

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



Our purpose

Securing a brighter future for children in remote Himalayan communities.

Our mission

By 2030, ensure access to education for all children in the remote Kanchenjunga and Indrawati communities of Nepal.

Our drivers of change

- Education
- Livelihood
- Healthcare

Our History

HDFA commenced working in Nepal in early 2014, co-founded by prominent South Australian mountaineer Duncan Chessell and Andrew Stace, an educator with international development experience and a passion for Nepal.

In 2013 Duncan first visited Ghunsa, the home village of the Sherpa mountain guides who had helped him on several expeditions. Located in the far eastern area of Nepal in the shadow of Mt Kanchenjunga, the 3rd highest peak on the planet, the journey took a one-hour flight from Kathmandu, followed by an 18-hour drive, and then three days of serious trekking. The extreme remoteness and poor living conditions were striking. Ghunsa was well off the tourist trail, overlooked by charities and barely receiving any government support. This is what motivated HDFA into being; a determination to help the people of Ghunsa and other very remote areas of Nepal give their children a better future.

We soon realised that to effect true lasting impact, a more holistic approach was required – involving the whole community in Education, Health and Livelihood programs. We also observed an inverse relationship between poverty and good governance in Nepal; this was a fundamental issue that needed to be addressed. In 2016 we started working in Indrawati, north of Kathmandu, a heavily earthquake-damaged region where human trafficking is rife. In 2017 we greatly enhanced health services to ~9,500 people through improved clinical outreach, family planning and awareness-raising. In 2018 we implemented an agricultural improvement program, equipping 200 of the poorest families with a year-round source of nutrition and income. From this strong base we are now moving into education work in Indrawati.



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SECTION 1

AN OVERVIEW OF HDFA.org

ABOUT US

The Himalayan Development Foundation Australia aims to secure a brighter future for children in remote Himalayan communities. By 2030, we are working to ensure access to education for all children in the remote Kanchenjunga and Indrawati communities of Nepal.

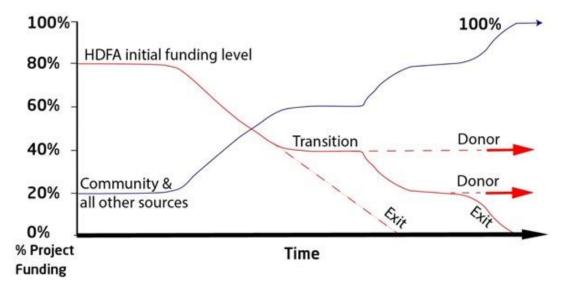
We believe giving children an education is the best way to break the illiteracy-poverty cycle and counter the risk of child trafficking. Our work also extends to health and livelihood improvement activities in order to give parents the capacity to send their children to school.

We are a small and passionate volunteer team, dedicated to working in very remote Himalayan areas that large-scale organisations overlook. Our aim is to engage with a community for 5-15 years, after which we hope to have equipped a community to manage their own future in a sustainable way.

Through holistic community development, we support communities in the areas of education, health and livelihood developments to assist them to reach higher. We believe in giving a hand up, not a handout, where the community are engaged in the projects from the start, providing their input, to assist their community. By providing opportunities within the community we aim to stem the flow of young people from villages moving to the cities and overseas where many of them end up working in poor unskilled positions (or worse) due to a lack of education and a background of poverty. We aim to develop skills and economic capacity within the communities, so they may take care of their own future with responsibility and a level of financial security. Health and livelihood developments are enablers within the communities we work with to allow children to go to school, gaining an education and a brighter future.

A fundamental tool to achieving these goals is to strengthen governance at the local community level such as school management and health post committees and to encourage local communities to take on the ownership of *their* future and remove the reliance on handouts from government and NGO's.

DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



OUR PEOPLE

Andrew Stace – Chair Nepal programs – sub-committee	Anne Skipper – Vice Chair Fundraising sub-committee	Dr Jo Arnold – Board Member
Melissa Westgate – Board Member	Chris Miller – Board Member	Duncan Chessell – Board Member
Fundraising sub-committee		CEO (Voluntary) – all committees
Ed Parker – Treasurer	Ella Price - Secretary	Doreen Ho – Accountant
Nepal programs – sub-committee		(Voluntary)



Section 2 An Overview of Himalayan Development Foundation Australia Inc

SECTION 2

GOVERNANCE

STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT

The Himalayan Development Foundation Australia Inc (HDFA) is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and is an incorporated association in South Australia.

The management committee (board) consists of eight board members with a variety of skills and experience in NFP work and boards, education, accounting, business, legal and fundraising, and the majority are 'responsible persons'.

The Australian accounts are reported on by an external organisation (McCormack A&A) on a probono basis directly to the board and annually independently audited by Oreon Partners – their report is included in this Annual Report. We conduct spot audits on our Nepalese supplier/partner organisations, regular monitoring and evaluation trips to the field and offices in Kathmandu, with annual independent audits conducted by local Nepalese firms. All bank accounts in Australia (HDFA) and Nepal (In Country Delivery Organisations: PHASE Nepal and KBSS) operate on a two-to-sign basis for all transactions. In line with AusAID and DFAT requirements and industry best practice, no board members receive board fees. Duncan Chessell is a volunteer CEO and receives no fees.

HDFA applied in late 2016 to the Department of Foreign affairs and Trade (DFAT) for authorisation to operate an overseas public aid fund with deductible gift recipient status. This would enable the organisation to fundraise and issue tax deductible receipts to donors in its own right, and access a wider pool of funds from PAFs, corporate and government grants. The process requires 2 years of track record before application and is assessed by DFAT, ATO and Treasury and typically takes ~2 years to complete.

On the 7th of November 2018 the Federal Assistant Treasurer Mr Stuart Robert declared the Himalayan Development Foundation Australia Public Fund under subsection 30-85(2) of the *Income Assessment Act 1997* as a developing country relief fund; and being an approved organisation declared by the then Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop (earlier in 2018).

This allows HDFA to issue tax deductible receipts directly to Australian resident donors and allows HDFA to apply for funds from a significantly wider and deeper pool of donors and greatly enhances the credibility of the organisation.

Section 2 An Overview of Himalayan Development Foundation Australia Inc

Australian Activities

Our volunteer Board plans, monitors and manages our development activities overseas. We also help our members and supporters to organise events such as dinners, quiz night and media coverage.

In 2020/21 we will be recruiting for more volunteers to lend a hand, please contact us if you believe you can help.

info@hdfa.org



In 2019/20 we have focussed on ensuring our projects in Nepal are working as effectively as possible to provide the best possible sustainable outcomes for the people we are supporting while also having programs restricted by COVID-19.

The board planned an in-depth monitoring and evaluation trip to be taken in the latter part of 2019 which was a great success. Monitoring and evaluation are an important part of the development process.

In the 2020 calendar year, COVID-19 meant that our Australian based fundraising events were put on hold.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



Andrew Stace BA(IntlStud), BEd, GCertEMS

Namaste!

The last few months have certainly provided challenges across the world with COVID-19. Despite this, HDFA has continued to partner with organisations on the ground in Nepal to ensure that we support those in need in remote Nepal, albeit in a modified format. As a small but dedicated volunteer board, working with experienced and focused partners in Nepal, we have been able to ensure that those most in need continue to be supported.

Holistic, consultative community development that is sustainable is fundamental to the way we work. While some programs were put on hold in the first half of the 2020 calendar year in the Indrawati region, our partners, PHASE Nepal, have provided ongoing medical support and continued to provide livelihood training where possible. Our Program Manager at PHASE Nepal, Bikash Koirala, leads a team of experts to ensure the communities of Bhotang and Balgoan in the Indrawati region gain the most from our relationship.

