

# Make a Kid Smile Newsletter



The purpose of our visit to Nepal was to meet again with ACME school in Kathmandu where it all started.

A second important purpose for our visit was to meet with other schools in the Mount Everest region in order to understand their needs for educational child support.

Last but certainly not least, our friends from Rotary Club Täby

wanted to see with their own eyes how MaKS with their contribution supports young girls in Nepal with their educational needs.

## Our Arrival in Nepal, April-May 2011

After a smooth and pleasant flight with Qatar Airways from Arlanda via Doha to Kathmandu we were welcomed by Peak Promotion, our local hosts and guides in Nepal.

We were taken to our hotel and after the usual formalities Lena and Marc went to meet with Sita and Diwas, the principals of ACME school in Kathmandu.

Our reception was warm-hearted and it was great to see with our

own eyes they progress they had made in the past few years.

New facilities had been implemented, such as playing grounds for the children, fresh paintings and a small flower garden, all of which is contributing to a positive learning experience for the children at ACME school.

*Make a Kid Smile in Nepal, from 24<sup>th</sup> April until 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2011*

- *Lena Ramfelt and Marc Michels visit Nepal for MaKS.*
- *MaKS friends from Rotary Täby join us to Nepal.*
- *MaKS receives additional applications for stipendiary at ACME school in Kathmandu.*

*Make a Kid Smile joins Cleaning Mount Everest Initiative!*



Make a Kid Smile Trash Project will form a part off the Cleaning Mount Everest initiative by connecting schools, pupils and their teachers with the cleaning project.

## ACME School Celebration Day

During the next day we all met at ACME school for a ceremony with the pupils and their parents. This was an important day as a number of pupils received their study certificate together with a sign of recognition for their efforts and hard work.

For ACME school this was an important event as it helped them to promote their school and hard work and to focus on their relationship with Make a Kid Smile.

We, as foreign visitors, were welcomed to ACME school by all pupils and teachers with an impressive cultural program with a lot of dance and singing.

The day was a great success but became an even greater success when we learnt at the end of our trip from Sita that a total of 9 new pupils had applied to ACMEM.



Above from left to right; Diwas & Sita, the principles of ACME school, Lena Ramfelt, founder and chairperson of Make a Kid Smile Foundation, Mani Devi Bhattarai who is Sita's mother and the founder and principle of a large private school with 650 pupils in the south-east of Nepal.

## Other Schools We Visited in Nepal

After we left ACME school and Kathmandu for our visit to the Mount Everest region we were a group on a mission.

We wanted to meet with as many schools as possible in order to understand their educational needs and how Make a Kid Smile could possibly help in improving conditions at these schools.

During our trekking days in the mountains we visited the following schools;

- Khumjung Secondary school, also referred to as Hillary School, after its founder Sir Edmund Hillary.
- Shree Himalaya Primary school in Namche Bazaar
- Thame school in a very small mountain village called Thame, some 4 hours walking distance from the larger village Namche Bazaar.

At all schools we received a warm welcome and had an opportunity to discuss in detail their educational needs. We managed to get a good understanding of the general conditions under which these schools function and to form ourselves an opinion in how Make a Kid Smile is able to assist schools and teachers in their impressive work in providing pupils in extremely remote areas a best effort education.



Certifications for the pupils that have finished their exams with a positive result,

## A Preliminary Conclusion from our Trip to Nepal



During our visit to Nepal and in meetings with the different schools we have learnt that, certainly in the rural areas, all children at primary school age receive education and the opportunity to go to school. As such, the needs these schools have do not relate only to the provision of individual stipendia but much more to support that can benefit all pupils.

The needs as expressed by these schools in the meetings we had with them cover the following items in no order of priority;

- *Building facilities* – this subject came up in all school meetings during our visit with a great variety of different needs from new classroom roofs to modern toilets for the pupils.
- *Teachers salaries* – Other than ACME school, which is a pure private school with zero government support, all other schools are community schools under government support and control whereby the local communities have taken own initiatives to increase the quality of education. They have employed additional private teachers for which they need funding as government doesn't pay for these.
- *Educational material* – in all kinds and sorts from playing building blocks for the smallest children to learning books and computers for the older pupils.
- *School uniforms* – all children in Nepal wear school uniforms for which the parents have to pay themselves.



We, at Make a Kid Smile need to consider if we can extend the purpose of our Foundation by including other means of educational support that goes beyond the provision of just scholarships to pupils that would otherwise be refrained from education.

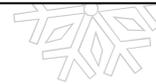


Mount Everest, Herbert Bödendorfer

We also brought with us a brochure explaining our Trash Book Project. This project has been on Make a Kid Smile's agenda for a long time.

**Thanks** to three great executive MBA students at Stockholm School of Economics we were able to bring a concrete suggestion to the schools we visited in Nepal: Collect trash around the school! Include it in the math lessons, art lessons, and science teaching! Compare it with other schools around the world!

The response in Nepal was overwhelming! In addition to this we are also now a partner of the gigantic Clean Up Mount Everest 2011 project.



*We Make Kids Smile All  
Over The World!*



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