

**Subject:** The Year in Review

**Date:** Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 3:28:44 PM Mountain Standard Time

**From:** Beverly Bronson, Pres & CEO, House with Heart (sent by Beverly Bronson, Pres & CEO, House with Heart <bev@housewithheart.org@mail75.atl51.rsgsv.net>)

**To:** Lisa

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*Beverly Mummy playing dress up with some of the House with Heart family.*

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## Annual Report 2017

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Dear friends,

This has been another year of significant change at House with Heart. Work on our

new house progressed rapidly and our children have grown in leaps and bounds. We have several young adults in the family now who have moved out of the House and are living independently for the first time. I am so proud of them.

I am very grateful to all of you for your good wishes regarding my health. It means a lot to me to know that our supporters are there for House with Heart. We are all part of a team of people dedicated to improving the lives of women and children in Nepal.

Many thanks to the staff and volunteers who are working together to make sure that all of our programs continue uninterrupted during my recovery. Two of our board members, Chair **Colleen Boland** and **Nicola Hayward**, will be providing interim oversight of programs in Nepal during the coming months. They have both been involved in our organization for several years, and are also familiar faces in Nepal, having spent a lot of time at House with Heart.

I am pleased to present this annual report of our 2017 highlights.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beverly Bronson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Beverly" and the last name "Bronson" clearly distinguishable.

Beverly Bronson  
CEO & President

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*Completion of the second house will allow us to significantly expand programming.*

## ***Second House Construction Nears Completion***

Steady progress was made on the new house. We completed the capital campaign to fund its construction in early 2017, thanks to our generous supporters. And, now, in less than a year's time, the construction project is nearly completed. **Hem Bahadur Rai**, our long time and dedicated House Manager in Nepal, is overseeing the project. He works directly with the contractor, architect, and structural engineers on all phases of construction. He has steadfastly overcome weather delays, materials shortages, and a myriad of other obstacles, to keep the project on track and within budget. Once completed (spring 2018), the new building will significantly increase House with Heart's programming capability by making room for 10 more children, a wellness clinic, and a computer training center.

Like our existing main house that was retrofitted after the 2015 earthquakes, the new building is specifically designed to be earthquake resistant. With two buildings ready to withstand any future quake activity, the security of our children, staff, and programs are significantly enhanced. Thank you to **New Line Structures** of New York for providing structural engineering expertise.





*Samista Thapa Auntie not only looks after the children in the family, but also shares her artistic skills with the girls in the Rise Above program. Here she teaches them fabric painting.*

## ***Family News***

With 27 children currently living in the house, we are bursting at the seams. Nonetheless, our children have continued to thrive under the care of **Samista Thapa**, our children's Supervisor. Auntie, as she is known in the family, applies her boundless energy, love, and extraordinary household management skills to ensure our children's well-being. In the midst of keeping so many lives on track, she has still managed to find plenty of time to be affectionate and play with the kids and to take them on adventures and cultural outings. She also manages the household staff and inventory. She is an invaluable member of our staff and family and is beloved by all.

The House with Heart family welcomed our first grandchild! **Lakshmi**, also called Shobhita, one of our oldest graduates, married about a year and a half ago and just this June had a healthy, beautiful baby boy! Both Lakshmi and her husband are hearing impaired and have found mutual love and understanding in a culture that does not always support people with disabilities. We are so proud of them and happy for them as they embark on family life-

**Monisha**, **Sujita**, and **Manu** joined by **Samista Thapa** Auntie participated in a week-long leadership and self-insight quest provided by **Mountain Child Care** in Nepal. They joined an international group of teens as they trekked into the Himalayas, waking early to meditate, walking all day, sometimes in silence, finding new strengths, journaling, and working with group leaders on a personal development plan. This is our second group of girls to go through the program.

