

The 'Help Nepal' Appeal

Background information about me and why I am appealing for help:

My name is Jody Dontje and I am a fourth year Bachelor of Education (Prep-Year 10) student at Federation University Australia, Mt Helen.

At the end of last year, I travelled with a group from the university overseas to volunteer in a low-socioeconomic region in Nepal. I was able to work with a number of Nepali people to renovate and teach English to students in Chaukot. Due to the devastating circumstances that Nepal is now in, after the continuous earthquakes, I have felt as though I should continue to help the people of Nepal now more than ever.

How I aim to help:

I am seeking to dedicate my time, with the university's support, to start various fundraiser events to help as many members of Nepal as I can. I am in contact with a board member of a non-for-profit foundation that aims to directly help victimised people, and who is asking for donations to do as much as they can for these suffering victims. I am going to continuously spread awareness of this foundation, and hopefully start a positive ripple effect in the local and wider community. I hope to contact and gain support from Ballarat's radio station (103.1 Power FM) to gain wider community support. I have already been interviewed for my local newspaper called The Courier.

I aim to provide financial assistance as ongoing support for the foundation, so that they can reach a wide range of villages and help numerous people in need. At the end of the year I then seek to travel, myself, to the areas around Nepal and to not only see how the money has assisted the thousands of victims, but to also volunteer my time to help in whatever way I can in person (with renovations, donating resources, and providing education in schools).

The Shauna Rose Kaufman Foundation:

The Shauna Rose Kaufman Foundation, named after Amy Kaufman's daughter who died 6 years ago in a car accident, are providing DIRECT help to the suffering victims in a range of regions around Nepal, such as the village of Sankhu. This village is home to 40,000 Nepali people with 80% of the buildings having been destroyed due to the current earthquakes. I have been on the phone with the board member over the last few days, and have been updated with photos he has taken himself of the devastation and of the now homeless men, women and children. To say that it is devastating is an understatement.

This Foundation has NO administration fees and the money goes DIRECTLY to helping the suffering people, by providing them with the basic needs to survive (clothing, shelter, medicine, food, clean water, and even hope).

Please see the Shauna Rose Kaufman Foundation Website:

<http://shaunarosekaufmanfoundation.com/>

The News Journal Article:

Dagsboro mother, daughter making way to Nepal-

<http://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/local/2015/04/27/cargo-aircraft-way-nepal-stops-dover/26467803/>

A recent example of what the Shauna Rose Kaufman Foundation has already done with donation money:

The foundation volunteers travelled out to the rural countryside to help villages who had yet to gain any assistance. They provided medicine, food, water purification tablets (to limit the spread of waterborne diseases), hydration powder, tents, sleeping bags, blankets, first aid, clothing, and gave the people hope. Many are suffering from psychological issues as well as health and physical problems; having the foundation volunteers display kindness and valuable resources has helped ease this mental stress. The village people have limited job opportunities and, therefore, little in the way of finances to rebuild their lives.

The generous donations have given them hope for the future...

* They have also helped, since the first earthquake, to clear the destruction away, in order to create more positive environments for the people who have suffered so much already.

Link to The Courier article about my appeal:

<http://www.thecourier.com.au/story/3067096/appeal-for-nepals-earthquake-victims/?cs=62>

The 'Help Nepal' Appeal fundraising opportunities:

Past:

- Tuesday the 5th of May: Free BBQ outside of The Hub at Federation University Australia's Mt Helen campus, where donations will be welcome, and a stand will be on display to provide more information about the appeal. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase, where 100% of the proceeds will go toward the Kaufman Foundation. Chocolates and drinks may also be on sale.

- The Ballarat Football and Netball Club donated over \$350 from their fundraiser event.

Currently and in the Future:

- From the 11th-15th of May (Week 9): At the Federation University Australia's Mt Helen campus, a 'Help Nepal' pop-up stall will be available near The Hub for community members

to gain more information (such as upcoming events), make a valuable donation, or buy raffle tickets or any donation goods on sale.

- Pot and Parma (20th of May): where \$2 of every purchase goes towards the appeal.
- Ongoing Raffle: Raffle tickets will be on sale over the coming months to raise money for the foundation. Prizes include an iPad Mini, a Fitbit device, various meal/store vouchers, gift hampers and much more.
- Donation Tins: Various 'Help Nepal' donation tins are available around numerous community businesses and on the Mount Helen University campus.
- Semester 2: There will be a 'Sing for Nepal' karaoke night, with live music, food, and a raffle. This will be run by the Golden Key Honour Society.
- A range of other events will be available in future weeks as well, so keep posted!

8/05/2015

Jody Dontje

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