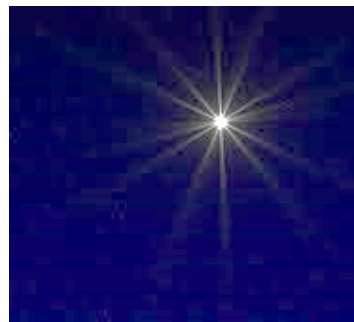


Nieuwsbrief Kinderen van Sikkim – december 2021

Lieve vrienden en donateurs,

Het is inmiddels lang geleden dat we onze kinderen, inmiddels voor een groot deel jong volwassen, hebben gezien. Dat wil niet zeggen dat we geen contact hadden. Gelukkig hebben we tegenwoordig, naast het gewone e-mailverkeer ook nog de beschikking over Whatsapp, Skype en video bellen.



We willen jullie graag informeren over hun wel en wee en naast een korte introductie van ons hebben we hen in oktober van dit jaar ook zelf gevraagd om iets voor jullie te schrijven.

Samjyor Lepcha, een van onze succesverhalen: als 5-jarige bij ons begonnen op de Sikkim Himalayan Academy (SHA) en nu alweer enige jaren werkzaam als advocaat in Delhi. Sinds 23 september 2019 staat hij ingeschreven op het tableau. Hij is onlangs van kantoor ('Chambers') veranderd en werkt nu op het kantoor van Shadman Siddiqui, een jongeman die hij kent van college (ouderejaars). Hij wordt hier beter betaald, krijgt een betere opleiding en mag veel meer zaken zelfstandig behandelen. Hij is heel blij met deze stap. Samjyor houdt zich vooral bezig met criminal litigation (o.a. money laundering (witwassen)) maar doet ook civiele handelszaken, en komt bij allerlei rechtbanken om zijn zaken te bepleiten, tot aan de Supreme Court toe. Hij werkt ongelooflijk hard, ook in de weekenden, en maakt lange dagen, maar heeft het erg naar zijn zin. Het is mooi om te zien dat hij Chung Chung als advocaat kan bijstaan (zie hieronder).



Kursongkit Lepcha is het nichtje van Samjyor en ook zij is als 5-jarige begonnen op SHA en inmiddels afgestudeerd. Zij vertelt enthousiast over haar eerste baan, haar studiereis naar Duitsland en ook hoe Corona haar leven beïnvloedt:

Dear all, I am Kursongkit Lepcha and happy to report that I am alive and healthy, as I hope you all are too. I thought I wouldn't make it when I got down with the virus and those depressing months of isolation. It is scary how fast time flies by and how quickly things change. A year ago I thought I had it all, hopeful and insanely naive but here I am.

The world I thought I knew so well has shifted indiscriminately and it only makes sense for me to do the same.

My family is doing fine now though we lost our granddad two months back It was such a stressful time, not many of us could see him, not even for the last time. Every day we offer prayers in his name, hoping he's found peace wherever he is now.



Met exchange students in Duitsland

In de Reading Room

I have been keeping in touch with Miss Jannie from time to time and get to hear from Miss Mieke in our Whatsapp group. It is always wonderful to be reminded that there are people who care and think about you. Who want to know how things are and whether we're doing fine and more. I am blessed.

I worked for almost a year after my graduation from Scottish Church College with an innovative education project called Equip launched by the State Government of Sikkim. Right after that I got myself enrolled for my Masters in Early Childhood Care and Education from Ambedkar University in Delhi. I was also selected for an exchange programme in Germany, Ludwigsburg University. Right after my thesis I had to leave Delhi as the situation grew pretty bad.

Back home I volunteered to teach in a low cost Private school in my village. Then toward the beginning of 2021 I started working with a community library called RR, Reading Room, in South Sikkim as a trainee Program Associate sponsored by RGF, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation in Delhi.

RR was established in the year 2019 by the founder Prava Rai, inspired by her love for books and the desire to share the joy of reading with the communities around. The culture of reading and writing for children is still a foreign idea and to many a farfetched concept. The library thus aims to promote reading and writing while developing language skills and installing values/ability to think and reflect for one to become a responsible individual.