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*Nicola Hayward has had a busy year expanding craft sales for House with Heart. Here she is with a beautiful display at one of the sales.*

### *Skillful Hands, Another Year of Growth*

Sales of products made by the women in our training program, Skillful Hands, increased significantly for the second year in a row thanks to the leadership of board member **Nicola Hayward**. She took us to more craft fairs than ever before, and recruited, trained, and supervised a network of volunteers to work at the fairs. She also helped supply supporters in the U.S. and Hong Kong who participated in craft fairs or organized their own sales on our behalf. In 2017, Nicola also expanded our retail and online presence and set records for both online and retail sales.

Product sales increased from \$8,015 in 2015, to \$13,725 in 2016, to over \$20,000 in 2017. As has always been the case, proceeds go directly back to programming, providing a significant increase in our organizational income. We were able to increase income for the craftswomen in our training program, providing additional means to improve their own lives and the lives of their children. Our increased outreach at craft fairs also served to spread the word about House with Heart's important work.

**Nabina Rana**, who manages our felting program in Nepal, is instrumental in the

production of many of the beautiful goods we sell. She manages the work of the women making our products, designs new products, runs trainings, and often felts herself. Nabina also teaches in our Rise Above program that helps keep impoverished girls from dropping out of school.

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## *Our Children, Our Success Stories*

Enriching the mind, body, and spirit of every child in the House with Heart family is key to our work. Our children are exposed to a wide variety of activities and people, and they are encouraged to explore the world around them. We emphasize the importance of education and work with each child to develop their individual talents and interests. Several of our children are making a successful transition to adulthood. We are very proud of them.

A talented musician, **Babu** plays the guitar and keyboard, and also writes and produces music with his band, Insight. He and his brother Krishna were our first family members, when Beverly found them at ages 2 and 5, huddled outside a tin hut after being abandoned by their mother. Babu is now 19, finishing up school, and working hard to make his mark on the music business. *Photo by Scoop.*



Congratulations to **Manu** who completed her first semester at the Community College of Vermont with great success, successfully making the transition to an American college in her journey to become a nurse practitioner. She is an excellent student and is passionate in her desire to help people in need of medical care. Her calling is no surprise. Over the years, she has nursed many House with Heart family members through illnesses and hospitalizations. She



recently spoke at our Year-end Celebration in New York City about her experience of growing up in House with Heart.

Committed to helping people through her study of law, **Kamala** completed her five-year undergraduate program at the National Law College through Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu and is now exploring opportunities to pursue her degree in international human rights law. She hopes to study abroad. She also tutors the children at the house and has been key to our children's improved performance in school. She is an excellent role model for our younger ones.



**Maya** completed her three-year undergraduate program in Social Work at the Jaya Multiple College in Kathmandu, and is also exploring the possibility of furthering her education at home or abroad. Over the years Maya has also participated in many of the Social Work trainings offered at the House. She is currently contributing her compassion, education, and home-grown experience at Sachham Nepal, a home for single mothers and children, which allows her to use all of her compassionate-based skills and education. *Photo by Scoop.*

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*Beatriz Videz (center) and Dr. Jody Popple (left in white) conducted a trauma workshop at House with Heart.*

### ***Volunteers Make a Big Difference***

**Dr. Jody Popple**, psychologist and Director of Family Business Services, USA and **Beatriz Videz**, Faculty Consultant Sanctuary Institute, USA visited House with Heart and conducted a training workshop for professionals designed to help children who have experienced trauma. The training was attended by 26 people and included staff from House with Heart and several different local children's homes, psychology and social work students, a team of nurses from the Nepal Adoptive Family Association (NAFA) , and teachers from the Shangri-La School that our children attend. This was such an important workshop for caregivers in Nepal, as most of the children we work with have experienced significant trauma in their early years. **Rama Karki** from SOS Children's Village provided translation services. Three of the workshop participants **Dawa, Ani**, and **Korina** from British Gurkha College have come back regularly to work with the children.

Five volunteer skin therapists from The Netherlands, led by **Annelies Herikhuisen** also visited us to teach us how to massage and tape scars on Sunmaya's legs and arms. Sunmaya, who we welcomed into the family after the quakes, was badly injured in a landslide after the earthquakes. She has endured nine operations since that time.