Like the previous 12-month period, the Indrawati Project has focussed on helping to improve livelihoods through the 'Seeds of Hope' project. This has assisted people to develop their agriculture practices to include new crops. Our intention is to assist these communities to turn their learning into a sustainable business product within their communities and further afield, providing an income and a brighter future. Our commitment to healthcare in the region continues on the western side of the valley and has been very important to the local communities during the pandemic. We have begun to turn our attention to development of education outcomes initially through teacher training and resources.

In the Kanchenjunga region, unfortunately COVID-19 has meant that the school in Ghunsa has been closed for large parts of the year. This has meant that the children have been without a formal education for this time, despite no COVID-19 outbreaks in the area. We continue to monitor the situation and hope that the impact of this time away from the classroom is not too detrimental to the children's long-term development. This is something that we will work to address with the local community as more is known. Once the pandemic is under control and things return to some form of normalcy, we hope to investigate new opportunities in the far east to support children in other remote villages.

Our supporters, donors and volunteers are our greatest asset. Our achievements would not be possible without the amazing support of our donors, those who provide us with pro bono services and those who have given their time volunteering in a range of capacities.

The year ahead will come with further uncertainty, but we are in an excellent position to continue to make a real difference in Nepal. We look forward to continuing to share our journey with you as we work alongside remote communities in Nepal to Reach Higher.

Andrew Stace, Chair & Co-Founder

Section 2 An Overview of Himalayan Development Foundation Australia Inc

OUR OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

In 2019/20 we aimed to continue the existing programs whilst adding deeper layers within each of the communities.

Indrawati

Since 2016 we have been working with communities in the Indrawati region, in the Bhotang and Baruwa areas of Sindhupalchok, which borders Tibet seven hours north of Kathmandu. This is a remote and poverty-stricken part of Nepal, hit very hard by the 2015 earthquakes. In 2016 we undertook a scoping study to work out what was needed for this community to rebuild itself and give their children hope for a brighter future. We commenced working to address urgent health and financial needs in the community so that families would become stronger, and ultimately strong enough to properly support their children's education.

Healthcare

More than a thousand households have benefitted from increased access to healthcare facilities since we first started working in Indrawati. In 2018 alone more than 6000 patients received direct medical services in clinics supported by HDFA. In particular we have been able to greatly increase the services offered to young children, new and expectant mothers and those with acute health issues.

We support and augment the work of government health posts by providing separate outreach clinics, essential medicines otherwise in scarce supply, and auxiliary nursing midwives who offer 24-hour emergency services. Other important services made available with our support include immunisation, de-worming and family planning and contraceptive services.

Health promotion and awareness raising is another major priority, to improve hygiene and ensure people are aware of the healthcare services available to them. Teams of midwives, mothers' groups and female community health volunteers help with this, driving community education programs. We also work with traditional healers, respecting indigenous culture and practices while working for change, so that they redirect their patients to the health post after they have finished their prayers and rituals.

Being involved in running health posts in the region has been a valuable way of building strong community engagement, allowing us to really get to know the people we are working with and to undertake a deep dive needs analysis of the education, health and economic struggles families face.

Livelihood improvement

2019/20 has seen the rollout and expansion of our livelihood initiative in Indrawati, Seeds of Hope, albeit in a modified way in the 2020 calendar year. This agricultural improvement initiative, which focuses on empowering women, serves to fill the gap in daily nutrition for families, especially for young children and pregnant and post-partum mothers.

With our help, more than 200 of the poorest families in the region have built greenhouses, providing a more reliable year-round food source and imparting important vocational skills in sustainable building and farming practices.

In addition to food security, Seeds of Hope enables income generation, helping families build small commercial farms to sell in the local market. More than 100 citrus orchards have already been planted, having been identified as good cash crops suited to the hilly terrain. A pilot mushroom farm has also proven very successful and is now set to be rolled out to more families, with the potential for a community coop micro-financing structure to provide an even greater ripple effect.

