

PestalozziWorld

EDUCATING CHILDREN FOR A BETTER LIFE

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Name a Senior House in India or Africa	£ 80,000	\$ 150,000
Sponsor the African Village	£ 150,000	\$ 270,000

All administration costs of PestalozziWorld are covered by the trustees so that every penny raised goes to supporting and providing educational facilities for the children. Our priorities are to continue to support our present scholarships in India, Nepal and Africa, to build the Asian Children's Village, and to follow it with an African Children's Village.

How to Contact Us

Pestalozzi Overseas Children's Trust

(Reg Charity No 1046599)
Lady Diana Butler
6 Thurloe Square
London SW7 2TA
Phone (+ 44) 20 7581 0101

Email Admin@PestalozziWorld.com

Pestalozzi US Children's Charity Inc

(Reg E I No 04-3407363)
Mr Nigel Lovett
22nd Floor
565 Fifth Avenue
New York N Y 10017
Phone (+1) 212 972 7008
Fax (+1) 212 687 9266

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PestalozziWorld

EDUCATING CHILDREN FOR A BETTER LIFE

Patron: H H The Dalai Lama

Summer 2006

Sophie's Trek

Sophie Pahlson-Moller, the wife of one of our Trustees, visited the Asian Children's Village in Dehradun, northern India, just over a year ago. Inspired by the children and the project to build an Asian Village for impoverished Indian, Nepali and Tibetan children, she returned to England and began planning a trek to raise money. Having enlisted the help of retired General Mohinder Chhatwal of the Indian Army to work out a hiking route between Dehradun and Dharamsala (where H H The Dalai Lama resides), Sophie contacted seven like-minded ladies who had shown a strong interest in Pestalozzi and who were prepared both to do the trek and to solicit donations for doing so. The group consisted of 5 Swedish, 1 Belgian and 2 American ladies.



and were shown the land on which the Asian Village will be built. Over the next few days the ladies spent time playing with the children, reading to them and answering all their myriad questions.

The General, with his right hand man Colonel Mall, also of the Indian Army, organised a mini-trek for the children and ladies. An adventure that took them up and down ravines, through forest and fields accompanied with lots of laughter and songs and ending with a picnic and games. In just a few days, the ladies had become so enthusiastic about the Village and so touched by the reception they had received, that it was very sad for them to leave. After an exchange of many gifts, hugs, kisses and tears our ladies set out for the next leg of their trip.

The trek went through lush verdant countryside, laced with mango trees and wild roses as well as by crowded roads and steep gorges, all against the beautiful backdrop of the

Himalayan Mountains. Understandably the discipline was not what General Chhatwal was used to and he sometimes felt it was easier to lead the 2 million men he once had under his command than the eight ladies on the trek!

It had been impossible to arrange an audience with His Holiness in advance, but through a close contact of one of our ladies, Priscilla Verhaeghe, they were able to attend a teaching session, and ultimately to be granted an audience with HH The Dalai Lama. Despite his extraordinary aura, he put them all at ease and blessed them and the purpose of their trek.

The purpose, of course, was to raise money for the children of the Asian Village. So far, more than £ 40,000 has been raised from generous donors. This is way above our expectations and we are deeply grateful to them, to Sophie, her lady friends, General Chhatwal and Colonel Mall for their energy and commitment, and to the wonderful children who inspired this feat. The first priority for the funds is to acquire a safe modern school bus, but many other wishes will also be fulfilled with this large sum.



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NEPAL

Bhaha Thami continues our series on **Pestalozzi Foundations** around the world, with this issue's focus on **PAHAD** and Shushila Subba tells how her work experience in the **Pestalozzi Centre** led her to study **Environmental Science**.

PAHAD (Pestalozzi Association Helping Advance Development) was established in April 2000. The Pestalozzi foundation in Nepal functions differently from other foundations. Registered as a non-governmental organization, any one above eighteen years of age is eligible to become a member. So there are members from all walks of life as well as Pestalozzi alumni — students who have studied abroad, individuals involved in education, people that have served in foreign service and most importantly citizens of Nepal who genuinely believe in educating children today for a better tomorrow. PAHAD is a charitable organization, run entirely by volunteers who believe that holistic education is essential for the development of the individual person. Our motto is: **INVESTING IN EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN.**

PAHAD's Objectives are:

To provide up to secondary level education to potentially bright children from deprived family background.

To educate children from marginalized communities who are distanced from the development process.

To be a financially sustainable organization for the promotion and implementation of its activities.