We also organise programmes and workshops on social and environmental issues. With a team we built a website to explore the beauty of the land and the transformation of identities of various communities in Sikkim. You can have a look at www.sikkimproject.com and receive articles every now and then.

My commitment with RFG is for one year but the founder of RR has expressed that she would like me to continue working also after the contract.

I personally would like to resume my academic pursuit and have been researching for various universities abroad, in the hope I will get a full sponsorship. If this does not go as planned, I'd like to continue working for another year at RR and meanwhile also apply for PhD in India itself.

These are my plans for the future unless the pandemic has something else in mind. Thank you for everything that you do for all of us. I am forever grateful to you all. I am enclosing a few pictures of myself and the place I work.

Tshering Dorjee, ook hem kennen we van SHA. Hij is na klas 6 naar de Tribal School in Noord Sikkim gegaan, een zeer gerespecteerde school waar alleen de beste leerlingen worden toegelaten. Hij wilde medicijnen studeren, maar dat lukte niet vanwege zeer hoge eisen bij het toelatingsexamen.

Zijn tweede keus was diergeneeskunde. Dit is zijn verhaal:



I hope and wish that this mail finds you in a good health.

First of all, a big thankyou to you and everyone from my heart for sponsoring a kid like me who is financially weak and want to study further and make a career which wouldn't be possible without your help. I can't thank you enough for what you've done & helped me but I'll always keep you in my prayers...

I am Studying Bsc Zoology in Govt. Degree College, Sikkim. This course is a bachelor's degree in science Zoology (about animal/fauna of habitat). I am doing good academically and also enjoying the process and I've passed all my past three semesters. Now I am in 4th Semester.

Academically I want to be a Wildlife Biologist or Zoology Faculty in an Institution as my Job which will help to earn for my living as well as for my family... My dream is to have a better life socially, educationally & financially.

Covid in India was worst and affected its citizens really bad. But in context to Sikkim, the effect wasn't bad as the rest of the Indian States. The economically weaker section got help & relief from the Govt. We got free Ration, Oil, pulses etc.. free from the State Govt. for few months.

The whole country was shut. Colleges/ Institutions started running online. It was chaotic, didn't know how to respond or react.

Right now the situation in Sikkim is getting better and things are partially getting back to normal though there are few restrictions. Even the schools has reopened this month.

*Warm Regards
Love & Care
Tshering Dorjee Bhutia*



Rha Tshering kwam ook als 5-jarige op SHA. Hij was de jongste uit een groot gezin en het verhaal was dat er niet genoeg eten was en dat vader zijn zoontje op een uur lopen en over een diep ravijn naar school moest brengen. Hij heeft zijn studie economie afgerond aan St Xavier in Calcutta en is druk aan het solliciteren naar een baan, het liefst bij de overheid want dat betekent financiële zekerheid.

It has been a long time since I last wrote to you. I'm very sorry for the late reply as I was very swamped with house chores. I hope you are well.



The pandemic situation in Kolkata started coming back to normal situations only after August month as many had taken the 2nd dose of vaccine. I sat for several Govt exams including banking, state exam (both Sikkim and West Bengal), Central Govt exam and the UPSC exam. Sadly I couldn't qualify for the UPSC 2021 exam and one of the bank exams that I appeared for. The rest of the exam results are still pending. I am still studying for the upcoming exams and I'm hoping to make it through in one of the exams. Getting a Govt job in India has become very difficult as the level of competition has increased over the years. I have currently come to my home in North Sikkim to spend time with my family and for some documentation work for myself.

During the pandemic most of the institutions were shut down and even all the competitive exams were cancelled or postponed. It became a trend that going outside or travelling was only for acquiring necessities or in case of emergency and lockdown kept extending months after months. Studying and preparing for exams became quite difficult during the pandemic but I never compromised putting my efforts into my preparation. I also did some courses in Udemy and Coursera during the lockdown.

I think getting a job in the Govt sector is taking me some time but I am positive that my efforts will not go in vain. I deeply feel the pain and worthlessness that I have not been able to do well in life so far and that is another reason I have not written anything to my sponsor and any of you all. However I still hope that day will come when I can happily write to Miss Kieke and you all that I am finally doing something worthwhile in life and be an example to the rest of my juniors. I hope to come and meet you all and my sponsor personally someday in future. I will always be grateful to Miss

Kieke for helping me throughout my life and giving me a lifetime opportunity to complete my education and making me who I am today. I am truly blessed to have her in my life and I hope I will make you proud. I would also like to thank both of you for extending your help and support to me along with others. Hopefully if everything becomes normal I guess we will get to see you soon.