Education

Our work to date has focused on addressing the immediate health and financial needs of those most vulnerable in the Indrawati communities, so that families can regain strength in the wake of the earthquake and be in a position to properly support their children through school. This is an area of focus for HDFA as Nepal emerges from the pandemic to ensure that school children are not forgotten.

"I appreciate your extended service."

I really appreciate your dedicated service during the nationwide lockdown when the essential services were at stake. I especially acknowledge and thank the project team for accepting the request to extend the services up to Mid-July. I am very grateful for the project's support to bring the health services devastated by the earthquake, to this level with staff, equipment, medicine and institutional capacity building.

- Ward Chairperson, Bhotang

"You saved our lives"

If PHASE ANMs [Nurses] had not been able to identify the complexity in time I might have lost my wife and child. But with timely notifying and support in a referral to Kathmandu, my wife had a safe delivery in the maternity hospital. After being hospitalized there for 2 weeks we are back, and both my wife and daughter are fine now.

Young father in Bhotang



Indrawati Community Development Project – Current Operations		
Seeds of Hope Livelihood Program	Health Clinics and Outreach Programs	Every Child Educated, Indrawati
Seeds of Hope helps poverty- stricken families (with a focus on empowering women) establish new and sustainable farming initiatives, addressing poverty, generating income and growing a new agri- industry. In 2019/20 we continued to support greenhouses for 200 families, with new all-season crops providing good nutrition and yield. This has continued in a limited capacity through COVID lockdowns. We have also successfully piloted commercial crops for high-nutrient, high-value citrus, kiwi fruit and mushrooms.	Two health clinics and roving outreach programs have been providing critical medical services and health education to the region supporting 9,500 people. In addition to clinical services and free medicines, we have been offering family planning, empowering female community health volunteers and mothers' groups, all for \$3/consult including medications. At the end of the 2019/20 financial year, we have moved our health focus to the poorer eastern side of the valley only.	Every Child Educated, Indrawati seeks to empower 1,200 of the neediest children and youth in the Indrawati region with better education opportunities and a brighter future. We had hoped to launch this initiative in early 2020, leveraging our success in school-building and education improvements in the Ghunsa region of eastern Nepal. There has been some small resource support provided but the roll out of professional development for teachers is on hold until schools re-open completely in 2021.
Future directions	Future directions	Future directions
 Establishing a community coop as a source of microfinancing, allowing greater participation in the scheme Strengthening the farmers' group Helping women develop agricultural and business skills Expand the current pilot mushroom plots into larger scale model farms Support more citrus, kiwi and tomato plantations Provide vocational training to young adults 	 Refocusing funding towards the Balgoan community health post which services a poorer community with less resources Delivering a girls' empowerment program covering health and social issues 	 Transforming eight schools for 1200+ children Adding early childhood development classes Equipping libraries, computer labs, AV classrooms and sporting facilities Conducting teacher training Providing vocational training for 45 young people to create employment opportunities Providing higher education opportunities for 20 outstanding but needy students Giving girls greater access to education
 Over three years we wish to Significantly develop leadership and governance capacity 	 Over three years we wish to Strengthen the health management committees and local governance structures 	 Over three years we wish to Develop scholarship programs Build strong school management committees and
 Develop a strong agri-industry Establish community models of self-funding such as microfinance and co- operatives 	 Secure alternative sources of funding for clinical services 	 governance structures Strengthen relationships with national education bodies Seek government sourced funding
Funding required \$10,000 to \$80,000 pa	Funding required \$10,000 to \$120,000 pa	Funding required \$10,000 to \$120,000 pa

In remote Ghunsa we have been working with the community since 2014 to improve education for local children. The Ghunsa Village lies at 3,400m altitude in the remote Mechi Zone in the far East of Nepal in the Taplejung District, bordering India further to the East. Ghunsa is the highest permanent settlement in the valley, immediately to the north lies Tibet.

