



Making a Difference

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Making a Difference is published once each year by One Heart, Many Rhythms, a social profit organization [501(c)(3) in the USA] that works in partnership with first peoples of the world to conserve and express the traditions of their cultures.

Dreams Coming True

by Charlotte Pollard, Board of Directors

As a child, I thought August was the New Year. I knew that soon school would begin, and a new year in my life would be marked by a new teacher and new learning. I loved school. I remember my mother's suppressed laughter when I tried to convince her that even though I had chicken pox all over my body I was feeling well enough to go to school that day.

I was fortunate to grow up in the United States where education was a true pathway out of poverty and where resources are available for those in need. I needed help. Our home did not have central heating, or running water, but it was warm. Our food came from the garden and the farm animals we raised. Food was not plentiful or varied, but it was healthy. My father's income placed us just above the poverty-line, but I didn't know we were poor because I had so much—a home, good food, borrowed books, school friends, aunts, uncles, cousins, and parents who valued my achievements no matter how small.



Elders from Sonam Chodan's village in India

Because I lived in the United States, if I was creative in finding resources, if I worked hard for what I wanted, and if I was prepared to be lonely sometimes, I could be successful. I have been fortunate to know wonderful women mentors, to have broken through glass ceilings, to have worked in stimulating environments, and to have hugged children in 46 different countries along the way. Many of those children have the dreams that I had. But they live in countries that do not have the resources that were available to me. They live in communities that are far away from centers of education and commerce.

The following stories are about these children. They tell how these children are resourceful, working hard, and sometimes lonely. We know from experience, and from history, that education is essential to improving the lives of individuals, families and communities. The education of the next generation of children is a key to conserving their language, culture, and practices. The education of girls and women brings economic independence and security. The education of young boys and men brings more options and builds stronger families. Families who value education and encourage the pursuit of education add to the strength of their communities by ensuring their children give back to the community

for the benefit of future generations. Education means communities are more capable of benefiting from development activities without sacrificing their cultural uniqueness.

One Heart, Many Rhythms, with help from people like you, is pleased to be a part of the effort to spread the joys and benefits of education to children from the first peoples still inhabiting this wonderful planet of ours. We discover young people in strong families in strong communities who want to give back to their families and communities. Then, we offer them the opportunity to prepare for occupations that will provide a valuable service for their people.

The following stories are constructed from questions asked by our directors who are liaisons with the students. Some have been translated from Spanish to English, and all have been edited for spelling and grammar. Hopefully, I have been true to their spirit of writing and any mistakes in translation or style are mine.



Students from Enrique's village in Peru



Angeles Ramos Vasquez's school in Mexico

We can only highlight a few initiatives here. Please visit www.oneheartmanyrhythms.org to see the others.

Holiday Gifts that Matter

Make your holiday gifts to friends, relatives, and clients make a difference. You can purchase a set of 4 note cards that are reproductions of paintings by the children of the Amazon who have attended the Yarapa School of Art, a project supported by One Heart, Many Rhythms. Each set is \$15 which includes shipping. To order, visit <http://oneheartmanyrhythms.org/store.html> or call 505-474-4228 and leave a message.

Our Projects Worldwide

Members of our Board of Advisors help us select and evaluate projects to sponsor throughout many regions of the world. These projects include:

- Australia**—Wisdom of Country Documentary
- Canada**—Environmental Aboriginal Guardianship through Law and Education
- India**—Nursing Students, NASI Center for Holistic Education
- Indonesia**—Tado Community Research & Education Center
- Israel**—Wadi el Náam Medical Center, Abu Tlul Sustainable Learning Site, Tel Sheva Desert Medicine Learning Site
- Mexico**—Accounting Student, Chiapas Women's Sewing Cooperative
- Peru**—Teaching Students, Cusi Huayna Youth Group, Yarapa School of Art, Apu Oolqepunku Pilgrimage, Ayni Ayllu Weaving Cooperative
- USA**—Native American Seed Bank

Accounting Student in Mexico

by Angeles Ramos Vasquez



Leaving my home in Tepetzintla to go to school was very difficult initially. Life in the city is very different. In the city there are many pressures. The people are not as kind, the

food is different, and there is much noise. I missed everything at first. I missed my sisters and my mother and father. In the city you have to become an adult rapidly and not behave as a child. In the city I had to speak a different language (Spanish), and initially I did not speak to others because I felt different and insecure. But, with time, I got used to the city and said, "This is a small sacrifice to have a better life in the future."

I chose my school because it would prepare me for a career in accounting and was a quality school. My school is a very calm place in the city where it is possible to breathe clean air and where there is much vegetation to enjoy.

I find accounting interesting. It is indispensable to have this knowledge. I like to analyze the

charges and credits to an account and to handle the financial situations of an enterprise.

My favorite teacher is Jaime Guzmán Martínez. He gives his lessons well and is patient with me when I do not understand. He is always prepared and very qualified for his subject. He worries if something is not clear for us and explains again.

Now I have friends here in the city. We like to eat together, and sometimes we meet to study together. We like to listen to music and to dance. Sometimes we go for a walk in the park and visit the museums.