Thank you for everything.

With Love,

Rha

Laymit Lepcha is ook als klein kind begonnen op SHA. Laymit heeft in 2020 aan de universiteit van Gangtok haar Master in Engels en communicatie/journalistiek gehaald. Dit is haar verhaal:



Hello ma'am, It's been a long time since I haven't updated you about my life here. How are you and your family members? I hope you are doing well and healthy. How is weather there? I am fine here and we are approaching towards the winter as its started becoming cold and in north Sikkim people are receiving first seasonal snowfall. Thankfully the covid situation is becoming stable here.

I have successfully completed my post graduation. As I had mentioned in my previous letter that I will be approaching for my future studies after my post graduation. So this year I was preparing for my NET Exam which was supposed to be held in the month of June but unfortunately due to lockdown the exam got postponed. We were informed that the exam will be held in the month of August. But still the central couldn't confirm the exact date for the exam by that time.

As we all were going through complete lockdown in the country.

By then I thought of doing a job from home in some media houses in the state. For almost two months I worked as freelancer. Again in between we were informed that the exam will be in 2nd week of October so I took a break and started preparing for the exam as usual it is not confirmed yet. I assume my career in Academics.

I hope it will held very soon because all the educational institutions are reopening from primary school to higher education. Once I cleared this exam then I can approach for PhD.

My plan is to continue my further studies. From next year I want to do a regular B.Ed (bachelor of education) course in Soreng B.Ed college which is for 2 years. So my planning to study there and stay there for 2 years. I want to do B.Ed as my regular course and side by side I want to do PhD from distance.

Last but not least I would like to thank you all for your love, care, help and eternal support. What and where I'm today is all because of your support. Once again thanks you all so much 🍷🍷 With your support I can achieve what I dream of and one day I will definitely make you all proud.

Thank you

with love

Laymit Lepcha

Sarda Gurung leerden we kennen als de slimme dochter van de familie waar wij altijd een kamer huurden, voor 5 euro per maand. Helaas voor haar had ze ook een broertje waar de familie meer hoop op had gevestigd. Het broertje werd aangemeld voor SHA en Sarda moest genoeg nemen met de dorpsschool. Toch leerde ze razendsnel, ook Engels, en hadden wij uitgebreide gesprekken met haar over haar toekomst. We beloofden haar support als ze dat nodig mocht hebben. Dat had

ze toen ze een universitaire opleiding ging volgen voor verpleging in Bangalore. Nu is ze aan het werk als verpleegster in Gangtok. Ze deelt een kamer met een vriendin:



*Dear Miss Mieke and Miss Jannie,
With your support I was able to complete my course without much complications. Today I am proud to inform you that I am working as one of the medical staff in Sikkim's renowned hospital STNM, Multispeciality Hospital, 2nd largest Government hospital in Inida. The day shifts, the night shifts and the Covid shifts keep me pretty occupied, hence, I was not able to stay much in contact with you. Once again I thank you for your support, I pray that you and your families are safe.
Sarda Gurung*

Nedup Lepcha is ook een van de eerste leerlingen van SHA. Opgegroeid bij een grootmoeder en een vader die te veel dronk. De thuissituatie was op een gegeven moment zo slecht dat we een koe voor oma hebben gekocht. Met de verkoop van de melk kon ze zo in elk geval voor eten van de familie zorgen. Nedup had van jongs af aan een groot verantwoordelijkheidsgevoel. Dit resulteerde uiteindelijk in zijn studie sociologie. Hij is onlangs afgestudeerd en is op zoek naar een baan:

