

# Nepalese Orphanage

by Kourtnie Schaefer



Volunteer Nepal National Group (VNNG) is an independent, small community-based, non-profit organization founded in 2000 based in Kathmandu, Nepal. As a local organization, VNNG works to coordinate the needs of those in the community with the various NGOs, grassroots organizations and institutions that attempt to offer solutions to crisis in the region. VNNG also works to integrate international volunteers to orphanages, schools, medical centers and community building projects, thereby allowing the distribution of much needed funds and help to current projects.

VNNG has helped to empower and develop many rural projects that without the help of outside funding, volunteering and assistance would have remained only a dream. My experience with them in 2009 was a remarkable gateway into the interworking of not only the social structure of the Nepalese culture, but also a glimpse into the beautiful simplicity of everyday life that still exists in Nepal today. It was a pleasure to work hands-

on with an organization that truly addresses the needs of the community.

I had the honor to visit and assist at Our Home, a unique orphanage set up in 2000 in the outskirts of Chitwan. This home is run and supported strictly by the community; it utilizes a community-based, self-sustaining mechanism for the basic food, shelter and education of their children. As the people in the surrounding village are quite poor, they lend their support through their craft. The donations can be from a harvest, in the form of wood, rice or clothing, or simply through the individual's time. VNNG began to help the home in 2004 and continues to provide funding, clothing, food and volunteers. Thank you to the AWC Library for the donation of children's books which we were able to deliver in person.

If you would like to help ensure the longevity of these and other projects like it in Nepal, please visit our website today to make a donation at [www.volnepal.np.org](http://www.volnepal.np.org).