When we first visited Ghunsa in 2013, up to eight students lived on a concrete floor with only a piece of wood and a 5mm foam mat between them and the ground. School attendance for students in the valley was at only 25%. Back in 2015 we worked alongside the people of Ghunsa to rebuild and refit their school and hostel facilities, providing a safe and inviting place for students to both live and study.

The local community has continued to support the Ghunsa School although COVID-19 has meant that for much of the 2020 calendar year, the school has remained closed, despite limited impact from COVID-19 in this remote area. HDFA continues to work with the local community to hand over elements of the project as part of our plan to create lasting and sustainable change in the area.

Ghunsa/Kanchenjunga Community Development Project		
Ghunsa model school	Ghunsa Health Clinic	
The Ghunsa school has continued to successfully operate with 100% attendance (when open) and been recognised as a model school by the Nepalese Government. 56 children attend the school (40 boarders, 16 day students) which runs up to year 8. Three students are being supported to attend high school elsewhere in Nepal. The Government is now paying for 2000NRs / month per child.	The Ghunsa health clinic has been providing critical medical services and health education to the region since 2015, supporting 400 people. The clinic is now well established and increasingly supported by government and we are fast phasing out our participation, in accordance with our Developing Sustainable Communities development model which see us exit projects as quickly as possible.	
Future directions: The success of the Ghunsa school has generated interest from the surrounding area, and we are now looking to conduct a scoping study in 2019/20 with the intention of rolling out the Ghunsa school model across the Kanchenjunga region.	Future directions: Thanks to the successful lobbying of our HDFA team in Nepal, the Nepalese government will be fully funding and operating the health clinic from 2020	
 Over three years we wish to: Roll out the Ghunsa school model down valley in other remote villages Further development of the scholarship programs Strengthen relationships with national education bodies 	 Over three years we wish to: Fully hand over the Health Clinic and facilities to the local community Support other communities down valley to learn from this model of remote health care 	

AUDITOR'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



Independent Audit Report – Himalayan Development Foundation Australia Inc

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the attached special purpose financial report, comprising the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2020, Statement of Income & Expenditure and Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended on that date of Himalayan Development Foundation Australia Incorporated.

The Responsibility of the committee for the Financial Report

The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations). This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the trust.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the accounting policies, the financial state of Himalayan Development Foundation Australia Incorporated as at 30 June 2020 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Ben Reynolds Oreon Partners Date: 06 / 11 / 2020



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COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The Members of the Committee of Himalayan Development Foundation Australia Incorporated have determined the association is a non-reporting entity and the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies detailed in Note 1 to the Financial Statements. In the opinion of the Committee:

- The financial statements present fairly the state of affairs of Himalayan Development Foundation Australia Incorporated as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date and are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Notfor-profits Commission Act 2012
- Complying with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.
- At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
- No officer of the association has received directly or indirectly from the association any payment of pecuniary value other than as disclosed in the Financial Statements.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Signed this 25th day of October 2020

Duncan Chessell - Volunteer CEO, Board Member & Co-Founder

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

Account	2020	2019
Trading Income		
1630 Upper Indrawati (Revenue)	-	2,072.55
Donation Income (not to Public Fund)	11,540.00	
Events Income (Non DGR)	201.50	4,807.70
Interest Income	53.56	8.33
Membership Revenue	100.00	40.00
Other Revenue	10,864.95	
Public Fund (HDFA) Donations	175,997.13	151,934.50
WRA: Donations to WRA	-	169.38
Total Trading Income	198,757.14	159,032.46
Gross Profit	198,757.14	159,032.46
Operating Expenses		
Audit Fees	1,540.00	
Computers, Software, email & hosting	1,159.03	1,610.42
Consultancy Fees	1,925.00	-
Distribution Nepal in Country Delivery Organisation ICDO	73,018.00	40,594.76
Events Expenses	380.00	498.45
Insurance - Business	1,753.66	1,682.82
Insurance - Workcover	890.85	-
Marketing & Fundraising (for Donations)	128.25	1,579.24
Monitoring Visits	958.16	6,309.88
Printing & Stationery	129.22	41.92
Project Management & Evaluation	3,916.20	-
Project Management Nepal Staff	5,178.00	1,830.00
Staff Training	5,623.70	85.33
Subscriptions	-	101.42
Superannuation	3,134.97	696.66
Travel - National	89.72	-
Wages and Salaries	33,000.03	7,333.34
WRA: Distributions to Nepal from Public Fund	-	112,660.04
WRA: Pubic Fund Administration Charges	-	212.26
Total Operating Expenses	132,824.79	175,236.54
Not Drofit	65 032 35	(16 204 08)

