

SECOND NEWSLETTER from UMNHET - June 2005

It has been an eventful eight months!

Two become one

For many months a discussion has been taking place between the UMN Directors and Board Members and the HET Trustees, considering the merging of the two endowment funds (a) the Nepal based fund and (b) the UK based Trust fund. As UMN move further on in its transition process it was thought to be the right time to merge all the money under one single trust. UMNHET Trustees have therefore undertaken responsibility for administering the combined endowment funds. This has been completed recently and management comes under the UK Charity Commission rules. The capital funds transferred from Nepal are: Amp Pipal £146,559 Okhaldhunga £95,784 Patan £88,826 and Tansen £141,891

Future donations

Under the new arrangement the four UMN founded hospitals can receive designated donations as we will continue to keep those funds separate, or you can continue to give to the general fund (UMNHET) which will be used for all four hospitals where needed. When you send a donation put a note on the paperwork if you wish to designate a specific hospital and we will make sure it goes where you intend. This year the first of the interest from the endowment funds will be forwarded to the hospitals, Amp Pipal has already benefited from their endowment fund, and Tansen, Okhaldhunga and Patan receive their money in August. It is the Trustees intention to send grants each July and January.

Thank you

The UMNHET donors continue to be wonderfully generous, and several people have nominated the Trust to receive their 'celebration' or 'in memoriam' gifts. The capital fund has reached a magnificent £100,000 and we want to express our very great appreciation to you all for your support.

New Trustees

We are delighted to have two Trustees joining the UMNHET from Nepal, Tim Ruohoniemi and Prem Bahadur Maharjan and we warmly welcome them. Bill Gould and Roger and Jen Marston will be in Nepal this autumn it will be a great opportunity to forge strong links with them. With modern email communication there should not be a problem with our long distance Trustees. We hope to be able to meet senior staff in the hospitals, which will be an excellent relationship building opportunity.

Looking ahead

We should not be resting on our laurels however! In order to maintain a healthy endowment trust we need to continue to raise capital, and we want to encourage you to remain one of the team who make this Endowment Trust so specialsupporting and caring about the health provision for the people of Nepal. Our new logo and letter head reflect our continued commitment to the UMN founded hospitals.

Dr. Martha Carlough, a UMNer, writing in her book 'In the Presence of Many Witnesses' quotes a 45 year TBA (traditional birth attendant) from Uumbu on completing a training scheme in Okhaldhunga.....

"The Dami (traditional healer) in our village says that if the baby in the womb is upside down, you have to blow on the Mother's back and kill two chickens for him. Then the baby will turn around. It doesn't make any sense to me any more. How can a baby who has grown nine months big turn around in that little house? There is no room. And why should the Dami get the meat of two good chickens? We need that money to hire men to carry women with babies who are upside down in their wombs to the hospital. I won't let him blow on any more women during childbirth in my village. He will have to get his chickens from somewhere else."

This touches the essence of the broad spectrum of care we all support and is encouragement to us to continue our work of fund raising for the Trust. Thank you for being such a special part of this.