



# ***Snowland School Renovation Project***

***The Future Village Foundation***

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# [Snowland Ranag Light of Education School](#)

## [Background:](#)

*Due to lacking of Infrastructure in Dolpa area, the Snowland school was setup by a Tibetan monk in 2000 to provide free education to **150** Nepalese students (age from 6-16 years old) from Himalaya mountains to study in Kathmandu. Most students are not able to go home to visit their families for 10 years due to long distance and high costs.*

***The Future Village Foundation** started to support Snowland school in 2012 and has sponsored “Going Home Project” since 2013 for Grade 10 graduates to visit home for 2.5 months.*

*To provide better study and living environment for students, our project co-founder Peter Hepenstall made his own donation to buy new property in late 2014 for school renovation. The foundation will take part in school board to ensure project governance and self-sustainability in the long run.*

*The renovation project will turn the factory building into **school classrooms, student dormitory and a Visitor centre.***

*Snowland students will move into this new location in early June 2015. We are looking volunteers to help out school renovation project during **17-31 May, 2015.***

[Fundraiser Film](http://youtu.be/WbqRTD8zwgc)



# 2015 Foundation Key Projects

## ➤ **Long Way Home Project (early April):**

- Sponsor 16 students to visit home for 2.5 months.
- 2 UK filming volunteers will train few students to make 'Photo diary' in their village and make short risk assessment trekking trip with students for next year's documentary production project.

## ➤ **Snowland School Renovation Project (April – June):**

- Gham Power to install Solar Panel and renovate ground works
- Volunteers to help renovation works and conduct training workshop during May 16-31.
- Set up self-sustain program in hospitality (visitor centre and cooking class) and organic farming.
- Renovation Plan: [http://futurevillagesociety.weebly.com/uploads/9/7/1/0/9710807/snowland\\_renovation.pdf](http://futurevillagesociety.weebly.com/uploads/9/7/1/0/9710807/snowland_renovation.pdf)

## ➤ **Employment- park time work:**

- Getting part time jobs for old students to learn experiences and to live on their own feet.

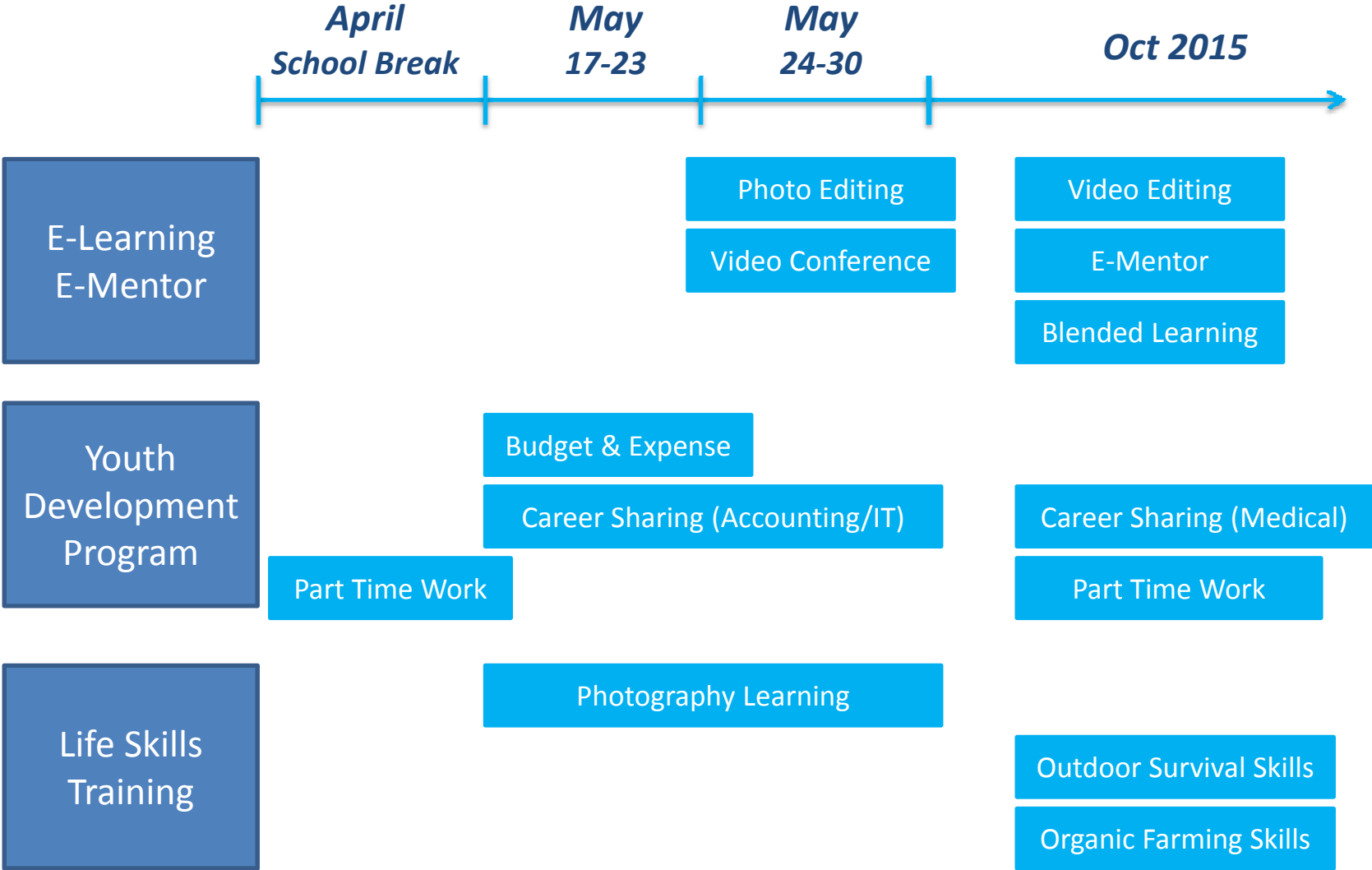
## ➤ **Cross border school connection- E-learning and Video conference (May- Sep)**