Eventually, to build a PAHAD "village" a self-contained community with its own hostel, workshop, farm, playing fields and a school. This village will bring all our scholars together for better training and supervision of their skills and personal development instead of them being scattered in different schools all over the country.

To develop and strengthen ties with similar organizations, at home and abroad, in order to promote the association and its ideals.

Membership

Membership subscription is one of the main sources of the organization's income. There are different kinds of membership categories, namely, Life membership, Well Wishers, Friends of PAHAD, Honorary membership. As of June 2006, PAHAD's total membership stands at 123.

Scholarship Programme

As of 2006, PAHAD sponsors 20 students.

Fundraising for Pestalozzi Asian Children's Village

In 2005, PAHAD organized a raffle draw and mini fun fair in support of the Asian Village. Proceeds (£1000) were handed over during the Reunion 2005 in Dehradun. This year PAHAD raised funds for the village in a similar way.

Help With Selecting Nepali scholars for the Village

PAHAD helps with preliminary stage of selection for the Asian Village by collecting the applications and shortlisting the candidates. During the final stage, it is involved with overall coordination.

Shushila's Story

I am from eastern Nepal, one of five children and I am the first child. I was selected by Pestalozzi in 1994 when I was ten and in a poorly equipped government

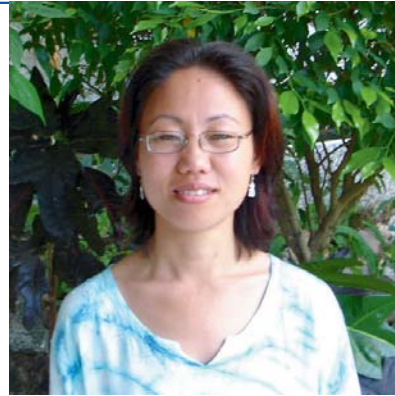
school near my house. I left for Kathmandu and got a golden opportunity to study in one of the top schools of our nation, Budhanilkantha school. It was hard and painful to remain away from my parents. I used to feel homesick but gradually I adjusted and hostel life was great fun, with all kinds of mischief and adventures, breaking rules, having midnight feasts and so on. Before going to Budhanilkantha, I did not know anything about the outer world because I was confined to my village but now I proudly say I gained confidence, and become bold enough to face all sorts of problems on my way. Pestalozzi empowers me to do something productive for my community.

The Pestalozzi centre in Budhanilkantha school was established in 1994 to impart vocational education to students and teach them to work through their head, heart and hands. The centre is self-sustaining. It has a vocational studies building, micro-hydropower unit, a mushroom block, compost pit and lots of land.

Several agricultural activities are run at the centre with the co-operation of the students, and among many activities, the compost preparation project is very important because manure is the essence of all agricultural activity. It is prepared using kitchen waste, weed, crop stubbles, cow dung and other biodegradable materials from the school. This project has been of great use to the entire school community from the environment point of view, as it helps to maintain a clean environment in the school. Vegetables grown by the use of compost are healthy because they are chemical free.

When I was at school I used to work enthusiastically in the centre. Once my friends and I did a chemical free potato project, successfully producing a great amount of potatoes. Today I am studying environmental science, a three year course and I sometimes wonder where I would be now had I not been selected by Pestalozzi. They have not just taught me skills, but also given me knowledge of how to use my head, heart and hands in my daily life.

I thank all of Pestalozzi's supporters for all you have done for me, and in the future I want to work sincerely, completing **the circle of success.**



"You plant a tiny seed in the ground;
in that seed lies the whole nature of the tree."

Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi



The Pestalozzi Overseas Children's Trust was founded in the UK in 1995, along with its sister organisation, the Pestalozzi US Children's Charity Inc., to sponsor the secondary education of deprived but particularly talented children through Pestalozzi principles. We currently fund scholarships for over 350 children from India, Malawi, Nepal, Tibet, Thailand and Zambia, have 3 Pestalozzi centres in Zambia, Nepal and India, and provide housing for approximately 300 of the children. We feel that children should be taught real life values and social responsibility in a caring environment where they can develop their full potential. In the last year, two of the students we sponsored as children have gained places at Oxford and Harvard, many others are at top universities at home as well as overseas. Critical to the Pestalozzi approach is that graduates are encouraged to set up foundations in their own countries to help educate new generations of disadvantaged children. We call this the Circle of Success.