Dear Miss Jannie and Miss Mieke, dear sponsor, It gives me immense pleasure to write to you and update you about my situation. I hope you are in good health. Thank you for your endless support throughout my school and university life. I would like to inform you that I have completed my Master Degree and have received the online result of my last semester, I have cleared all the papers and got 70 percent marks. All this was not possible without your effort in starting SHA and supporting and trusting the students of Sikkim and the financial support. I will always remain grateful to all the sponsors and trustmembers for your help and contributions to the students of Sikkim and giving us an opportunity to study. Having completed my MA course, I am now left with many choices and decisions. Being an only member from the family to complete post graduation and having responsibility over family, it is not easy. I have been submitting my resume to different NGO's, private and government and also sat for a few interviews and examinations but I was not able to qualify also because there were too many competitors. I will be looking for work and hopefully I will be able to set up a career in the field. With whatever I do I always have in my mind that one day I will be able to help others like you all have helped me and the students of Sikkim. With time everything seems to be changing. When I was in SHA, I had my interest in playing cricket and thought some day I will make a career out of it. At Dr Grahams I indeed played lots of sports for the Cottage as well as for the School, but my interest was in Social Work and Administrative work. I also had an interest in working with the corporate world when I was doing my internship with Ujjivan Small Finance Bank in Kolkata. I was working part-time as a statistician at Genius Sports during the beginning of my Master's program and somehow developed interest towards reporting sports. Now after I have completed my Masters, I have developed my interest in teaching and administrative work. It is indeed very difficult to start a career and I feel student life seems much easier and happier.



*Though I am hopeful and excited in building up a career soon.
Thank you so much for everything, with love and prayers, Nedup*

Kinzangkit koos na SHA en klas 12 examen op de Tribal School voor een studie Engels op het Scottish Church College en verhuisde daarna naar St Xavier in Calcutta voor een studie Politieke Wetenschappen. Zij heeft inmiddels haar bachelor afgerond. Ook zij vertelt haar verhaal:



*Dear Sponsors, I hope this message finds you in good health although it would have been more pleasant if you could have come to India to visit us. However, in these trying times of Covid, I can only hope that you all are safe and sound and don't worry about us. During the lockdown I was at home in Sikkim from where I did my exams online and completed my graduation in Political Science Honours from St Xavier's College, Kolkata. The state borders were completely sealed, as such that there was no movement of any transport or humans. Gradually, when the Covid cases went down, the borders opened and by that time I had joined my post graduation course for Masters in Political Science in Calcutta University. It is a 2-year course comprising of 4 semesters. Two semesters of my course have been completed and I performed quite well and cleared all my examination papers. I am currently in the third semester with online lectures and examinations. After completing my Masters course, I will apply for government examinations and work hard to achieve a good administrative post so that I can be strong and independent from my family. Lastly, I would like to thank you all for always supporting me throughout my journey of life and I wish you all good health and happiness. I will always be grateful for all the love, care and support that you have given me. I would not have got such good opportunities in life had you all not been there I hope we will meet soon.
Love and regards, Kinzangkit Lepcha .*

ChungChung Sherpa kwam weer op ons pad tijdens onze laatste reis. Zij was als alle anderen begonnen op SHA maar ging daarna naar de Tribal School en was enigszins uit ons beeld verdwenen.



Ze was vrolijk en ondernemend en vastbesloten dokter te worden. Dat lukte niet (slechts ongeveer één op de duizend slagen voor het toelatingsexamen) en ze besloot radiologie te gaan studeren. Na één jaar studie raakte ze in problemen en klopte bij ons aan. Los daarvan speelde een klacht die ze had ingediend tegen haar vader voor verkrachting waarna hij in de gevangenis kwam en de familie zich tegen haar keerde (hierin wordt zij bijgestaan door Samjyor). Zij houdt goede moed:

Dear Sponsors, I hope you are doing well. Firstly I am very thankful for the support that you are giving me during this time. I am doing well since I came back to my hostel, everything is fine and even Covid seems under control. I am currently studying my graduation at Assam Downtown University, in Assam. I am pursuing my graduation on BSc in Radiology (paramedical course). I am in the 2nd year and my exams are likely to start from 27 november. It seems the covid cases are increasing but I hope there won't be a lockdown again as the past ones have been quite hard for me to deal with. I have started making myself useful and busy to keep away myself from all those mental issues. I mostly make sketches and listen to music, I am happy to say that I am doing quite good. I'd once again like to thank Jannie miss, Mieke miss and all our sponsors for always being there during the days of pandemic. I promise to put all my efforts in my studies and become successful one day.
Love, ChungChung

Nimphuti begon als een verlegen meisje en is nu een zelfverzekerde jonge vrouw. Volgde een verpleegsters opleiding in Bangalore maar miste haar eindexamen omdat haar instituut had verzuimd haar examengeld door te sturen. Inmiddels werkt ze wel in het ziekenhuis en hoopt ze – als de coronapandemie voldoende onder controle is, alsnog haar verpleegstersdiploma te halen. Wij zullen haar daarin steunen.



