



A neighborhood in Islandview, site of Brilliant Detroit's D2N-sponsored newest hub

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DETROIT

Detroit has neighborhoods, Nepal has villages. Although worlds apart, people in Nepal and Detroit share a desire to live healthy, sustainable, and productive lives. For this reason, D2N continues to focus on building programs that ensure high quality healthcare in both locations.

In both Detroit neighborhoods and Nepalese villages, barriers to accessing healthcare exist - trust and lack of understanding are primary factors.

In Nepal, D2N has utilized Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) to overcome these barriers. As trusted members of their communities, they are trained to provide both health education and assistance while accessing available resources.

Brilliant Detroit is a nonprofit that has been invited into fourteen high-need Detroit neighborhoods to provide health, education and family support so children can be healthy, stable and school-ready. These hubs provide sustainable infrastructure that D2N is using as a platform for our newest community health initiative,

Similar to a FCHV in Nepal, a trusted member of each community is selected and trained as a Community Health Worker (CHW). They are the first line to provide health education and assistance while accessing available resources.

We have selected our project manager and our first CHW; they have both recently completed their certification. We are piloting this effort in two neighborhoods, with plans to eventually include 24 sites.

Also in Detroit, D2N has sponsored many different programs at Avalon Village in Highland Park, including their annual summer music camp and the building of the Homework House, a facility that provides after-school programs and tutoring as well as at child care. Pictured to the left are kids on the steps of the newly-opened Homework House during Music Camp.



Brilliant Detroit's D2N-sponsored hub in Islandview



Music Camp in Avalon Village



Spearheaded by Elisa and Ned Greenberg, pictured in the middle, D2N held its first ever charity bike ride in August. Promoting bike riding safety as well as bringing awareness to our programs, 30 riders spent a great morning on dirt trails.



Detroit has neighborhoods, Nepal has villages

NEPAL



Young women at a menses listening session



Detroit has neighborhoods, Nepal has villages



Bishnu Shrestha and some of his goats

In Spring 2022, cases of COVID slowed. As a result, we were able to turn our attention to non-COVID relief healthcare, specifically menses. Young women in the villages of Khotang lack both the education and supplies necessary for monthly menses. Originated by D2N student board member Anya Chinnaiyan, our newest initiative seeks to identify and address these difficulties.

Along with a facilitator, D2N met with young women from several schools and sent surveys to recent graduates. We learned that due to cultural taboos, misinformation and misperception about menstruation, the young women face discrimination both at home and in school. Often they miss a week of school and are excluded from activities during menses.

The young women describe themselves as "suffering in silence" - emotionally and physically. Making sanitary and pain relief products free and readily available, in addition to education on every level (community, parents, teachers, students and mothers groups) are the first steps to mitigating the current situation.

Young men in Nepal have also benefited from a D2N initiative. Traditionally, lack of opportunity in rural Nepal forced many young men to go to urban areas and abroad for work. After losing their jobs outside of Khotang during the pandemic, many young men returned to their home villages. D2N addressed this situation, as well as the chronic unemployment, by providing a business training course in ten villages.

Prior to COVID Bishnu Shrestha had planned to leave Nepal, but was unable to do so because of the pandemic. He, instead, purchased six goats. The business training taught him how to scale up his venture in a systematic way. Today he has 21 goats and plans to start turkey farming ... and stay in Khotang.