



# Detroit2Nepal Foundation Newsletter

December 2013



Namaste!  
D2N had a busy 2013. This newsletter will briefly recap what we've been up to. My best to you and your family for a happy and healthy 2014.

Warm wishes,  
*Richard*

Sad news...my Sherpa brother, Namgyal, perished on Mount Everest this past spring. Namgyal was my introduction to Khotang, the district in which we work; ever since my initial trip to Khotang we worked hand-in-hand. We truly became brothers. I credit Namgyal with changing my life when he first asked me to come to Khotang. To say he will be missed is an understatement. We will continue to work in his memory. A *chorten* (Buddhist monument) has been commissioned to be built on Namgyal's favorite site above the villages where we work and where he grew up. I will attend a *puja* (Buddhist ceremony) this winter in his honor. For more information on Namgyal go to [www.detroit2nepal.org](http://www.detroit2nepal.org).



Namgyal Sherpa (left)  
1978-2013



We are still excited about the success of our August fundraiser at the Birmingham Bike Festival. Our Miles4Alex bike parade featured many of our children from Beaumont Children's Hospital. D2N is proud to support "Bike Day," providing custom adaptive bikes for local children with special needs and the "Long Term Follow-up Clinic," providing extended care for pediatric cancer survivors. We are grateful to Bike Festival chairperson Jeff Surnow

and to his staff, our teams and all the Bike Parade participants. Thanks to the generosity of Jeff Cohen and Steve Rosenthal, D2N was able to host its first ever Rock Companies/Beaumont Children's Fair immediately following the bike parade. A special thanks to the dedicated volunteers that made the Fair so wonderful. The kids from our pediatric oncology and pediatric rehabilitation departments were able to enjoy the afternoon alongside other children from the community. This event was a perfect fit with Alex Graham's "wish" to have everyone remember that children with long-term health issues are just like any other children.



## Pennies Not Poop

When Deerfield, Illinois, resident Gayle Byck found out her local water supply was contaminated with fecal coliform (poop) she knew it was the perfect opportunity to bring attention to the fact that 780 million people in the world live without access to clean water. Gayle and her family organized "Pennies Not Poop." Residents were asked to bring water bottles filled with pennies to the Byck's lemonade stand. D2N received all proceeds.

## News from Nepal

- Hired Garima Khadka to work in Kathmandu
- Broke ground for Dipsung Sub-Health Post
- Completing first phase of toilet projects in villages of Rakha and Sungdel
- Contracted for next phase of toilet project to begin 2014
- Expanded scholarship program to serve 35 more students
- Began interview process for a Nepal D2N Director
- Awarded International Rotary grant to introduce a public health initiative



Miles4Alex/Birmingham Bike Festival and Rock Companies/Beaumont Children's Fair - August 2013