



## Detroit2Nepal Foundation Newsletter

April 2017

April 25th was the second anniversary of the devastating earthquake in Nepal. When the earthquake hit, D2N was in the unique position of being able to respond - D2N has built long lasting relationships with the local communities in addition to impactful projects like helping establish health posts and construct sustainable toilets.

D2N is now expanding that tradition in Detroit. In this newsletter you will learn what makes D2N unique, how we are applying lessons learned in Nepal to Detroit (as part of our EVO Detroit initiative) and what has been accomplished in Nepal since the earthquake. Your support makes all of this possible!



### Chandra Primary School, Sungdel

One of the first three schools D2N has rebuilt since the earthquake. D2N is midway through its 4-year earthquake relief initiative which includes building 11 schools, three health posts and three birthing centers (see reverse page.)

To see a video about these three schools: [D2N School Reconstruction](#)

### What Makes D2N Unique?

D2N empowers local community members to initiate, advocate and own the projects that will have an impact on their lives. D2N forms trusting and respectful relationships; we never tell the communities what they should do or how they should do it. This approach sets D2N apart from other non-profit organizations and places ownership in the hands of the community. In addition, D2N has built a reputation of delivering their projects on time and within budget. These attributes have served D2N and the communities we help well - we have completed over 15 projects in Nepal and partnered with four organizations in Detroit.

### What Is EVO Detroit?

EVO DETROIT stands for Empowerment, Vestment, and Ownership. It also stands for "Evolution Detroit." EVO DETROIT recognizes that challenges faced by Nepalese communities mirror those faced by underserved Detroit communities.

That known, our goal is to establish working relationships with Detroit neighborhoods by allowing them to identify their priorities and self-advocate. This process of empowerment encourages investment and gives ownership of the project to the community. Consideration is given to projects that benefit the community as a whole, with the goal of generating a more desirable neighborhood in which locals can continue to live and thrive. With this in mind, D2N has chosen three projects to receive the initial EVO grants:

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*D2N is a not for profit organization that is focused on improving public health, health and educational opportunities for local communities in remote villages in Nepal and in the Greater Detroit Area.*

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## EVO Detroit Continued.....

The Piety Hill Pocket Park project will restore two pocket parks so they can be used safely and to their potential.

Project No Stand Zone will build and install 'Sit On It Detroit' benches at seven bus stops in the Cody Rouge neighborhood.

The WNUC 96.7 FM Project will help complete Detroit's only community radio station and provide a free and independent media voice within the community.



### Dindu/Dipsung Birthing Center and Health Post

Attached to the Health Post, the Birthing Center opened in December 2016. The Center consists of two rooms that are well-equipped, tiled and spotless. Historically, women in Khotang's villages do not seek prenatal care and their babies are delivered at home, unattended by a healthcare worker.

The Birthing Center was built to enable women to receive four scheduled prenatal visits and then to deliver healthy babies at the clinic, cared for by Jarka, a trained and skilled birthing attendant. Nine female community health volunteers (FCHVs, one per ward) have been trained in the benefits of the Birthing Center. They will circulate in their wards meeting with young women, discussing the advantages of this skilled facility and addressing reservations that might exist regarding the Center.

### Alex Graham Medical Clinic/Rakha Health Post

Construction began in February 2015 and the health clinic opened in December 2016. This project was funded by donations from Michigan Healthcare Professionals (MHP) and honors the memory of Alex Graham. It serves an area of approximately 4,000 people and is staffed by an auxiliary healthcare worker and nurse midwife. These health care professionals, as well as 35 formulary medicines and six vaccines, are supplied and supported by the government of Nepal. Conditions including respiratory infections, dysentery, and eye infections, are treated at the clinic; family planning and vaccinations are also available.



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