha District.



**Bev Langdon Administrative Officer** 

Bev provided essential administrative services for our operations in Australia.



**Michelle Slattery Policy & Fundraising** 

Michelle has been assisting with policy matters and fundraising initiatives.



**Anjan Tripathi Community Relations** 

Anjan assists us with community relations in the Nepalese community both in Australia and Nepal.



Gabriella Olszewski Fundraising Coordinator (WA)

Gabby has been assisting with the running of fundraising activities in Western Australia.



**Margie Lamperd Fundraising Assistant** 

Margie has helped us this year in arranging a number of fundraising initiatives.



**Monica Lamperd** 

Pathways Program Coordinator

Monica has been helping us across all programs but particularly with our volunteer program.



**Matthew Jones** 

Matthew has been helping with policy advice and preparing the Foundation for growth.



Documentary about Nepal after the earthquake





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Photo (front cover): top photo of children at the Shree Bal Mandir Orphanage where we are supporting the institution through a Child Sponsorship Program; (bottom) photo is of members of the Syangja Women's Cooperative inspecting their newly installed compuyters; (this page) promotional flyer for the screening of our documentary, Earth-Q, at the ACMI in Federation Square, Melbourne.