Dear sponsors, I hope all is well with you and your family, Covid 19 has created a new life for all of us. I am doing well here but I am sad that we are not able to get together due to this pandemic.

During the pandemic I started working in a hospital in West Bengal. I have been here 5 months I was posted in the Covid wings while the cases had really gone very high. I used to stay in the hostel provided by the hospital but was infected with Covid 19 and had to be quarantined. The hostel facility was not safe as hygiene was poor so I decided to move out and stay in a rented room with my colleagues. Presently the number of Covid cases has gone down and these days I am doing my duty in hemodialysis unit. Since I am working in a private hospital the work load is very heavy and salary is not satisfactory.

I am still trying to find better and permanent work in Sikkim as well as in other states but since I don't have the degree its really hard to get a job in a good hospital. Hospitals mostly prefer bsc nurses. I am planning to do my post bsc in the coming year, if possible.

Without the support of you I would not be able to reach my goal. Thank you so much once again for your generous support. I am blessed to have sponsors like you. Please give my warm regards to your family.

Much love, Nim phu

Dr Grahams Homes (DGH)

Onze kinderen op DGH zijn ook veelvuldig thuis geweest sinds de start van de pandemie en kregen online onderwijs, voor zover mogelijk. In de arme gezinnen in Sikkim is dat natuurlijk nog veel problematischer dan in ons land. Wij worden op de hoogte gehouden door Ian & Anji Russell van The UK Committee for Dr. Graham's Homes.

[Home - Dr Graham's Homes \(drgrahamshomes.co.uk\)](http://drgrahamshomes.co.uk)

Dit is het laatste nieuws:

We are writing to let you know that Pem Diki Sherpa, Nitesh Gurung and Tumyang Hang Limboo are now safely back in school. It has been a long and difficult year for all the children and we are happy, as they are, that they are now back to some sort of normality. The children at school will be staying there throughout the Christmas period.

Pem Diki is preparing for her ISC exams during this school year. As well as letting you know that the children are in school, we want to ask you if you will be taking over her college sponsorship, should she choose to go on to further education?

As far as we are aware, Lhaki Lepcha and Sonam Bhutia have not yet returned as they are outside the government permitted age band.

Wij hebben bevestigd dat wij **PemDiki** zullen blijven ondersteunen. Zij heeft ons zelf enige tijd geleden geschreven dat ze verpleegkunde wil gaan studeren:

Dear ma'am,

I hope that this email reaches you in good health and spirits. I hope you are doing well. I'm not sure but I think I sent this email to a wrong email address before.

Things have been pretty great here at school. We've already completed our half yearly examination and I've scored 85% in this exams.

Very soon we'll be sitting for our first semester examination that is in November and the second semester will be held in March.

We've been having our online classes, and I've decided not to go back home yet at least until the first semester is not over.

After my ISC examination, I plan on taking up nursing and I've also seen few colleges in banglore that I want to go to. I hope that you can further guide me to make a few decisions.

From amongst our group only tumyang, phurba and I have decided to stay back at school.

Thankyou for sponsoring us and supporting us at all the time we're very grateful for everything that you all have done for us.

I wish to hear back from you soon until then take care and stay safe.

With love of love

Pemdiki

Ook **Lakhi** heeft ons zelf geschreven. Zij kwam pas rond haar 10e op SHA en het verhaal toentertijd was dat ze werd verwaarloosd en dat er regelmatig geen eten thuis was, ook omdat haar vader alcoholist was. Tot haar grote geluk mocht zij na klas 6 naar Dr Grahams, vooral vanwege haar uitzonderlijke schoolprestaties. Zij zit nu in klas 11. Zij is inmiddels ook weer terug op school en bereidt zich voor op haar examen. Zij had een beugel nodig en die hebben zij betaald. Zij schreef eerder dit jaar:

To all my sponsors.