- Build up sister school relationship for Snowland school with a Taiwan aboriginal orphanage centre
- Aim to motivate dis-privileged students to well use Internet knowledge and English to present themselves with confidence, get inspired from global young leaders for courage and social enterprise.

## ➤ **Oct 15 volunteering trip (Medical + Educational volunteers)**

- Provide Bi-yearly dental volunteer service to 2 project locations.
- Youth Development Program – 4<sup>th</sup> session

# Snowland School – Volunteer Plan 2015



# 2015 Project Fund Raising

**Need more Corporate sponsors and skill based volunteers!!**

## ➤ **Long Way Home Project (early April):**

- The foundation sponsors 16 students to visit home for 2.5 months.
- Atunas outdoor producing group sponsored 16 pieces of climbing jackets (each worth USD 250).
- 2 UK filming volunteers sponsors 3 cameras to train few students to make 'Photo Diary' and conducts risk assessment trekking trip " for documentary project.
- Voltaci Systems provides charity discount for solar charger gears to be used in Himalaya mountains.

## ➤ **Snowland School Renovation Project (April – June):**

- Gham Power to conduct Solar Panel installment.
- Google sponsors 20 laptops
- All school furniture will be sponsored by an Australian Furniture company
- Talking with a U.S Marketing company Clemengers for student sponsorship
- Working on crowd fundraising project with Backer Founder.

## ➤ **Cross border school connection- E-learning and Video conference (May- Sep)**

- Looking for Video Conference equipment sponsorship
- I-Pad/ Notes like products for blended learning program



# The Foundation

The Future Village Foundation was established in 2010 to support the education of impoverished children in rural Nepal.

It was started by 7 volunteers from Barclays to conduct English teaching volunteering in a remote mountain village in Nepal, then co-founded by Peter Hepenstall and Jessie Lai as NGO registered in Australia. The foundation's aims are:

- Provide basic education to children in rural Nepal.
- Provide clean energy and improve infrastructure
- Improve health and sanitation conditions

## Key Achievements

- Organized 12 group volunteering trips with more than 100 volunteers from 20+ different countries.
- Supported 3 local projects to make long term life impact
- Conducted English teaching and activities to about 300 students in regular visits
- Provided scholarship to 20 students, each receives 5 year basic education sponsorship
- Provided scholarship to 5 orphans, each receives 3 year education sponsorship
- Funded teacher salary for 5 teachers in 2 projects and provided stationery to schools
- Funded the construction of 2 new classrooms and 4 school toilets, set up library and books donation
- Installed solar panels in local education center and schools to provide lighting and clean energy
- Provided free dental service to 700 children and villagers by collaborating with oversea dentist volunteers and local dental NGO. Sponsored toilet building to 5 local families.
- Sponsored Year 10 Snowland school students to visit home in Himalaya mountains after 10 years not seeing families.
- Commenced Youth Development Program to 50 Junior College students to improve financial skills and employability.

## How can you help?

- Sponsorship on education: USD 100 can support a year basic education for one village student. USD 200 can support a year education for one orphanage. USD 250 can supply a teacher's salary for one month.
- Volunteering in the Youth Development Programme: to share career experiences with college students in Nepal in these specific areas: Medical Service, Accounting, IT & Engineering, Hospitality, Teaching, Artists.
- Participating in volunteering trips: volunteers need to attend 5 meeting sessions for visit preparation before one week volunteering trip to Nepal.

