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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 earthquake-resistant buildings less likely to be damaged with future shakes.

I was able to visit the Zeke O'Connor Phafu 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



President, Karen O'Connor