Net Profit

65,932.35 (16,204.08)

These accompanying notes form part of the financial statements

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Balance Sheet Himalayan Development Foundation Australia Incorporated As at 30 June 2020

	30 Jun 2020	30 Jun 2019
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank		
ANZ Business Advantage	9,805.24	11,357.10
ANZ Public Fund	164,509.26	101,348.07
HDFA Visa Debit Cheque Acc	988.15	0.00
DC/JA Visa Card	0.00	-1,291.47
Total Bank	175,302.65	111,413.70
Total Assets	175,302.65	114,413.70
Liabilities		
PAYG Withholdings Payable	0.00	996.00
Superannuation Payable	0.00	1,047.40
Total Current Liabilities	0.00	2,043.00
Net Assets	175,302.65	109,370.30
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	65,932.35	-16,204.08
Retained Earnings	109,370.30	125,574.38
	,	

Notes to the Financial Statements

During the FY2020 HDFA operated an Overseas Public Aid Fund and holds DGR1 status.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report has been prepared as a special purpose financial report to satisfy the requirements of the constitution. The final report is prepared on the basis of historical costs and in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. No Australian Accounting Standards have been applied. The financial report shows the receipts and payments of the association and its bank balances at year end.

Taxation

The association is exempt from income tax on income derived from members.

NOTE 2 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The following people held Voluntary positions on the Association's Committee of Management during the year:

Andrew Stace	Chairperson
Anne Skipper	Vice Chairperson (Kathryn)
Ella Price	Secretary (from 2019 AGM)
Joanne Arnold	Secretary until 2019 AGM, then Board Member
Ed (Edwin)Parker	Treasurer
Duncan Chessell	Board Member; Volunteer CEO
Chris Miller	Board Member
Melissa Westgate	BoardMember

The 2019 AGM was held on the 25th of November 2019. Except where stated, transactions with related parties are on commercial terms and conditions.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANK YOU

To all that have supported, donated, given time and effort – THANKYOU!

To our implementation partners:

- KBSS and PHASE Nepal.
- Mingma Dandu Sherpa our Nepal coordinator for the Kanchenjunga/Ghunsa region and Bikash Koirala, our program manager at PHASE Nepal.
- Mr Chhowang Sherpa KBSS (Founding President) and Mr Himali Sherpa President of the School Management Committee in Ghunsa, your leadership and tireless efforts on the ground has ensured a successful outcome for these areas.

Donors

To everyone who has supported us with donations in the past 12 months – Thank You! It has been a difficult year for all, and your support has been truly amazing.

Without your support, we would not be able to complete the important and ongoing work that is needed to help secure a brighter future for children in remote Himalayan communities.

Corporate & Community Partners – pro-bono work

<u>McCormack Accountants and Advisors</u> | Accounting work <u>Oreon Partners</u> | Ben Reynolds and Petar Tatic for conducting the annual audit <u>Brighter</u> | Creative communications - Ben Murray and the team <u>Big Heart Adventures</u> | Lisa Murphy for ongoing collaboration on treks in Nepal and fundraising activities. <u>Piper Alderman</u> | for Legal Services

Volunteers Doreen Ho Valerie Harrold All HDFA Board Members

CONTACT US

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