For more information, visit our Facebook Group: Nepal Future Village Foundation or website <http://futurevillagesociety.weebly.com/index.html>





# Project Highlight

## Dental Service— Oct 2011 & Oct 2013

In Oct 2011, 4 dentists and nurses from Formosa Budding Hope Association joined the team to provide free basic dental services to 150 children and villagers. For most of the villagers, it was their first time visiting a dentist ever! This is because the local towns are rather inaccessible from the village - about 7 hours worth of trekking. Many villagers walked 1~2 hours via mountain trails for this volunteering service that we offered. The feedback from locals was very positive - toothaches and other pain suffered for years prior went away after the treatment! It was well worth our hard work in obtaining all required permits, as well as transporting treatment equipment and medicine.

A new batch of 12 dental volunteers from the same Formosa Association joined our Oct 2013 trip to the village. We collaborated with a local NGO, Health and Development Society Nepal, to provide free basic dental services in 3 different project areas, expanding to 700 children and villagers. Biannual dental services are planned for future.

## Sanitary Napkin Workshop – Oct 2013

In rural Nepal or India, most village women use cloth pieces or nothing at all during menstruation as they cannot afford sanitary pads. This could cause infections leading to cervical cancer. It is a delicate and neglected issue as these women tend to shy away from it due to the conservative mindset. This changed thanks to the Mountain Mobile Medical Team from Taiwan who shared their training experiences and sponsored the washable sanitary napkin made from cloth and locally available materials.

In Oct 2013, along with our free dental service, the local project contacts managed to gather local women to attend the Sanitary Napkin Workshop. Our volunteers conducted training with local women and older female students in 3 local project areas. To extend the training to women in remote areas, Year 10 Snowland students will undertake the assignment to teach their villagers when they return home in Himalaya mountains for a visit.

## Liter of Light Project - Oct 2014

Liter of Light is a global open source movement with the aim to provide an ecologically sustainable and free-of-cost source of interior light to rooms in simple dwellings with a thin roof. This October, our lighting designer volunteers successfully lit the previously dark toilets in rural Nepal. They also taught local technicians how to implement bottle lights for dark toilets in the school, community centre and 2 households in a remote mountain village.

It was not an easy feat during the short trip! Local villagers were worried about leaks during the rainy season as a hole had to be cut in their roof to install the bottle lights. The local project contact trekked 3 days to visit a few villages to survey the local needs, and took photos of local buildings in order to obtain a good match for the suitable location. Meanwhile, the lighting volunteers spent a couple of weekends to source the required equipment, simulate mock-ups, and finally came up with back-up solution with implementation procedures in the event of leakage. There was plenty of email communication going back and forth, seeking clarifications, clearing doubts and managing expectations. Post-implementation of the bottle lights in the community centre, the homestay graduate's mother even requested for her house to be transformed next. From there, we knew we had earned their trust and the local technicians will continue the work for more villagers and to other villages.

2 girls from Snowland school and another 2 from the orphanage centre joined the volunteering trip where they helped in translation for communication with locals. These students also took the opportunity to learn from our multinational volunteers as part of the Social Work Training Program.





# Going Home – The Long Way Home



*The children of the Snowland School come from the Dolpa And Mustang regions of far western Nepal – near the border with Tibet. The Dolpa is a very secluded and isolated part of the country that is of such a high altitude that the mountain slopes are constantly covered in snow. There are no accurate numbers of the occupants of the Dolpa and the upper Dolpa regions however it is estimated that no more than 15,000 people reside there. The sole purpose of the children going to Kathmandu is to get an education.*

*At the age of 5 or 6 these children are collected together. They are frightened and excited in equal parts. With adult guides they first walk and then ride and then walk again for more than two weeks. This walk involved climbing in some parts over mountains that are more than five and half thousand meters high. There are no roads to follow – only tracks that have been used by shepherds and other villagers for more than a thousand years.*



*Along the way these children and their adult guides sleep in caves and they carry their own food and their meager possessions. After fourteen days of walking, and as they got closer to Kathmandu - they were able to catch local buses. Finally, after nearly four weeks of travel - these tired and scared children arrive at the Snowland School. Here older children - also from the Dolpa – and all of who had made the same journey when they were the same age, meet them. In some instances the younger children had elder siblings already at Snowland – so there were joyous reunions.*

*Thus begins what was a ten year stint of education and none of these children visit their home villages again in this period. The journey was simply too far and way beyond the means of their families. So the FV Foundation each year pays for the Year 10 graduates to return to their home villages. We organize and pay for planes, buses and guides and buy winter clothes for them. It is a complex task and very expensive. This is our third year of the program and we intend to run it forever. It is important for the kids to re-connect with their families and see where they have come from.*



*This year Peter Hepenstall's brother and Jessie's friend Sylar made a part of the journey home with 6 of the kids. They filmed and photographed the journey. In September our professional filmmaker friends Zara and Marcus went to Kathmandu to interview the children who had returned – and the children who are making the journey in 2015. Marcus and Zara intend to return to Nepal in April 2015 with film crews to accompany the groups of children and record the whole emotional journey. We then intend to make and market a documentary called the Long Way Home. Peter Hepenstall is writing the accompanying book – all of the proceeds which will go to the Foundation.*