I will graduate this year. When I finish I want to have my business in Tepetzintla. My studies will help me create a proper business. This knowledge will help me grow as a person and help me understand the economy of my country. It will be good for my parents when I can help support them when they cannot work. It will also be good for my community to have more professionals to help with development. I can help others see how to overcome illiteracy and see there is a way for a better life. I am very realistic.

Teaching Student in Nepal

by Ngawang Sherpa



Thank you for your letter. I am very grateful for everything you are doing on my behalf.

My school is located in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. I really enjoy going to school. I would recommend it to my friends and relatives because it is a good school and very near my working place. It is also very economical, has very good teachers, and has a good environment for learning.

I will be studying here for another six years. I miss not being able to see my parents, brothers, sisters, and friends for a long time. I also miss the good meals prepared by my mother. But, here I have friends, and we go on picnics, listen

to music, and play games. I particularly like to play basketball.

My favorite subject is English because it is an important international language which I can use anywhere in the world. I also like to read the literature, essays, and poems by famous writers. My English teacher is my favorite because the way he teaches is very clear. He is very knowledgeable. He also has a good personality and behaves well towards his students.

After I graduate, I wish to go back to my village to become a school teacher. Being a teacher is a most ideal and respected job. As an educated person, I wish to teach whatever I have learned because most of the people in my village cannot read or write. I want the village children to take advantage of my good learning in the city.

Nursing Student in India

by Sonam Choedon



Initially, I would like to convey my heartfelt thanks for your kind support. Yesterday, when I went to check for my mail, I was happy to see your letter.

I grew up in Himachal Pradesh, India. This is the place where many Tibetan refugees settled after fleeing from Tibet.

At my school, my favorite teacher was Ms. Pema Tso, my science teacher. I liked her gentleness and caring nature. She was very patient when answering our questions. She never became annoyed with us in her teaching ways.

I have wanted to do something related to the medical field since I was young. Now, I am doing my nursing studies at the Holy Family Hospital in New Delhi. I chose nursing because it is a profession where spirituality is also present. Helping each other is the main core of Buddhism. I can do a job that helps human beings and feel blessed myself.

Doing nursing is very beneficial to my community. Besides giving curative care to patients, I give knowledge about health to patients and their relatives. This is helpful to those who need information about their disease condition—its prevention, treatment, and cure.

I will graduate this year. My friends and I don't have much time, but once or twice a month, we go to see a movie. Sometimes we do some shopping or merely do window shopping. This makes the day cheerful.

I don't have much difficulty living away from my home, but sometimes I do feel lonely and cutoff from my Tibetan community. When I graduate, I'll be able to impart my knowledge to my family and community, and this makes me happy.

With this, I conclude my story with lots of love and regard. My feelings are beyond words, so please accept my heartfelt thanks for your kind favor which I will never forget in my life.



Students from Ngawang Sherpa's village in Nepal

Teaching Student in Peru

by Enrique Flores Agustin



My university is located in Chosica la Cantuta, two hours from Lima, Peru by bus which is far away from my community in San Francisco on the Amazon River. I feel very sad to leave my family behind. They give me the strength to continue ahead and to fight for life.

I like to study in my free time, read books, and do my work. I also like to share my ideas about my studies in the university. When I can, I like to be with my friends to play ball games, to swim, and to talk about soccer.

I chose this university because it has good teachers, good teaching methods, and is a solid school. Things work well. I would recommend this school to my friends because of the connection the students have with their teachers.



Soccer players from Enrique Flores Agustin's village

I love the subjects of soccer, volley ball, basketball, swimming, and all the athletics. Becoming a physical education teacher is one of the most important professions I can recommend.

There are many professors in my university who teach very well. My favorite is my soccer professor because he teaches me how I should teach my students. He teaches me how to apply my skills as a teacher.

I will study in this university for five years which is normal. When I finish my studies in physical education, I would like to study a second specialty which is to learn the English and French languages.

When I graduate, I will be a teacher of physical education in my community. I will be the first Shipibo that has this profession in my community. I will use all the learning of the sports' disciplines to help rebuild the sports programs in the school in my community for the children.

Our Vision:

We are all connected. The way we express ourselves is unique. We are of one heart beating with many different rhythms. It is in our diversity that we can create unity.

Our Mission:

Work in partnership with first peoples of the world to conserve and express the traditions of their cultures.

If you are interested in contributing to our work in the world, your gift will have an impact far beyond the individual or community that receives your support. Your willingness to be part of the dream that all peoples can reach their fullest potential by being true to their own heritage is a courageous and vigorous act. You will have made a difference for many.

One Heart, Many Rhythms is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are fully tax deductible. Please join us in making a difference.

We Believe:

All peoples of the world are precious resources, all ways of life are worthy of preserving, and all ways of knowing add value to our well being.

We Provide:

Educational Assistance, Cultural Conservation, and Community Support

Your donation of the following items will be given to our scholarship students or to a village school or youth group that we support.

- Laptop Computer (Pentium III or better)
- Computer Software (basic word processing, spreadsheets, etc.)
- Digital Camera
- Audio and Video Tape Recorder

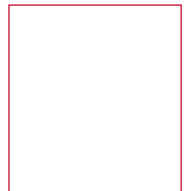
Wishlist



Making a Difference

The Newsletter of One Heart, Many Rhythms

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