

Kids Shangrila Home – Kathmandu – Nepal



The YRP Project

Shangrila Home is a home for street children in Kathmandu, Nepal. It is situated in Aarubari, an area in the north-eastern outskirts of the Kathmandu valley. In October 1995 this house was founded by Inge Bracke, a woman from Antwerp, Belgium. De first residents were eleven boys who finally got the opportunity, after years of street life, to live in a real home. Meanwhile the project has grown and at this moment we are already taking care of more than one hundred children and youngsters, in several different ways. All information about this project can be found on our website : <http://users.pandora.be/shangrila/>

The **Youth Rehabilitation Program (YRP)** is one of our side projects.

A lot of youngsters who ended up on the streets for whatever reason, find themselves in a miserable situation without any prospects. Those who are already older than 13, 14 have no more hope for the future. For them it is already too late to go to school or to receive any kind of education. What's important to them, is to survive, from day to day. They have no choice but to do the most horrible and dirty jobs for a few rupees a day. There is nobody to take care of them and with the ample profit they get, they can hardly fill their stomachs, let alone find a place to sleep. To create a certain feeling of safety, they live together in



gangs. Life in a gang may be a bit safer, but it's a hard life, and for most of them it leads to alcohol abuse, drug addictions and crime.

For these youngsters a number of shelters have been set up in Kathmandu, where at least they can find a place to sleep and one healthy meal a day. This kind of basic help is essential, and for most of them a way just to stay alive. And it's these shelters we are working together with concerning our YRP project.

These kids did not choose for this kind of life. It is not their fault that they find themselves in this kind of situation. And lots of them would gladly escape from it and do something with their life. We would like to offer them this opportunity by means of technical trainings (skill trainings). We are cooperating with a number of technical institutes, which offer a variety of subjects : courses for plumbers, car mechanics, carpenters, electricians, masons, cooks, etc..., with a duration of half a year to two years.

But there is more to it than just a skill training. These boys have to be taken away from their current environment, so that they are no longer confronted every day with the tough street life, so that they no longer have to experience the aggression that comes with it, so that they are no longer tempted by alcohol and drugs. They should get the chance to catch their breath without constantly worrying how and where they are going to find their next meal and a shelter for the night. They should be able to come "home" at the end of the day.

That's why, in august 2004, we started up the YRP House, also situated in Aarubari, far from the horrors and temptations of the big city. This house accommodates 20 boys between 15 and 20 years old, under the supervision of 2 social workers. From here they go every morning to their courses. They sleep in rooms of 4 to 6 people. They take turns in cleaning the house and cooking the food. Every morning they start with a few hours of tuition by the social workers before leaving for their courses. Here they find their home, the place where they get a chance to rehabilitate, to



detoxicate. As long as they are on their course, they can stay here. After graduation, as soon as possible we try to find them a job, together with the technical institute, and help them on their way to an independent life, so that they can make place for the next ones to come.

To enable us to guarantee the sustainability of this project, we are looking for sponsorships. You could sponsor our project by transferring a fixed amount on a monthly base on the project account of Shangrila Home in Belgium, with reference "YRP". The money will directly and entirely be transferred to the project account in Nepal and after registration of your data, an update on the evolution and latest news about the project will be sent to you on a 3-monthly base.

There is still a long way to go, but the willingness is there, from our side as well as from the side of those underprivileged kids who would do anything to get a future again. And if all of us collaborate, this dream can be fulfilled for many of them.

Kids Shangrila Home
YRP Project
Aarubari, Kathmandu
Nepal

P.O. Box 7818
Tel. : 00977-1-4478157
Email : Wim De Becker : wdebecker@hotmail.com

Project account Belgium : 068-2224815-50 (Dexia)