

THE MOUNTAIN FUND

KFK AND MOUNTAIN FUND UPDATE FROM NEPAL



MOVING MEDICAL CAMP HELPS OVER 1000 PEOPLE

International medical team from US, UK and Nepal trek the Tamang Trail and provide medical care on the move.


A team of health professionals traveled to Nepal in October with the ambitious goal of trekking the little known Tamang Heritage Trail and providing free health care to thousands of Tamang people living in the remote Rasuwa District. Visiting 7 villages along the trekking route the team established formal medical camps in Gatlang, Chilime, Timure and Syabru Bensi and saw additional patients in Tatopani as well.

The trip began for most of the participants with 24 hours of air travel from the US to Nepal. The Mountain Fund/KFK staff met the team at the airport and we boarded a rented bus to transfer to the Hotel Ambassador, our Kathmandu base.

The second day in Kathmandu was spent sorting the boxes of medicine, eye glasses,

medical supplies and camping equipment. The following day the group boarded a bus bound for Gatlang. Though only 120 km from Kathmandu, the trip to Gatlang normally takes 10 hours over rough roads. This time the trip took nearly 15 hours however owing to a large landslide which had closed the road. When we arrived at the landslide area the medical team all walked around the construction that was underway as two large road-working machines attempted to open a path for our bus. In the end, over 30 porters tied a rope to the bus and pulled it up the final hill. It had taken two hours to make it 1 km but the way ahead to Gatlang was now open.

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Are You Ready To Trek4Good?

About Trek4Good

Trek4Good is Mountain Fund's program to take volunteers to Nepal and Peru for service work and recreation. Are you ready to Trek4Good?

Medical Camp Continued....

The team arrived late in the evening at the trekking lodge which has recently opened in Gatlang and after a hasty dinner called it a day so we'd be rested for the medical camp there the next morning. Between 200 and 300 villagers turned out for medical care and were all seen by the end of the day. From the first camp it was obvious that Pete Korpi, an Optometrist from Muscatine, Iowa was much in demand. Assisted by his daughter Katie, Pete saw over 225 patients and prescribed over 175 pairs of glasses.

The most common complaints were vision problems, intestinal parasites, wounds and women's health. Dr. Dorothy Kammerer-Doak of Albuquerque, New Mexico who is an OBGYN specialist saw the women while her husband Bob Doak took charge of medicine for intestinal parasites.

After Gatlang we packed everything up and walked a few hours to the Chilime damn site where we set up for another camp. We used two Mountain Hardwear space stations as our primary medical buildings and some borrowed space in the local school for our pharmacy. The

pharmacy was staffed by Shelly Ogle and Ann McCollum, both from Albuquerque, New Mexico and Sudha Dhungana, a nurse from the Karing for Kids clinic at nearby Goljung. The pharmacy was constantly busy dispensing medication and translating instructions from English to Nepali and then into the local language, Tamang. A tedious process made possible by a really dedicated group of interpreters who traveled with us.

Dr. Beth Hall-Thompson from the UK and Lindsey Mahlstedt from Albuquerque took the front line triage positions and directed patients to wound care, headed up by Susie Rivard and Tu Mach and the general medicine tent staffed by Nepali Doctor Alish Prajapati. Each patient selected by the triage team was first seen by the intake team of David Diaz and Kerry Flint from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Tina Quack of Albuquerque, saw patients needing respiratory therapy and Michael Falcone helped direct patients from one area to the next.

The logistics didn't end with how to triage and care for over 1000 people while trekking. In all 42 porters, a kitchen staff of 11, 3 Sherpas and one Sardar were employed to move the team down the trail. A team of 82 people in all.



Moving
Medical Team's
Hospital Tents

MIC PHOTOS



Medical Camp Photos

Top Photo - The intake line at Gatlang Village.

Center Photo - Dispensing prescriptions from the pharmacy tent.

Bottom Photo - Optometrist Pete Korpi examines eyes in Syabru Bensi using a PTT toilet tent, sans the toilet of course!

KFK & MOUNTAIN FUND

New clinic to open in Thulo Syabru and Districts First Medical Lab Installed at Goljung

Karing for Kids gets grant for medical lab and opens new clinic at Thulo Syabru this month.

Karing for Kids Nepal is the oldest partner organization of The Mountain Fund. Founded in 1999 to serve the residents of the villages of Gatlang, Goljung and Chilime in the Rasuwa District, KFK has long struggled to find a way to install a medical laboratory in its remote rural health clinic. Thanks to the American Nepal Medical Foundation the lab is now becoming a reality. Mountain Fund grant writer Christine Egger prepared a proposal that was accepted by ANMF. KFK program director Pragati Ghale received the check from ANMF in October and the outfitting of the lab will begin by December. KFK staff member Radha Thapa has been in training in Kathmandu the past 18 months as a medical lab technician and is prepared to return to the clinic and begin operating the medical lab soon.

The medical lab will be the only one for miles in any direction and assist the KFK medical staff in making more accurate diagnosis of patients. The lab will also support the new KFK clinic in the village of Thulo Syabru which will be opening in November 2007.

The American Nepal Medical Foundation graciously extended a hands-on learning opportunity for Radha before she begins work.



Pragati Ghale receives check from American Nepal Medical Foundation.

The grant will provide the equipment for the lab and remodeling of space at the Goljung clinic as well as Radha's salary for one year.

Thulo Clinic Opens Soon

Thanks to the generous support of a donor who chooses to remain anonymous, the three year dream to establish a second KFK run clinic in the village of Thulo Syabru is at long last a reality. Regular Mountain Fund readers may recall the story of Bhunima Lama and how the near loss of his wife and son inspired him to ask The Mountain Fund for help in establishing a health clinic in his village above the Langtang Trail. Bhunima doggedly pursued that dream. Thanks to Mountain Fund donors the clinic is

now getting ready to open. In November Dr. Alice Prajapati and Mountain Fund founder Scott MacLennan will visit Thulo Syabru and begin stocking the clinic with supplies and medicine. The Mountain Fund will be organizing a Moving Medical Camp in the area next spring to help support the work at the new KFK-Thulo Syabru Clinic. Bhunima served as one of the primary interpreters to the October Moving Medical Camp which was organized in support of the KFK-Goljung Clinic. KFK/Mountain Fund is one crucial step closer to a long term plan to have three clinics in this area which, when complete, will triangulate this part of the Rasuwa District making health care available to thousands.



New KFK clinic at Thulo Syabru

About The Mountain Fund

Our mission is to organize grassroots nonprofit and non-governmental organizations from a diversity of disciplines, and to support and coordinate these organizations' efforts to eliminate poverty, its causes and symptoms, in developing mountain communities around the world.

THE MOUNTAIN FUND

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