

PestalozziWorld Alumni Create



Eneli Lungu teaching in the local community while a student at the Mahindra United World College, India. She has now started her undergraduate degree at Westminster College, Missouri.



Manisha Thapa, alumna from Nepal, graduated in the Spring from the University of Pennsylvania with a BA in Economics Cum Laude, with distinction. She also earned a Mathematics minor.

ting their academic (“head”) education given by their schools, and providing them with the knowledge, social and practical skills, and most importantly the heart-led motivation to help others.

Increasingly, alumni maintain contact and support one another through electronic media. While e-mail continues to be a popular means of communication, many alumni who may have fallen out of contact have rejoined the PestalozziWorld family through Facebook. Other alumni, especially in African countries, tend to be much more accessible by cell phone, and text messaging is their preferred means of communication. Whatever mode of communication the alumni are most likely to use and have ready access to is adopted. Some alumni are in locales with a poor postal service, without internet access and in some cases without even phone access, meaning that the coordinators can only maintain contact with annual visits.

PestalozziWorld alumni in the US now number twenty two. Four new alumni join them: a Nepalese, a Thai and a Zambian starting their undergraduate study; and Nirmala Paudel, from Nepal, starting her post graduate study at MIT, having graduated from Oxford University in the UK. This summer saw the first group of PestalozziWorld alumni graduate from universities in the US.

The alumni, studying in such prestigious universities as Harvard, MIT and University of Pennsylvania, meet annually to gain support from one another and from PestalozziWorld, and to begin to ‘give back’ and so start to complete the Circle of Success. To these ends they have formed – with the invaluable help and support of PestalozziWorld directors and friends – the US Alumni Group. They have found ways of helping the current Pestalozzi-World students through, for example, peer support and networking via electronic media such as e-mail and Facebook.

Meanwhile Bishnu, a Nepalese student at Harvard, spent a summer working for the PestalozziWorld Asian Village in North India. Supak, an alumna of the Thai Pestalozzi Foundation, helps the Foundation in its work of supporting other needy children such as she once was.

The alumni have been encouraged to give back through the support of PestalozziWorld staff. During their secondary years, alumni received a Pestalozzian social and practical (“heart and hands”) extra-curricular education, supplementing their academic (“head”) education given by their schools,



Tenzin Namgyal, a Tibetan alumnus, graduating from Berea College in Kentucky this summer.



Keshab Balayar, an alumnus in Nepal, has a Bachelor of Science from Tri Chandra University, Kathmandu. Here he is helping current PestalozziWorld students in Nepal make games based on the principles of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi, which they then play.



Under the statue of Pestalozzi in Yverdon, during the PestalozziWorld Alumni Reunion held in Switzerland in 2008 (from left): Bishnu Thapa studies at Harvard, Supak Topalai has been given the opportunity to improve her spoken English by a New York family and Tashi Dhondup studies at Randolph College, Virginia

the Circle of Success

by Joanna Nair, Alumni Coordinator

Internationally, there are over 600 PestalozziWorld alumni, and many of our more senior graduates help to support the work of their local PestalozziWorld Foundations. Indian, Nepalese, Malawian, Thai and Zambian Pestalozzi organisations work in-country to provide education for indigent children and increasingly their work is undertaken by members of our alumni body.

Alumni (some pictured below) create circles of success in their own countries in many ways. One helps with fund-raising for her local Foundation; another mentors a current student who needs help with an application to a university or funding body; another teaches the Pestalozzi philosophy to students at his old school; another enters data on current students for her local coordinator; another gives a speech at a PestalozziWorld donors' function; and yet another helps his local Foundation to host a PestalozziWorld Reunion. The list is varied and creative, and so the PestalozziWorld Circle of Success is fulfilled.



SUPAK TOPALAI

(at right, next to her little sister and friends)

Growing up in a village in Northeast Thailand, Supak helped her parents and brothers feed their three buffalo and grow rice and vegetables. "My world was small; it had nobody else in it except the people in my village and the villages nearby." It was a wrenching experience to leave home to study under the PestalozziWorld scholarship, but Supak has gone on to earn a BA in English which helped land a job in the hotel industry. She supports her sister's education and helps the Thai Pestalozzi Foundation. "PestalozziWorld taught me by example to help those in need without expecting anything in return and I try to live what I have learnt."



PARBATI BHATT

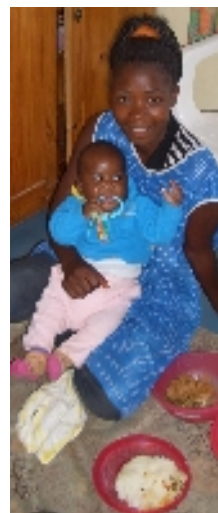
Born to subsistence farmers in a remote area of Nepal and disabled from a bout of polio, Parbati's walk to her local primary school was laboured. When PestalozziWorld began its project to fund disadvantaged and lower caste girls, she was selected to live in the hostel and study at the school, where she secured a strong pass in her pre-university exams. She is now studying towards a Bachelor of Education in Doti, and in her first year set up the "Disabled Service Organization, Doti," the district's first NGO for the disabled. "Without PestalozziWorld's help, I would not have been very literate and could not have led an active life."



CAROLINE MULENGA

"I am the third born in my family of eight, and I am an orphan," Caroline reveals. Her mother died in 1998, her father in 2005, leaving Caroline wondering if she could finish school. When opportunity knocked, she took her scholarship with PestalozziWorld seriously, completing her secondary education with 5 distinctions and 2 merits. This won her a place studying medicine at the University of

Zambia. "I am interested in medicine because I would like to be involved in helping the sick. Mainly my concern is to contribute to the society in terms of helping those in need, as I once was."



SANDRA SIMWALE

Sandra was 13 when she started at Kasisi, and went on to complete her secondary education. She returned to her village to teach voluntarily at a community school, then worked for an organisation that looked after vulnerable orphans, some of whom were HIV positive. She was elected as a family health trust peer educator – making people aware and sensitising them to HIV/AIDS and other illnesses. Sandra was appointed a field officer before being asked to help at the new PestalozziWorld African Village as assistant house-mother. She plans to study psycho-social counselling. "PestalozziWorld gave my life meaning. God bless you all."

2010 ALUMNI CALENDAR: Change a child's life by sponsoring their education, and receive a desk calendar as a memento. Or make a Christmas donation-in-lieu and we'll send your named recipient(s) a calendar as a gift from you (see back page). Contact your nearest PestalozziWorld office for details.