Since I been here, I am having great fun and a lovely time at Pestalozzi. At Pestalozzi it's really nice and good. When I was new at Pestalozzi I was feeling so uncomfortable but now I feel as if I am at home. In our hostel there are two housemothers. I really like Sue mam and she is very kind. She loves us very much and we love her too. She cares about us very nicely and she understands our problems. We share all our joys and sorrows with her. In this hostel we live very happily and all my friends are very friendly and lovable. They don't fight with each other but instead they help each other. In this hostel there are lots of volunteers who come to see us and help us in our studies. I really like volunteers coming here and spending their time with us. Every Sunday we clean our house and get phone calls from our parents. Whenever we have time specially on Sunday we go to the park to play games such as badminton, see-saw, swing etc. In our hostel there is one cat whose name is Marchiel.



Our work has been recognised by UNICEF and the relevant British High Commissioners. All our administration costs are covered by our trustees so that every single penny you give us goes directly to the children and we are completely dependent upon the support and commitment of people like you for funds.

By becoming a Pestalozzi Partner, your £600 or \$1000 a year will cover all the expenses for one child for a year. Becoming a Gold Partner for £6000 or \$10000 per annum means you will be supporting 10 children. Ten lives. And whilst you will be kept informed about the talented children you are supporting, that will be just the beginning of your impact. Because the beauty of the Pestalozzi approach is its snowball effect on whole communities over generations, as today's underprivileged but gifted children become tomorrow's leaders and educators.

BYE BYE SUE, THANK YOU SO MUCH

For the last nine months Sue Essex has been our volunteer housemother to the foundation year children, and she is going to be deeply missed by her 26 charges. However she has taken them on a great road from their arrival to starting school.

Along the way she's been a mother, a sister, a nurse, a muse, a disciplinarian, a singer, an actor, a friend, a teacher, a chef, a poet, a vet, a great sport and a very much loved housemother.



Pestalozzi Asian Children's Village

The fifty children at the Asian Village are currently living in two houses—the Georgia McEver House and the Paul Miller House—both named in memory of the spouses of major benefactors. The Indian, Nepali and Tibetan children are selected from impoverished and mostly rural families on the basis that they are bright and, if given an opportunity, could really succeed in life. We take two girls for every one boy to try and redress the traditional imbalance and because we believe that in educating the girl you educate a family.

Dehradun was selected because of the excellence of the local English medium schools, and at present our children are attending seven different schools. We have acquired the land on which to build our village, but until it has been built the children are living in houses that we have both rented and bought. On their arrival, most of them speak very little English, the Nepali and Tibetan children may not speak any Hindi, and some of them have never slept in a bed before. We immerse them in English and for their first seven months they are taught their key subjects and skills at home to prepare for their entrance exams and the school year which starts in April.

The Pestalozzi philosophy is based on giving children a holistic education, in developing not just their academic side, but in giving them practical skills and teaching them social responsibility. Head. Heart. Hands. Thus the children are taught skills that they will be able to take back to their villages such as carpentry, cooking, gardening, sewing. They are taught etiquette and life skills such as yoga and meditation as it helps their concentration, and their unique cultural heritage is instilled as they all learn to celebrate each other's festivals and holy days.

As we go to press, our foundation year children will be coming to the end of their first term in their new schools, and the older children have settled down well into their second year at school. Almost all of them are doing extremely well at school, and we now have three children attending Brightlands, one of the top schools in India. Others are excelling at sports and art, music and carpentry.

In September this year we will have another 24 children joining us in the Pestalozzi Asian Children's Village bringing the total to 74, and our target is to have 200 children living in the village within five years.



A memorable visit to Doti

By Hikmat Khadka, a former Pestalozzi student

Bhaba and I visited Far West Nepal to see the Pestalozzi sponsored students at the Sitaram Higher Secondary School, in a village called Uchchakot in Doti. The father of a former student from Sitaram met us in Banedugrisen, a point on the Doti highway, to start walking the hour and a half uphill climb to Uchchakot. Mr. Lal Bahadur Kathayat, the headmaster of the school (as well as a life member of PAHAD), was the only person we knew in Doti. Electric lighting was introduced here only a few years ago. Water was in short supply, and had to be stored carefully in a tank for drinking and other use. We had lunch in a building divided into two parts – cooking area and dining space, but without benches and tables, so students would either stand and eat, or sit in a squatting position. We were happy to have fresh local vegetables grown by students themselves. Just before dinner time, all the hostel students and staff gathered in a big room of the self-catering hostel for girls, part-funded by Pestalozzi. In spite of its recent successful completion, this hostel remains empty, as due to the Maoists, parents are reluctant to send their daughters off to school and at the moment it is being used for extra classes. As the Pestalozzi students are residential, it was possible for us to see them all in one place. 26 were present that evening; one had gone home because of illness, and 5, we were told, had left the school some months ago, taken by the Maoists to join the "People's War".