Photo Journalist **Scoop Anthony** continues to be a regular visitor. shooting beautiful

pictures of the kids and the House for use in our publicity and fundraising materials, and carrying goods and supplies back and forth. He is a good friend to the children and the organization.

Thank you to **Susan Young** who visited us again this year and shared craftsmanship ideas and brought some of the beautiful, high quality materials she arranged to have donated for use in our Skillful Hands scarf-making program, including mohair yarn produced into 1,800 scarf panels by the good people at **Jazzing Knitters HK**. The materials were generously donated by our friends at **Eileen Fisher NY** with logistics support from **Li & Fung HK** to coordinate movement of panels to Kathmandu for our Skillful Hands women to felt.



*We are grateful to the generous employees of the Li & Fung SCS3/SLG/DF Division in Hong Kong. They raised \$4,392 for House with Heart at their annual employee dinner and charity event. Pictured is Connie Chun at the event in front of a beautiful display of House with Heart products. A special thank you to **Connie Chun, Carol Cheung, Cat Cheng, and the Li & Fung Annual Dinner Committee.***

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## *Who Made this Possible?*

**YOU -- our donors and volunteers** made this happen.

### **DONORS**

We are so grateful to our generous donors. [View the donors list on our website.](#)

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS (U.S.)**

Colleen Boland (chairperson), Lisa Hartmann (secretary), Fred Ripley (treasurer), Nicola Hayward.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS (NEPAL)**

Tashi Gurung (president), D.B.Ranapal (vice president), Birendra Kumar Singh (secretary), Binda Dhakal (treasurer), Rachana Banepali, Dil Kumar Karki, Ram Chandra Kilambu, Kamala Lama, Mina Kumari Shrestha.

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Noel Faulkner

### **NEPAL STAFF MEMBERS**

Hem Bahadur Rai (manager), Samista Thapa (children supervisor), Nabina Rana (teacher), Dev Kala (teacher), Binita Shrestha (assistant caregiver), and Bimala Poudel (cook), Aasakaja Dangol (gardener), Parbati Shakya (house cleaner), Santa Maya Limbu (cook's assistant)

### **PROBONO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Accounting: Adam Thorburn; Eric Roth and Buddy Dikman of Bernard Dikman, CPA

Structural engineering: New Line Structures, Martin & Julia Loy, Delia Shumway

Photography: Scoop Anthony

Nursing and nutrition supplements: Nepal Adoptive Family Association

Intern: Matt Singer

### **PARTNERS**

Don H Splawn Foundation East

Eileen Fisher Inc.

First Congregational Church of Essex Junction

Independent Schools Foundation Academy, Hong Kong

Interact Club, Corning-Painted Post High School (NY)

Jazzing Knitters, Hong Kong

Knitting with Borders

Li & Fung SCS3/SLG/DF Division, Executive Vice President Melinda Chu

Li & Fung Foundation, Cat Cheng, Richard Lee & President Sean Coxall

Lower Eastside Girls Club, New York  
 Mia Amicas Globally  
 Nord Anglia International School New York  
 PYAR Foundation, Noor Gillani  
 Rivka Orlin, Queen of Falafel and Ilan Telmont, House of Yes, New York  
 Spark of Hope  
 Walk for Nepal Dallas (Nepal Ko Yuwa)

**VOLUNTEERS, SKILLFUL HANDS (WOMEN'S TRAINING PROGRAM)**

Emily Brown, Bonnie Chollet, Connie Chun, Elizabeth Hayward, Nicola Hayward, Aaron Lackman, Krystyanna Melson, Karen & Mark Mendes, Chris Redman, Margie Rodgers, Eve Sicular, Asta Sinusis, Elena Stonebraker, Cara Valentino & Mia Amicas Globally, and Susan Young.

**FUNDRAISING PROJECTS**

Sara Auster and Joseph Carini Carpets, Val Chater, Aarti Shah, Tjasa & Aiden Whiteman, Gloria Wu, and Susan Young.

