

# To The Summit

News from Himalayan Family Healthcare Project



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- Our primary goal of constructing a hospital in remote Nepal
- Updates on recent and upcoming medical mission trips
- Our newly expanded mission and taking action to serve the Himalayan community in the states
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- Our current needs

## Our Primary Goal for 2013-2015

This year we will begin construction of a 20+ bed hospital in Lower Manang's Thonche village. As a hub for a wide range of health services, the hospital will provide preventative care for adult and pediatric health issues, including dental, optical, and prenatal. Treatments and surgeries will be offered for disease and injuries. It will also serve as a setting for health promotion and education on topics such as sustainable and nutritious food, sanitation, lifestyle, and more.

## In Nepal: Medical Mission Trips

**[2012]** Last fall, from October 27 - November 5, HFHCP conducted its second annual medical mission trip to Nepal. Our international team of 37 professionals and volunteers treated over 500 patients for a wide variety of dental, eye, and medical issues. Men, women, and children hiked upwards of two days each way to reach our health camp in the Lower Manang's Thonche Village. For many patients, this was the first health screening of their life.

**[2013]** This year's medical mission is planned for September 22 - October 2. Our team will conduct two health camps in Manang district: the first in Thonche Village and the second in Chame Village. Meetings are already underway as we work to incorporate feedback and lessons learned from the 2012 mission into this year's trip. Dr. Rick Bowen and Daniel Danilczyk will return this year to provide strong leadership. Also joining this year is Prakash Shahi, new board member and Nepal native. Operational assistance will again be provided by Anita Gurung, our Kathmandu-based coordinator.



## In St. Louis: Spring Health Fair

HFHCP is offering a free health fair at the International Institute on Saturday, May 11. This event marks HFHCP's first action following our **newly expanded mission** of serving the health needs "of children and their families living in remote areas of Nepal *and throughout the United States.*"

## Board and Partner Updates

### New Board Members

Dr. Rick Bowen has joined the board and will lead our medical mission's Program Committee along with Daniel Danilczyk. Dr. Bowen serves as Chief Medical Officer for Wings of Hope, is active in his private medical practice, and is starting a medical device company.

Prakash Shahi has also joined the board and will lead our Community Outreach committee.





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Mr. Shahi has a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering, is a manager with Nidec Motor Corporation, and has 13 US patents with several applications pending. Originally from the Dolpa district, he is a graduate of the prestigious Bushanilkantha School in Nepal and advises the St. Louis-based Nepali Diaspora organization.

### **Partnership with St. Louis University**

HFHCP and Saint Louis University (SLU) have signed an agreement to promote collaborations in the spirit of institutional friendship and cultural, educational and scientific cooperation. The two institutions will work together to identify and achieve shared objectives for enhancing professional training, education and research opportunities in Nepal. Last year we were fortunate to have three of SLU's top fourth-year medical students join our medical mission, and student interest is already high for this year's trip. Going forward, our relationship with SLU will provide ongoing and sustainable medical support for the Manang hospital.

### **Partnership with Wings of Hope**

Wings of Hope (WOH) is contributing to HFHCP's goal of building a hospital in Nepal by securing financial resources and providing consultation. WOH operates 145 Bases of Humanitarian Relief worldwide and was a 2011 and 2012 Nobel Peace Prize Nominee. Our partners at WOH have submitted funding requests to several foundations, yielding encouraging feedback. We are working to incorporate these preliminary recommendations, and are grateful to architect Warren Hauff for making timely modifications and re-submitting our architectural drawings to potential funders.



## **Current Needs: Volunteers and Donations**

### **Communications Volunteer**

One of our major goals for 2013 is to improve communications with stakeholders worldwide. We continue to search for a volunteer who is passionate about our mission and has expertise in communication media. We have updated our website with recent news and photos, and are moving toward a smartphone-friendly site with improved graphics and visuals. With Wings of Hope, we plan to document our journey in establishing a hospital in Manang through a set of videos. Our videos will be added to an existing YouTube series highlighting emerging social welfare initiatives in Asia.

### **Furnishings for Volunteer Workspace**

The board has approved the second-floor space above Everest Cafe in downtown St. Louis as an interim workspace for volunteers until we secure a permanent office. Initial setup expenditures will total less than \$250 (for paint, phone line and internet). We are accepting donations of office furniture and hope to have the space available for use in mid-April.

### **Matching Funds Campaign**

Wings of Hope will **MATCH EVERY DONATION** received by April 15, 2013, up to \$5,000. We have recently negotiated the price of land for the hospital in Thonche Village, and need your help to follow through in bringing much-needed year-round healthcare to this region. We are honored and humbled by your generous support that enables us to achieve our mission! Please mail your donation to Himalayan Family Healthcare Project at 4145 Manchester Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110. Or, donate online at our secure website, [www.himalayanfamilyhealthcare.org](http://www.himalayanfamilyhealthcare.org).