



Roots for Life

Scholarship Letter August 2018

Namaste!

Welcome to the *new* Roots for Life Scholarship Letter!

From now on, you will receive this newsletter every 6 months as godmother or godfather of the girls from Chyangsar, Thade or Pokhara. We would like to inform you about the last six months of the scholarship holders, tell you how Roots for Life takes care of the girls and share important news and information.

Roots for Life currently looks after 30 children. 21 godparents support us in this. Now we want to support girls in Ghunsa and further expand the village development concept in terms of local synergies. Our goal is to support 35 girls by the end of 2018 and to find godparents for them too!

Why Scholarships?

Get up, cook, clean, cut grass, feed the animals and look after the little brother, then go to school if possible: For many young girls in Nepal this is everyday

life. From an early age they have to take on many household duties. Whether the girls can go to school or not is of secondary importance. Many can hardly read and write, they are [especially important as a worker](#).

Due to the poverty of their families, many girls in rural areas are still [married very early](#), even at the age of 12 to 16. [There they live together with a \(often much older\) man, whom they almost don't know](#), and also have to run the household under the strict supervision of their mothers-in-law.

Only through education is it possible to break this cycle: without education, young women are dependent on their husbands and their families. [If he dies](#) or leaves them, they have little chance. Sometimes they are driven out by the man or parents-in-law when they give birth to a girl. But they also often do not get out of poverty when married: the mothers have to decide whether they prefer to feed their children or send them to school. These children will then have as few opportunities as their mothers.



[Photos from a report by the NGO Human Rights Watch \(2016\).](#)

How does Roots for Life work?

It is important to us to use the money of the godparents for our scholarship holders as effectively as possible. To ensure this, we have developed our own process together with our local employee, Kusang Tamang: Through

regular meetings with parents (especially mothers), teachers and the girls themselves, the life situation of the scholarship holders is closely monitored and important issues are discussed with the family.

What is the importance of education in the family?

What is the current nutritional situation?

Is there a risk potential for the girls?

And what has changed?

All these questions and more are important in determining the individual needs of each scholar. We discuss together what the girls really need in order to work optimally on their education. It can happen that not all girls get the same amount every year. In this way, individual consideration can be given to the special situations. Some girls need a little more support: e.g. if they become ill, have to go to boarding school at home due to a risk or the family is particularly affected by blows of fate. Others have less need: For example, if they go to a public school in the rural areas and their living situation is stable. For some girls, the family situation is changing so positively that they no longer need the help of Roots for Life! In that case, we can take in a new girl. Nevertheless, we remain in contact with all ex-scholarship holders, keep an eye on their situation and are available for questions and advice. An example of this are the girls of Raksha Nepal - they are now financially supported by other organisations, but there is still an exchange between Raksha and Roots for Life.



Chyangsar

Roots for Life developed an overall concept for Chyangsar with a view to the sustainable development of individual villages. The women receive training in sustainable, organic vegetable cultivation, and fields are rented and cultivated. This enables them to provide better care for themselves and their families. Subsequently, a cooperative was formed to enable them to act as a group with a strong presence vis-à-vis authorities and contractual partners.

Scholarships support the daughters of certain women who are especially struggling.

Latest News



Susila Khadka (2nd from left) is not only president of the women's cooperative. After finishing school, [she is now training as a social worker in Kathmandu.](#)



A second young woman from Chyangsar, Lhamu (1st from right), also wanted to do the training. [So RfL also took over her as a scholarship holder.](#)

The number of scholarship holders continues to increase! [Aruna is the latest addition.](#) Her father left the family a few years ago to work abroad. So far, he hasn't sent any money to support her. Aruna's mother is on her own, has no work



and is dependent on the small yields of her vegetable field.



The children are regularly provided with the things they need. In summer these are mainly light shoes and flip-flops! Staff member Kusang Tamang (2nd from left) delivers the items himself.



Two of the girls from Chyangsar moved with their parents to Kathmandu some years ago. Only recently, because of the poor water supply, they changed their home and thus also their school.



Luckily they can still practice Taekwondo. To strengthen the personality - and the muscles!

Thade

Menstruation is a big taboo in Nepal. No privacy or lack of sanitary facilities are sometimes a reason why girls often stay away from school. In Thade, Roots for Life supported the construction of safe toilets and showers for girls. In addition, with the help of our partner Chay Ya Nepal, we built three missing classrooms for the local school. All this with the help of Soroptimist International Union [Switzerland](#) and [France](#)!

Together with the school management it was determined which girls needed a scholarship the most. One of the girls has recently started to attend a [private school in Kathmandu](#).

Latest News



Now the girls in Thade have [toilets and showers](#) that are lockable and private.



Carola Gosch herself visited them on her Nepal project trip.

The children of Thade are also cared for all-round. Here with [hoods, scarves and socks for the winter](#).



...Or apples and bananas. Fruits thrive poorly or not at all in the mountains of Nepal, which is why it is special for children.



The scholarship holders from Thade are visited by Carola Gosch on average twice a year. They're making great progress at school.

Pokhara

Our project partner Opportunity Village operates the Good Shepherd Children's Home in Pokhara. The girls living here have been affected by sexual violence, human trafficking and/or child labour. Some have lost their parents or have been abandoned by them. They can stay at the Good Shepherd Children's Home until they have completed their school education. Roots for Life takes care of 10 girls.

Latest News



The aim is to make the girls ready for society in order to exist as independent individuals.

Throughout the year there is a lot to do and experience for them. The children dance, do handicrafts, paint together, do what is fun. This helps them to develop their personality and to try themselves out.



In order to prepare the children for life in Nepalese society, there are regular "Life Skill Trainings". Here they learn everything about their rights and how they can enforce them. They also learn [time management, self-defense and how conflicts can be solved peacefully](#) in a playful way.



Our initiatives have a lasting impact on the lives of these girls. We thank all our sponsors and supporters who make this possible. Find out more details about our projects on our [Website!](#)

Would you like to take on more scholarship holders or increase your contribution?
Then write us a short email to office@rootsforlife.info

Do you know someone who would like to take over a godparenthood?
Then we would be pleased if you forward this email!

We accept scholarship contributions under this account data:

Wurzeln zum Leben - Roots for Life

"Scholarship"

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Hypo Vorarlberg



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