Firstly I would like to greatly appreciate you all for being so generous and sponsoring my education. It truly means much to me. I will do well in my life and studies to show my gratitude towards people like you. In the near future my only wish is to meet you all and take the time to thank you. We all know that the situation is not that good due to the pandemic but please stay safe and take good care of yourself.

I was at Grahams till the end of July and then back home doing my on-line classes. From October the classes starting from 9 have to come to the school preparing for exams, mine are next February.

Thank you once again for your support, also to get my braces,

Lots of love, Lhaki

Sangdup is nog steeds onze vertegenwoordiger in Sikkim en verantwoordelijk voor het wel en wee van onze kinderen op DGH. Door Corona heeft hij helaas minder voor de kinderen kunnen betekenen en minder contact met hen gehad doordat ze veelvuldig thuis waren. Sangdup is dit jaar opnieuw vader geworden, dit keer een zoon, Doongit Azuk, nu twee maanden oud. De bevalling verliep niet geheel voorspoedig maar inmiddels is het gevaar geweken en Doongit is *“is now fine and healthy”*.



Samten is een voormalige leerling van SHA en vorig jaar kregen we bericht dat hij in het ziekenhuis lag met nierproblemen. Hij moet drie keer per week naar het ziekenhuis voor dialyse. Vorig jaar was sprake van een mogelijke transplantatie, maar dat is (voorlopig) weer van de baan (te gevaarlijk). Wij hebben via de andere kinderen (Nedup, Rha en Samjyor) te horen gekregen dat hij geld nodig heeft voor medicijnen en het vervoer naar het ziekenhuis. Dat is een gering bedrag per maand en we gaan dat natuurlijk betalen. Mooi ook dat zijn oudere vrienden het voor hem opnemen en ons benaderen.

Loden Lepcha - Mayel Lyang Academy

Naast de Sikkim Himalayan Academy in Bhuriakop (SHA) waren we ook nauw betrokken bij een andere school in Noord Sikkim, de Mayel Lyang Academy. Een aantal van de kinderen op deze school werd door ons en de Engelse charity Children of Sikkim gesponsord. De leiding van deze school was

in handen van Loden Lepcha, een bevlogen man die zich het lot van de Lepcha's had aangetrokken en via educatie hun lot wilde verbeteren. Een korte update van de door ons gesponsorde kinderen van Loden:

Khamri to all sponsors.

We are all fine and in good health, i hope you are fine too. The children are also.

Dawa Tshering is, after college, working in a government job in a school in his own village. He also recently got married I have heard.

Laden also completed his college but has not enrolled in any kind of job so far, he is also living in his own village at the moment.

Rabgay is also doing a government job after completing his Bachelor in Commerce.

Sonam completed his training as a chef in Bangalore and is back in Sikkim in his village.

Pema Tshering completed his class 12 and started college but also enrolled in a government job.

Dup Tshering has completed his college last July.

Ponamit discontinued her college as she was suffering from tuberculosis and is at rest but she will complete her college when she gets better.

Solomit completed her college and is now doing her teachers training.

Miksim is doing her nursing training in Bangalore.

Timsong will be completing her college next year in Gangtok.

B has joined Gaytang school for class 11

Nomit passed class 10 and is working in the PWD government department and looking after her family.

And all this through your grace and blessings that all of them have reached great heights. Thank you so much.

Loden Lepcha

Tot slot: de Stichting is financieel gezond, maar we krijgen, zoals je hebt kunnen lezen, met regelmaat verzoeken om kinderen (extra) financieel te ondersteunen en we kunnen dus altijd nog weer extra bijdragen gebruiken om ons in staat te stellen aan die verzoeken te kunnen voldoen. Kortom ... donaties blijven welkom!

De Kinderen van Sikkim wensen jullie een goed en gezond 2022!



Stichting Kinderen van Sikkim

KvK: 34188956

Rekeningnummer: IBAN NL26 INGB 0009 2273 56

Website: www.sikkim.nl of www.kinderenvansikkim.nl