*Financials*



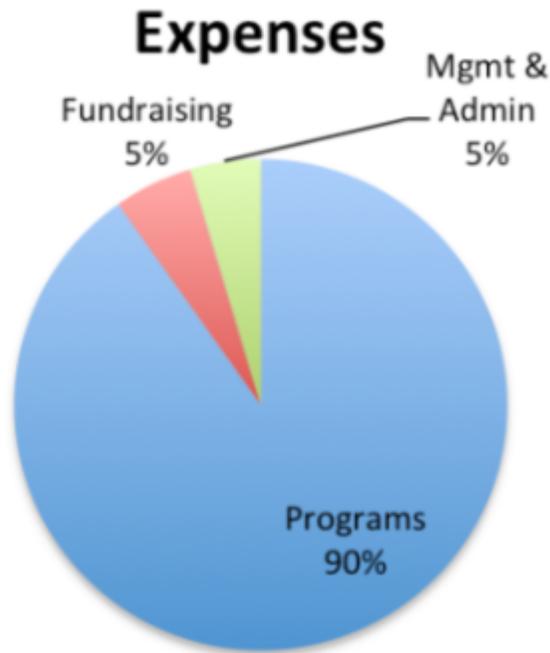
<b>REVENUES</b>	
Individual Giving	\$91,289
Corporate Giving	\$8,020
Foundation Grants	\$28,690
Product Sales	<u>\$18,240</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$146,239</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Programs	\$180,862
Fundraising	\$10,390
Mgmt & Admin	<u>\$9,289</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$200,541</b>
<b>DEFICIT</b>	<b>-\$54,302*</b>

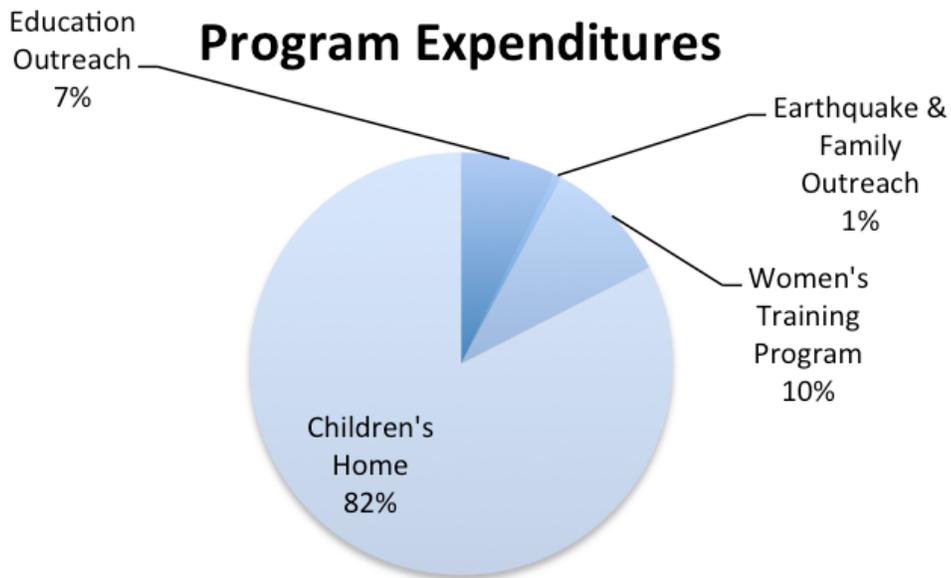
Capital Expense:  
 house construction \$148,846\*

Living  
6%

\*The deficit and the capital expense are covered by surpluses from 2015 and 2016.



A total of 90% of expenditures went towards programming, and 10% went towards overhead (fundraising and management/administration).



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Here is how you can help.

## Donate online

OR send a **check** made out to "*House with Heart*". **Our mailing address is:**

House with Heart

151 First Ave, #74

New York, NY 10003

*House with Heart (formerly Ghar Sita Mutu) is a home for abandoned children, an education center for impoverished women and children, and an outreach program for needy families in Kathmandu, Nepal.*

[www.HousewithHeart.org](http://www.HousewithHeart.org)

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