# THE SIR EDMUND HILLARY FOUNDATION

■ OF CANADA |

DECEMBER 2015

# The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation



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Registered Ontario, Canadian Charitable No. 119150837 RR0001

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My visit to Nepal in October gave me hope that through the generosity of our donors we will be able to rebuild our projects and in doing so we will make them much stronger to withstand future quakes. Engineers have been working with our teams in Khunde to design stronger more earthquakeresistant buildings less likely to be damaged with future shakes.

I was able to visit the Zeke O'Connor Phaflu
Community School and meet the children. I went
through each class grades 8-11 and shook their hands
and heard their names and where they were from.
We discussed favourite subjects and looked at projects
they were doing. Each class has 30 students with a
pretty equal amount of girls to boy ratio and extremely
eager to learn. We learned of a recent grade 10
graduate who had received top regional marks and



won a scholarship to a school in Kathmandu. This young Rai girl wants to go to medical school and then plans to come back and work in the area. What more can a foundation ask for than having these young people go full circle and bring back their knowledge to help others in their regions?

I also was able to meet with The Duke of Edinburgh Programme Manager in Kathmandu. Our school has 30 students enrolled in the Bronze Award this year. We are excited to offer this program to the students so they may earn achievements outside the class room criteria.

Nepal itself, although presently suffering under India's blockade of fuel, seems to be recovering well from the Spring earthquakes. Although there are still displaced people and villages destroyed, NGO's are helping in these specific areas and the situation appears to be getting better.

I was thrilled to see a cleaner Kathmandu this trip and although tourism is down, hopefully come May 2016 the industry will bounce back as Everest is still a destination so many people have on their bucket list. The mountains remain beautiful and their people friendly and welcoming.

On behalf of the Foundation, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Namaste

Karen O'Connor

Karen O'Connor President

## THE SIR EDMUND HILLARY FOUNDATION

# **EARTHQUAKE UPDATE**

The devastating earthquakes in Nepal this year and the allocation of funds to the Rebuild Programs have been our main focus to date. We have received many donations from across Canada and internationally from corporate donors, service clubs, other foundations and hundreds of individuals. All of which we are most grateful. These donations have been allocated to approved projects. Some planned projects are still awaiting engineer reports and estimates before providing final approval.

Approved projects include the Kunde Hospital Rebuild, the Khumjung School Complex which consists of the main Primary School and the Khumjung High School and the surrounding village schools. The Phaplu Primary School, a Monastery and some village projects have also been approved. Work has already begun at the Phaplu Primary School! As we receive further updates on these projects mentioned, we will be sharing photos of their progress on our website so you can see just how your donations are helping those so desperately in need.

We can assure you that the correct due diligence is in place on all rebuild projects to ensure that the work being done, not only to serve the local village's requests, but most importantly will meet all requirements for safety and future earthquake preparedness. This will be accomplished by following the most recent engineering standards for building.

The current trade blockade at the Indian border is causing serious problems for Nepal. The blockade has led to a shortage of fuel, and a shortage of construction materials. It is yet another challenge facing the people of Nepal and efforts to re-build. We can only hope it does not seriously delay our rebuild projects.

Please follow our updates on our website at http://www.thesiredmundhillaryfoundation.ca



Rebuilding Phaplu Primary School





Kunde Hospital

#### 2015 AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE TORONTO GALA

The Partnership Award was presented to Patti Hull of EdgeHill Insurance Brokers Ltd. Patti is a Board Member and President of EdgeHill Insurance. Patti and Ross Schofield have been long time supporters of and friends of the Foundation.

The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Stanley Blaise Regis. Stanley has graciously volunteered for many years at the Foundation.

Our sincere thanks and gratitude to EdgeHill Insurance Brokers Ltd. and to Stanley!





# THE SIR EDMUND HILLARY FOUNDATION

# Toronto Gala Dinner and Auctions OCTOBER 23,2015



Piers Handling and friends enjoying the Gala



Pierre Pilote with Gala Guests



Guest speaker, 12 year old Brendan Kaye, with his Mom and other Gala guests



Guests enjoying the Gala & Live Auction



L to R – Jeanne, Karen, Dr. Kami, Phurba Centre – Zeke



Nima and Owen McElhinney with friends at the Gala and Live Auction



The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation



The Board of Directors and staff of

The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation

wish you and yours a Merry Christmas

and peace for the holidays and the New Year!

Thank you for your support in 2015.



Official Mascot of the Foundation