



Friends of Nepal - Adelaide Inc

Proud Supporters of Education for the Youth of Nepal

NEWSLETTER # 12 December 2016



We wish to thank you all for your support of our programs in 2016 & wish you all a safe & happy Christmas & holiday season!

2016 Summary

It has been a very busy year for us as we changed our name, incorporated as an organisation, gained official recognition as a registered Australian charity, officially launched our education scholarship program & conducted seven separate fundraising events!

We also formed strong partnerships with the Children's Future Fund in Germany & the Mandila Foundation in Spain, who are assisting us with scholarship funding.

We strengthened our relationships with the Rotary Clubs of Brownhill Creek, Blackwood & Mobilong & with the Friends of Pulteney at Pulteney Grammar School. These groups not only continue to financially support our projects, but also provide valued mentoring & advice to our group.

We are proud to have awarded 8 scholarships to recent graduates of the Deprived Women & Children's Upliftment Centre & are pleased to report that the students are all doing well. We are also assisting a former Orphanage boy to attend SAB school & hostel, to enable him to continue his education.

FONAI Income.

Our primary sources for funding come from sponsorships & fundraising. FONAI currently has 35 individual sponsors raising a total of approximately \$11,000.

In 2017 we plan to pursue more sponsorships, particularly corporate sponsorships to help fund existing scholarships & hopefully to be able to offer additional scholarships.



Fundraising.

In 2016 we raised over \$20,000 through our fundraising efforts. Our Annual Gala Dinner remains our most successful fundraiser, raising approx. \$6,000, with 2 film nights raising over \$5,000, our trash & treasure market & stalls another \$5,000 & the Mexican jewellery night at beautiful WillyWags on a further \$2,500!

Marmalade jam & calendar sales have raised an additional \$1500 plus, also.

FONAI Expenses.

The Education Scholarship Program is our primary expense!

Annual expenses for our 8 scholarship students total \$25,000!

Most course fees are due in January & April, whilst living costs are paid monthly as hostels require monthly visits to discuss student welfare.



Our administration costs remain low due to our incredible volunteer 'labour', but have increased this year to include insurance costs & the ongoing upgrading of our web site to include Paypal donation options.

2016 Education Scholarship Program summary.

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Most of our 8 scholarship students are currently completing 3 year courses, with one student enrolled in a 5-year law degree.

The Children's Future Fund & Mandila Foundation have contributed over \$3,000 to the support of one of our students. This help has been invaluable in assisting with costs of a laptop & smart phone in addition to course fees.

Students have no other sources of funding, so scholarships fund all their needs, including course fees, living costs, medical, clothing, laptops etc. We have discovered that there are many hidden additional costs including uniforms, supplies, course excursions, etc., that are not included in the fees, which add to the costs of support. Over the past year we have funded extra English classes, computer tuition & maths tutoring. We have also had to fund extra medical costs as many students suffer health problems that impact their studies, including stomach & circulation complaints & eye sight problems.

So How Do We Manage This?

Bhim Kumar, our Education Scholarship manager, manages the program for us in Nepal. This is in addition to his work in his Internet Café & computer business & his own charity! The students are all known to Bhim as he worked at the Orphanage for 11 years & he has great care for their welfare. Bhim meets with all students monthly, visiting them at their hostels & checking on all aspects of their progress & welfare. He pays all hostel fees, distributes their monthly living allowances, accompanies them to the Dr & provides money for all those extras they require! Bhim submits quarterly receipts for all expenses to us. FONAI pays course fees directly to the Institutes where possible, but if there are no direct deposit facilities, Bhim pays these fees in person for the students. If students need help they contact Bhim who then contacts us.

What Are Some Of The Problems We Have Encountered?

We have been very lucky as most of the scholarship students who have been recommended to us by Bhim, are very responsible & diligent students! They all sign scholarship agreements committing to standards of conduct in both their places of living & study. Breaking any conditions of this agreement has serious & immediate consequences. Bhim has to assume the role of guardian for the students & as such is the first point of call for when things go wrong. This is particularly serious as Bhim can be held legally responsible for the student's behaviour. FONAI has zero tolerance for students' breaking the rules or bringing FONAI's or Bhim's reputation into disrepute, & if mentoring & an official warning don't work, scholarships are cancelled. To date, we have had to make the extremely difficult decision to cancel the scholarship for a student who was completing year 12.



2017 Future Plans.

After a much needed break FONAI will meet mid January for 2016 review & for future planning! Our goals are to expand the sponsorship program, undertake speaking engagements to promote our cause, pursue partnerships & hopefully reduce the need for fundraising!

We expect scholarship funding requests for at least 5 more students & would like to be able to expand the existing program to meet these requests without overextending our capabilities!

Mark your FONAI calendars for our exciting AGM to be held in May 2017!

Thank You

We cannot thank all of our supporters enough for helping us fund life changing education opportunities for these severely disadvantaged students. Without you this work could not happen.

