



KI Reporter

Third Quarter 2009

Practical Assistance Increases Quality of Life for Orphans

For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes you clothed me... (Matt 25:35-36). Jesus emphasizes the importance of helping those who are in need. Over the years many have joined with Kidstown in an effort to bring help and hope to hundreds of orphans. Here are a few recent examples.

Beds

Over the past several months, more than \$6,000 has been donated for bunk beds. These funds were used to purchase 70 sets, helping kids in five orphanages! Children in the Joy Children Home (see photo to the right) previously slept on the hard floor. Now, however, they happily and comfortably sleep on new beds, up off the ground, away from the dangers of certain insects and animals.

(Right) Children at the Joy Home in India wave their thanks to all who helped provide them with new bunk beds.



Many children die each day from bad water, such as would be found in this river (left). A water filter, however, such as the one installed at the Ashish Home in Kathmandu, eliminates water-borne bacteria and ensures clean drinking water for the children & staff (right).

Washers & Dryers

Every household, whether in North America, Eastern Europe, or Asia must have the capability of washing clothes! Sometimes clothes are washed in sinks, in rivers, or in washing machines. However, due to the large number of children which live in orphanages, Kidstown has endeavored over the years to provide washers and dryers to some of these homes. Recently, the Arlington Rotary Club (WA) supplied the funds for two sets of washers and dryers. Our thanks to Rotary!



Kids in a Nepali orphanage happily check out the new machines!

Clean Water

Kidstown believes that providing clean drinking water to the children it supports is of utmost importance. A late 2008 article in *The Economist* stated that 1,000 children in India die each day due to water-borne illnesses. Not wanting this same fate to meet children in Kidstown-supported homes, effort has been, and continues to be, made to provide water filters to those orphanages that need them. Funds from generous donors have made possible the purchase of eight water filters, bringing clean and safe drinking water to five orphanages in India and Nepal.

Also in this issue:

Practical Assistance (continued)	2
Christmas Gifts	2
A Guide to Giving	3
Sponsor Search	4
Kidstown Essentials	4

Practical Assistance Increases Quality of Life for Orphans (continued)

Bicycles

The Praise Home orphanage in Kathmandu is home to 17 children, many of whom are teenagers. Walking to school, church, and to social events is normal due to lack of an orphanage van. However, bicycles would be handy, Kidstown was told, so that the older boys could bike the 3+ miles to church instead of walking or taking the irregular and often overcrowded public bus. Sponsors of some of these boys stepped up to the plate, providing the funding needed for some new bikes. On behalf of the Praise Home boys: thanks!

Sewing Machines

A key area of concern for many orphanage leaders is *skills training* for their kids. And understandably so, for without an education and/or a vocational skill, the future would look grim for any orphan child. Kidstown has lent a helping hand by providing sewing machines. In countries like Romania, Nepal, and India, the textile industry is important and skilled seamstresses are needed. Learning this trade could mean the difference of having, or not having, a livelihood for

an orphan girl. On several occasions Kidstown donors have given financial gifts so that sewing machines could be purchased and in the hopes that orphan girls would learn, and become skilled, in this trade.



Elem, Jiwan, Narayan, and Dan are ready to "cruise" on their bikes!

Sewing machines (left) and computers (below) can be valuable tools for teaching orphan kids skills which they can use in the work force one day.



Computers

Computers are also very important, especially in our world of technology and the internet. In India, where information technology is booming and Western companies are outsourcing, having a working knowledge of computers may secure an orphan a job. In late 2008 a donation given by a Kidstown supporter made possible a computer lab for an orphanage in Nepal.



All of these practical gifts, whether beds, water filters, washers, dryers, bikes, sewing machines, or computers, are Christ's love in action. One does not need to go to Romania, India, or Nepal to share the love of Christ with an orphan. Equipping a home with a water filter, or giving some girls the opportunity to learn a skill are equally effective means of telling them that Christ loves them. For each Kidstown supporter who contributed towards one or more of these projects, thank you!

Christmas Gifts for Kids

Summer is fast ending, and Christmas is right around the corner! If you would like to give a Christmas gift to your sponsored child this year, we ask that you send a financial gift of no more than \$15. It is Kidstown's goal to send all the children the same amount at Christmas-time so that there is no jealousy. Please do not send "physical" gifts. If you would send a little extra for children who may not receive a gift, that would be appreciated. Kidstown will forward these funds in December. Thank you!

A Guide for Giving

Over the years God has blessed Kidstown, and through partnerships with many individuals, churches, schools, and businesses, we have been able to reach out and help hundreds of children! In addition to providing on-going support for these children, we desire to keep reaching out to other orphans which are in desperate need of help. Below we have listed nine ways that you can join us financially. In so doing, you become an integral part of this outreach and an active participant in bringing help, hope, and the Gospel of Jesus to orphan children.



Sponsorship can be meaningful to both child and sponsor.

1. Child Sponsorship. For only \$35 a month you can help to provide for the basic needs of children living in orphanages in Romania, India, or Nepal. You will also have the unique opportunity of befriending and praying for a child. 100% of sponsorship funds are sent overseas. Contact Kidstown for a child or sponsor one online at www.kidstown.org.