We spent the next day with the students. Bhaba interviewed them individually and I told them about Pestalozzi – the man and his philosophy of education – and about some establishments named after him. I also gave them a short English lesson, and tried to listen to them as much as possible, although it was hard work to make them speak out loud. Some of the boys and girls came from suppressed communities, or so called lower castes of *Dalits* who are traditionally treated by society as untouchables. However, we saw no discrimination there. *Dalits* and non-*Dalits* were treated alike; they shared bedrooms, ate together, and lived in harmony. It was heartening to see this positive development in a superstitious and conservative society, where one is discriminated against on the basis of caste and gender.

Pestalozzi's investment in the education of these needy students in Doti is, without a doubt, making a big difference in their lives. Everyone deserves a fair chance, and I feel these children are being given a good one at that. Without an opportunity like this it is hard to predict where their lives would be today. Most of their families are so poor that they cannot afford an education for their child. And without an education, who knows if the futures of these children would not be insecure and uncertain, black and bleak? Former Pestalozzi students from Doti have mostly done well, and are today either pursuing further studies or working. Current students, too, look very promising, and would do well with continued support. I think with great fondness of the beautiful moments spent with the students in Doti. Their simplicity overwhelms me, as does their innocence. It was a privilege to be able to touch their pure hearts. Bhaba and I returned home to Kathmandu as two very happy men, having gained many new and special friends.

The Pestalozzi Partnership

This is not about handing out money.

This is about an investment in humanity.

Our Trustees personally cover all the administration costs of the charity so that your money will go directly towards educating a child. It costs us roughly £600 (\$1,000) to provide all a child's needs for one year, and we are asking you to join us in this exciting and hugely rewarding role. We are asking you to become a Pestalozzi Partner to provide for the needs of these deserving children. Please join us in helping these secondary school children to get a real start in life. Please give them a chance to make a choice in life.

We have four categories of Pestalozzi Partners:

Gold Partners support 10 children a year at £6,000 a year or £500 a month

Silver Partners support 5 children a year at £3,000 a year or £250 a month

Partners support 1 child a year at £600 a year or £50 a month

Co-Partners share the support of 1 child at £300 a year or £25 a month

SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICA

Utterly Precious and Absolutely Priscilla

What's going on in Kasisi?

Evelyn Kinyabo, our Matron and Victoria Chivunga our Administrator, sent this report:

We now have a total of 80 girls at the Pestalozzi Centre in Kasisi, 24 from Mpika, 18 girls are from Lundazi, 17 girls from Pemba, 13 from Masaiti and 8 girls are from Luangwa.

It has already proved to be a very busy and hectic term because the 20 girls in grade 5 go to a school that is 7 Km away from the Centre which means leaving at 6am. The grade 9 girls performed well in their final exams and have gone back to their own districts to study for grade 10.

We have been blessed with a lot of rain this year, but unfortunately this has meant a lot of infections and malaria amongst the girls. Our main road has also been hit badly and it was almost impassable.

On the skills side, the Centre is really striving to become self sustaining in terms of vegetables. We have had an abundant supply of onions from our garden and the grade 8s are now growing tomatoes. The green vegetables continue to do very well. We have introduced compost to improve the soil. We have also employed a new Home Economics teacher, Martina, and are confident that the girls will really benefit from Martina's wide experience as well as making some money by selling the craft items they are making.

I am Precious Simalundu studying in the Mahindra United world college in India. I am from a family of 6; 5 girls and a boy. My 2 young sisters are studying in a local school in Chipepo, Southern Zambia which is my home village. My older sisters and brother are uneducated hence they only grow enough for themselves just as my single mum does. It's a pity they did not have a chance to get educated hence my 2 young sisters who have a chance of going to school promised me they will get educated for as long as mum pays for their school fees.



I am lucky, I was sponsored from grade 5 till now; studying for the International Baccalaureate Diploma. From the time Pestalozzi started sponsoring me, I have gained quite a lot. At the centre in Kasisi, we learnt gardening, sewing, art, home economics where we learnt hygiene, also the most important thing, how to speak English and much more. In September 2004, I was selected to study for the IB programme in India. In the 2 years that I have been here, I have learnt a lot; culture, languages and many activities as well as socializing. Among my activities, going to the orphanage to play and feed the babies is what I have enjoyed most. I also do landscaping; where we plant roses and seasonal flowers in college. Apart from the above, I have learnt what interaction means and to accept people the way they are.

