

UMNHET newsletter, September 2019



Dear Friends of UMN Hospitals' Endowment Trust,

Thank you once more for your gifts to the UMN Hospitals' Endowment Trust over the past year. You are part of a world-wide network bringing hope to the poor in Nepal who become ill and seek help at one of the four UMN founded hospitals of Tansen, Okhaldhunga, Patan and Amp Pipal.

The endowment fund is invested and the income distributed in full each year. This helps provide financial security for the hospitals, ensuring a regular income to the Medical Assistance Fund (MAF) to support patients who couldn't otherwise afford treatment. Extra money raised in the year is added to this endowment fund, to provide a sustainable source of income. In 2018 the four hospitals were given £32,769. Since the Trust started making grants in 2005, UMNHET has paid out £434,509.

Having a baby should be a wonderful celebration, but in many parts of Nepal, women are afraid – and with good reason. Of every 100,000 women giving birth in Nepal 258 will die, compared to 9 women in the UK (2015 figures). One such woman arrived at Okhaldhunga hospital this year. She had bled to death on her way. She delivered her baby girl at home, but then the placenta didn't

come out. There were no health professionals in the village, and the neighbours thought it would be OK. Six hours later, they finally came, but too late to save the mother.

To try and stop this happening, both Okhaldhunga and Amp Pipal have a Mother's waiting home, so that women who live far away from medical services can stay near the hospital and get the help they need. This year in Okhaldhunga 528 pregnant women, waited for their safe delivery in the Mothers' Waiting Home and 1,248 mothers have had their delivery for free at the hospital. In the past year 11.3% of all patients attending Okhaldhunga hospital had help to pay their medical bills. You have helped to make this possible.





Most people in Nepal are farmers with just a few animals and little plots of land. Sabitri is 13 years old. She goes to school two hours each morning, but the rest of the time she helps the family, cutting grass for the cows, carrying water and wood. The mountain slopes are very steep near Sabitri's home. One day she slipped and fell, suffering a nasty break in her arm. It was a day's walk from her village to the nearest road, and then a whole day in a jeep along rough roads to get to Okhaldunga hospital. Most of the money that Sabitri's mother had managed to find for treatment went on the cost of the jeep.

Sabitri needed a big operation on her arm. The total cost of treatment was the equivalent of one year's salary – an impossible task to pay. Sabitri's mother paid the last of the money she had brought, and the Patient fund helped them with the rest. Luckily they were able to find a lift with someone else to get home again.

Wherever possible, people are asked to contribute towards their medical

costs, and they do as much as they can. Maya's son brought his mother on a long journey from the East of Nepal, looking for specialised help at Patan hospital. His mother had heart problems, related to an infection with Tuberculosis. She needed to spend 12 days in intensive care, and then another 12 days on the ward before she was well enough to go home again. Intensive care is expensive no matter which country you live in, and Maya's son was only able to pay 15% of the bill – the rest came from the hospital's Medical Assistance Fund, which you help to support. In the past year Patan hospital charity fund has helped 3,210 people.

We are so grateful for the support you give the Trust, enabling the four UMN founded hospitals in Nepal to serve the poor in need of medical care, regardless of caste, religion or resources. Please continue to pray for these hospitals, the Nepali and expatriate staff, as well as the patients whose lives are touched. Could we ask you, too, to share this newsletter with one other person to see if we can extend the support we give in the coming years? In the past year we've put a lot of work into updating our website with the help of Ian Linehan - please have a look and show your friends! <http://www.umnhet.org.uk>

The Trustees:

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