2. Special Projects. One-time gifts for special projects such as bunk beds, electricity, water purifiers, or facilities improvements can make a significant impact on orphanage quality of life (see pages 1-2 of this issue). Contact Kidstown for a list of current special projects. 100% of special project donations are applied to the project for which they were given.



Special projects such as beds can be a practical way to help orphans.

3. Operations. Gifts for on-going operations are essential for sustaining and expanding the work of Kidstown. These resources are the “gas in the tank” that helps keep the ministry going. Gifts of any size are gratefully accepted.

4. Investment Income. Did you know that you can designate a percentage of your investment income, such as dividends, to be given to Kidstown? This is a great way to bless orphans as God blesses you. There may also be tax advantages for you. If you are interested in exploring this option, contact your financial advisor or call Kidstown for a referral.

5. Living Memorial Gifts. In the unfortunate death of a loved one, you can honor them by giving a financial gift, known as a “Living Memorial”, to Kidstown. This memorial, used to help abandoned children in Romania, India, and Nepal, will honor your loved one. The immediate family of the loved one will receive an acknowledgment that you have given a gift in their honor, and you will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

6. Legacy Gifts. Also known as “the gift that keeps on giving”, legacy gifts are contributions which Kidstown invests. Investment income is used for sustaining day-to-day operations and for fueling expansion.

7. Planned Giving. As you consider the distribution of your estate after your death, consider including the ministry of Kidstown in your will. These resources will help ensure future efforts to help orphans. Contact your attorney for help with your will, or call Kidstown for a referral.

8. Corporate or Church Sponsorship. Is your business or church looking for a good cause to support? Kidstown needs businesses and churches to partner with us in this challenging and rewarding endeavor. This could be a great way to involve your employees or congregants in meaningful, effective ministry!

9. Personal Property. Do you have a valuable item, a piece of land, a car, or some stocks that you would like to give to charity? These items can be donated to Kidstown and the proceeds used to help orphans. You may deduct the value of the donated item on your taxes.

Will you prayerfully consider joining us in this endeavor? Thank you, and God bless you!

Sponsor Search

With a combined total of over 26 million orphans in Romania, India, and Nepal, there is never a shortage of kids to help.

These boys live in an orphanage in a remote area of Western Nepal. Poverty is widespread, unemployment is high, and the country continues to suffer the reverberations of a 12-year civil war that left thousands dead and countless children as orphans.

In the New Life Children Haven, Babu, Dev, and Tek receive love and care, they go to school, and they hear about the love of Jesus. We are happy for this, but realize more help must be sent to this orphanage if these boys are to have the quality of life that any teenage boy should have.

Would you prayerfully consider supporting one of them? Kidstown pledges to send 100% of your sponsorship donations to the orphanage to be used for food, clothing, shelter, medicines, and educational supplies for the children. By sponsoring one of these children, you have the opportunity to befriend them through letters, photographs, and small gifts. You also have the opportunity to pray for them, that God will help them, give them hope, bring them to salvation, and grow them in their faith. Finally, you can pray that God will help your sponsored child to be a witness for him in Nepal, a country in which so many do not know Him.

Will you sponsor one of these boys? Call 360-647-2470 or e-mail: director@kidstown.org. Thank you!



Babu Ram Kathayat, age: 11

One of Babu's parents is dead, and the other is very poor. Due to this poverty, it was arranged for him to come and live in the New Life Children Haven orphanage. He comes from a Hindu background, but at the orphanage he is actively involved in Sunday School. He likes the story of Noah. Babu is in the 6th grade and he likes music and sports.



Dev Thapa, age: 15

Dev is a semi-orphan, meaning that one of his parents is dead. His other parent is so poor that adequate care of Dev is not possible. Therefore he came to live in the New Life Children Haven orphanage. He is actively involved in Sunday School, likes the story of Peter, is in the 4th grade, and likes music and sports. Dev was paralyzed in both legs, has twice had surgery, and now is able to walk with the help of walking sticks.



Tek Shahi, age: 13

Tek comes from a poverty-stricken family. One of his parents is dead. He comes from a Hindu background, but at the orphanage he hears about Jesus, is actively involved in Sunday School, and likes the story of Noah. Tek is in the 6th grade and he likes to study. He enjoys music and sports.

Kidstown Essentials

Kidstown was formed in 1996 in response to the desperate need to help orphans in Romania. Initially helping 35 children in one orphanage, Kidstown now strives to provide long-term support to over 490 children living in 20 Christian orphanages in Romania, India, and Nepal.

Kidstown endeavors to link individuals, schools, churches, and businesses to children in Kidstown-supported orphanages. Sponsors provide financial support which helps to meet the basic needs of their sponsored child as well as the needs of the other children in the orphanage. Sponsors are encouraged to befriend their child through letters, cards, and photos. Sponsors are also encouraged to pray for their child, especially that they will come to salvation, grow in their faith, and that one day they will share the Gospel with their own people.

Kidstown is registered in Washington as a charitable organization and is classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) entity. Kidstown is an affiliate member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) and has an independent auditor review its finances on a yearly basis. A copy of the most recent financial statement is available upon request. 100% of sponsorship donations are sent overseas.

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