In August 2006, I am joining Westminster College, Missouri in the USA, and hope to do well there. Many people I have contacted who are studying at Westminster College say it is a great place.



Pestalozzi opened a good way for my life, followed by Mahindra United World College as it is an international college and I have learnt a lot from all the students from all over the world.

Do let me know if you are visiting India, Nepal or Africa and would like to meet some of the children – they are always really thrilled to receive visitors. If you are running a marathon, climbing a mountain, sailing around the world or if your company supports a charity, please do think of us and if you require any further information, please contact me.

Elizabeth Bluck, Development Manager Email: Admin@PestalozziWorld.com

REUNION ROUNDUP

Pam Butler reports

I had the pleasure of leaving wet, chilly February Ireland for a few days to join the PestalozziWorld annual reunion organised by the Thai Foundation in Sataheep, near Pattaya in Thailand. The warm weather I expected and embraced. The human warmth within that group was overwhelming. I came away delighted to have joined what I truly feel is an extended family.

Based on the selection criteria that PestalozziWorld employs in choosing children to sponsor, the people I met would have been underprivileged youths who were given an opportunity, have thrived, and are now actively giving back to the next generations of children who are being brought in. This spirit of giving was alive and well at the reunion, so much so that the meeting itself had definite elements of Pestalozzi's educational philosophy of head, heart and hands. The "head" aspects, or intellectual side, included practical matters of fundraising and planning ahead for the next couple of reunions. The "heart" of the meeting lives in the profound connection all attendees have to one another, particularly the alumni themselves, and in the "circle of success," where a person helped goes on to help others. The "hands" part, or practical skills, could be seen everywhere – from Jantrawan and fellow Thai alumni overseeing the whole reunion, to Phuntsok Tashi, Director of the Asian Village in Dehradun sitting down with Thai Pestalozzi alumni who are now successful civil engineers to discuss the actual layout and building requirements for the Asian village.

Inspirational. This word came into my mind more times than I can count in only two days during the 2006 Reunion. Why? Because of the trustees, who are a prime example of using head, heart and hands to accomplish something – PestalozziWorld, in this case. Because Khun Udom Vichayabhai so actively supports the Thai foundation. Because of the two Thai students who came to tell us how sponsorship had changed their lives. Because so many people turned up, from around Europe and across Asia. Because the meeting felt like a family reunion, close siblings and distant cousins catching up on each other's news, rather than a dry business affair. Because of the current students, late teens and early twenties, eyes bright with ideas, using technology to get the Pestalozzi message to the world. And because of the PestalozziWorld institution itself, creating havens of safety, care, and learning opportunities around the globe for children who would never otherwise experience hope. The reunion ended with a video on the Pestalozzi Centre in Kasisi, Zambia. These beautiful children boggle the mind with their courage and sweet laughter, most of them orphaned by AIDS. If you want to witness hope in the flesh, watch the video (available by emailing Admin@PestalozziWorld— have tissues at hand), or visit the village. So important is this message of hope, that many of us in attendance wish to organise a trip to Kasisi.



From dreams of becoming a maid to endless possibilities and a scholarship to an American university, Priscilla Mwanga, tells her story

I was born and grew up in a remote area of Zambia, where my parents are subsistence farmers in the rural area of Mpika District. I am the first born in the family of 8, and started school in my village. I was selected by Pestalozzi in the 6th grade and moved from Mpika to Kasisi. We used to learn lots of skilful activities which we could teach to our parents back at the village such as gardening, knitting, sewing and many more. When I was in my 9th grade, my friend Precious and I were selected to join the United World College which is based in India.

In this college I'm studying for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Course for two years. There are lots of things I have wanted to do in my life since I have been growing up. There was a time when I wanted to be a maid due to not being exposed to the outside world to see how others live, however, when I was at Kasisi, my thoughts changed and I wanted to study accounts. but since joining United World College, I now have so much more information and possibilities that I haven't made up my mind what to study when I go to college.

This August, I will be going to Westminster College in Missouri in USA where I was awarded a scholarship. I don't have a particular major in mind however I plan to study either Psychology, Economics or Sociology. My UWC experience has been an amazing one where I have learnt lots of things. I have learnt to accept the variations in cultures between countries.

All I can say now is Pestalozzi marked the beginning of a huge change in my life and as I keep growing I see that most of the things I do now, compared to before, have been changing tremendously, and one of them is my way of thinking. I really thank the Pestalozzi organization for helping me to build up my life.