Give the most wonderful Christmas Gift of all: **a home!**

Having lived in Nepal for close to 6 years, I have seen the good, the bad, and the really really ugly nonprofit work. I am always looking for how to wisely help those in need, and in Nepal, **I believe it is by donating to a smaller, grass roots organization that is known.** By known I mean someone in country knows the operations and can verify the good work.

**Bethany Vision is just this organization.** Anne and I have worked with Suren since we arrived and we eagerly and emphatically guarantee his honestly, wisdom, and love for children. Since 2016, Bethany Vision Nepal, in co-operation with National Child Rights Council, has rescued 284 children. Out of the total restored (274), 66% into biological family, 15% into Kinship and 19% into foster and group homes.

Talking with Suren, we looked at where the bottleneck occurs, preventing children from being rescued and reintegrated into a safe and loving home. **The bottleneck is social workers who facilitate the reintegrations.** For me, this really a shame as the going wage in Nepal for a social worker is around $375 USD per month. And yes, this is a livable wage.

For $375 USD per month, Bethany Vision can begin working with an increased caseload of 30 children per year. On a per child basis, for $150 USD you can give a home for Christmas! This breaks down to only $12.50 USD per month.

So that you know your money is giving as promised, you will receive monthly updates from Suren, detailing what you are doing in Nepal with your gift.

Case Report:

Sofia is the oldest of three siblings, who were 12, 6 and 4 years old. Sofia’s dad was abusive and an alcoholic. Her mom eventually ran away, abandoning her children. It wasn’t long before their dad also left the children, with only a compassionate neighbor helping them.

At age 14, Sofia was forced to marry a village man. She had a terrible life of brutal abuse by her husband and in-laws. Her husband was also an alcoholic and had unhealthy relationships with other women. A villager then took advantage of Sofia’s miserable situation and promised her a good job and peace in Kathmandu. Sofia was easily tricked, as in reality, she was trafficked into a guest house where she had to work for hours in kitchen and forced to have sex with strangers.

A village social worker found Sofia’s siblings living alone and they were rescued by District Police and sent to the Bethany Vision’s child shelter. **While working with her Sibling’s, Bethany’s counselors learned about Sophia and set out to find her.** Bethany Vision working with the police found and rescued Sofia and she was reunited with her siblings are Bethany Vision’s transition home. In Bethany, they received trauma counseling, healthcare, and began their education.

During family assessment the children’s relatives were found and their uncle (father’s brother) was always compassionate to them. For years, he did not know where these three siblings were. After three years of preparing children and the uncle’s family, the re-unification was deemed in ‘the best interest of the child’ and **finally the children were able to live with uncle’s family, into the kinship care.**

Sofia received informal education and beautician training. Bethany helped the siblings to obtain birth certificates and citizenship. Now, Sofia is looking for extended training while the younger siblings are doing education in their village. Bethany continues provide education sponsorship and continues to monitor the family. Our social worker visits the family every three months to assist with concerns and to make sure all is well.

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Bethany Vision Nepal’s heart is **‘a loving, safe and stable family for every child’**. We work with Nepal government to rescue children from difficult circumstances, bring them in our transit home, assess and search for families and restore them into family or family like environment. We follow the ‘continuum of care’ for every rescued child. We help children and families through counseling, education and livelihood support, and advocating for incentives from local government.