

Newsletter of the Dutch Trust, Kinderen van Sikkim – December 2022

Dear friends and donors,

Unfortunately, it was not yet possible to visit our 'children' in person this year. As you know, we know most of them from when they were five years old - hence we still call them "children", but quite a few of them are now young adults. Fortunately, thanks to regular contacts via e-mail and Whatsapp, we stay well informed about their ups and downs and we can also send you a short report.

Dr Grahams Homes (DGH)

Of 'our' students at the boarding school in Kalimpong, Dr Grahams Homes, there are now four left. Nitesh and TomYang successfully passed their class 10 exam this year and Sonam Palden moved from class 9 to 10. Lhaki is currently the eldest and is preparing for her final exam (class 12), which starts on February 13, 2023.



TomYang

The students

Last summer did **PemDiki** final exam (class 12) and she is now studying nursing at the Royal Rosy college of the Karnataka institute in Bangalore. All very exciting for her, far from home and on a plane for the first time. She has already made some friends.



1

Tshering Dorjee studies veterinary medicine at Sikkim University in Gangtok. He has obtained his Bachelor's degree and would like to continue with his Master's degree. He also wants to look for a job at the same time.

Kinzangkit has completed her Masters in Political Science this year and will now do a Bachelor of Education. She has recently passed the entrance exam (only 150 students out of 6000 candidates with the best results have been admitted) and has now started in Soreng (Sikkim). This is a two-year study that will help her find a good job as a school teacher. In October she moved from Calcutta to



Soreng where she shares a room with a niece.



Laymit has kind of gone off the radar. After her Master's degree in English Literature, she had several jobs in journalism, but her ambition was to pursue further education (also a B.Ed). Perhaps that did not work. Fortunately, Kinzangkit has been in contact with her recently and Laymit has told her that she would speak up again when she has a new phone.

ChungChung will begin her third and final year of radiology at Assam Downtown University, after which she will have another six months of internship next year. Then a Masters or possibly a job. She was recently hospitalized with symptoms of dengue but thankfully has since recovered.

Hungry studies Bio Medical Sciences (physiotherapy) in Dehradun. After a difficult start during Covid, mainly due to practical subjects, he now starts his second year with good courage.



2

Nim Phuti due to the carelessness of her university, has some not been able to take a nursing exam a while ago. In instead, she now has to gain two years of work experience and is half way. After those two years, she can still do a BSc going to do nursing. She works in Siliguri in Anandaloke Hospital and working long days. She also had recently problems with her health and could of her embarrassment income do not pay glasses. Luckily we do.

Together, a former student of SHA, our first school sadly passed away. Both his kidneys were functioning poorly and

he had to go to the hospital for dialysis three times a week. To at least ease his financial worries we had decided a year ago to make an exception for him make: money for illness instead of study. Unfortunately not for long. Nimphuti wrote that she was at the funeral

nds from the past and sent us



Timsong was a student at our other school in the north of Sikkim (Mayel Lyang Academy); we have recently been in touch again with her because her former sponsor wondered how she was doing her went. She is studying sociology in Gangtok and preparing for her master. She lives with a cousin but her university is far away away and there is not always money for the bus. She then has to walk

8 km. We
have decided herhelp financially with booking and bus fares.

Kursongkit still enjoys working in the (now called) Reading Room Resource Center. At the beginning of December she wrote a wonderful report of her daily work and plans for the future (the entire letter is enclosed):

I am still working at the community library (...). The library is now called Reading Room Resource Center, it has made a lot of progress and I am so proud of where we are at now. I am the incharge here and their coordinator as well, I have upgraded to call myself as a reading teacher now . I am being trained by our trainer Ms. Thapa who is our consultant and an educator and a children's author from Sikkim.

Simultaneously I am still working with Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. (...) I was supporting their message on goodwill with nature among young children but recently I have begun aiding their science programme called Generation Next STEP (Science, Technology and Entrepreneurial Practice) that aims to develop curiosity and scientific temper in young people.

(...) I have started applying to universities in the UK. (...) I have applied to Cambridge and will apply to Glasgow and Goldsmiths University this month.

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Alsodim wrote us a wonderful letter in August of this year. It can be read on our website: [Children of Sikkim](#). Nedup currently works as a volunteer at his old school SHA.

A nice quote from the letter:

I am very excited to write to you. It is all because of your effort and contribution in supporting the students of Sikkim Himalayan Academy that has helped me to reach this far. The journey of so many years since I started in 2003, little did I know that I would come so far. My family had also not imagined that I would come this far. At present my family members including relatives, well-wishers are also very proud of me for my accomplishments in my studies. They all are delighted, excited and hopeful that I will get a job soon. It is indeed a proud moment for me as well as I am the only member from the entire family tree who has attained post-graduation. It is all because of your hard work, effort, time, contribution, dreams and financial support that has helped me and many others in achieving our dreams. If it wasn't your effort and dream in sponsoring SHA, our dreams would have not been possible.

The bottom of the treasury is in sight – (extra) donations welcome!

If we want to give all these enthusiastic and ambitious 'children' the chance to fully complete a good education, we need more money than we currently have in cash. A year of Dr Grahams or university studies costs about € 2,000 and then it goes pretty fast - (extra) donations are therefore very welcome!

We thank you all for your contributions and in particular Ben and Mai: they asked the guests at their birthday party to transfer an amount to the account of the Children of Sikkim: with great success!



Children of Sikkim Foundation

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