

Mountain Child Care | Project Plan

Stichting Mountain Child Care
Oudwijkerveldstraat 84
3581 JN Utrecht

info@mountainchildcare.org
www.mountainchildcare.org
+31 (0)6 - 40 21 98 30
+977 9813 604135 (Nepal)

Triodos Bank 786907959
KvK 52320073

0. In a nutshell

Mountain Child Care believes in the power of young people and that when this potential is unleashed, it changes the planet for the better. It organizes personal leadership programs in the Himalayas in a professional, diligent and passionate way. It does so for Nepalese youths without parents and Dutch youngsters that want to explore different cultures and their motives. During a six-day personal leadership journey in the Himalayas they discover what they really value in life and work. The use of the overwhelming nature and innovative techniques such as Theory U, motivational interviewing and Co-active coaching works sustainable behavioral change in hand. And authentic leadership. For the Nepalese participants, the trekking, a Quest Trek, is the start of an intensive coaching period that concludes after at least one year with an internship. The program enables them to pro-actively step into the labor market in a self-aware way and confident way. For the Dutch participants, the trek and an accompanying coaching program provide an excellent opportunity to turn their unique talents and passions into strengths. The intense encounter with oneself, the Nepalese youths and the totally different culture make the Quest Trek a life changing experience for many.

Website: www.mountainchildcare.org

1. Introduction

'A country rich in contrasts, Nepal has the highest and arguably the most beautiful mountains, on earth and one of the poorest populations.

Marianne van Wetter and Mark Simons, professionals in the NGO field who share a passion for hiking, want to use the immense potential of nature to empower a group of young people on the margins of society: adolescents without parents.

While gaining a PhD in Biology **Marianne** began guiding groups in the Himalayas. Later she used this experience to work as a logistic coordinator for *Doctors Without Borders*. In 2001 she started her own business as an organizational coach, inspiring people to find and choose for what they truly value in work and life.

Mark was studying Human Geography and Leisure Management when he felt an inner pull to help others. He travelled extensively, wrote and directed plays for (street) children in Bolivia



We cannot teach people anything. We can only help them discover it for themselves. Galileo

and finally settled in the Netherlands to become a human rights campaigner for Amnesty International. Apart from that Mark is an experienced mountain tour guide and an enthusiastic children's activity leader.

The idea to start Mountain Child Care arose in 2008 after they walked a 2,300 kilometer honeymoon pilgrimage from Utrecht to Santiago de Compostela, accompanied by their daughter Mare, who was 9 months old. They imagined that while walking one would get to know one's self better. Questions would dissolve, awareness would sharpen and will power and discipline would grow. The journey was far from easy but, as the blisters and pain began to fade, they noticed that, not only were they growing more clear and present, but that they had started to inspire others. On www.mmmtrouwen.blogspot.com they blogged-in Dutch-about their experiences. In 2009 they completed some 1000 uncovered Kilometers on the Way of Saint James with Mare, almost three, and her newborn sister Kieke who was 6 weeks when she left.

Back in The Netherlands, they started working on a plan. Their experience with their own children pointed them towards walking with youngsters, inspiring them to listen to their souls' voices when making the crucial choices of work and life. They began in Nepal. Marianne has never forgotten the joy in the eyes of the children of a shelter home, run by a Nepalese friend, as they returned from their annual outing. A cablecart between Kathmandu and Pokhara had pulled them up a mountain to where the views were stunning. Mark and Marianne wanted to bring more Nepalese inner-city orphans to the Himalayas. To their Himalayas.

Mark and Marianne believe that everyone has a special talent or talents. Supporting Nepalese youngsters to identify and develop their particular talents helps them create a better future for themselves. Boys and girls from 17 to 20 years old, living in children homes or street children that have joined a rehabilitation program, risk falling into the *poverty trap*¹ because, for the vast majority, there is no plan in place for them to bridge the gap between the children home and society. When they reach 18 these young adults normally have to leave the organization. Most have no family or relatives to help with housing and food and are forced to accept very low-paid jobs, often below subsistence wages. Few ever break out of this cycle of poverty and despair, and learn how to develop their potential and become financially independent adults.

From these root ideas, mark and Marianne developed *Mountain Child Care* (MCC), an innovative NGO from the Netherlands, funded by Dutch and Nepalese enterprises and (public

¹ A **poverty trap** is "any self-reinforcing mechanism which causes poverty to persist.", Costas Azariadis and John Stachurski, "Poverty Traps," *Handbook of Economic Growth*, 2005, 326.



and private) donors. It offers tailored 6-day Quest Treks², supported by coaching and business internships, for adolescent orphans and other youngsters that have less chances to develop their talents, from the inner-city areas of Kathmandu and Pokhara. The goal is to help these youngsters put their special talents into practice and so reduce the extreme poverty among Nepalese adult orphans. Personal leadership so they believe, can create social change through innovation.'

2. Vision

Everyone is born with particular talents. Discovering and developing these talents is a condition for a joyful and fulfilling life. Mountain Child Care helps orphaned adolescents find their special skills and qualities, their talents and to bring them out into the world.

3. Mission

It is MCC's mission to bring adolescents without parents into contact with their innate inner strength and use this knowledge to take control of their own lives. Enabling them, when they leave the orphanage, to participate in and contribute to society in a confident and dynamic manner.

² A **Quest Trek** is a quest on foot. Mountain Child Care uses a trek over mountains as a means and metaphor for adolescents to discover what talent they want to develop. Of quest: [1301-1350 <Former Fr. Quest] quest: the quest for the psychic, to wisdom, Van Dale.



4. Goal

Our goal is to organize personal leadership programs for disadvantaged adolescents in Nepal (age 17–20) that will inspire them and help them prepare for their future in the Nepalese society. Our goal will be achieved when we see these young people actively taking initiatives to prepare for their reintegration into society and ultimately when we see them succeed in avoiding the ‘poverty trap’ that many of their peers experience.

Objectives (short term)

- ✓ To fund the aftercare programme 2018
- ✓ To constitute a think tank of 6 entrepreneurs with whom we can find €30.000,- extra funding additional funding in the form of business Questers and donations from companies.
- ✓ To attract an excellent long stay volunteer to further professionalize the aftercare programme.
- ✓ To prepare a compelling short film on how the QuestTrek can be used as a tool for Dutch schools to enhance intrinsic motivation of their students.

Objectives (medium term)

- ✓ To earn 15% of our income in Nepal in 2018.
- ✓ To become unbeatable in our core business: organizing leadership programs for Nepalese youngsters
- ✓ To organize in 2018 7 Quest Treks for 56 Nepalese youngsters without (strong relation with their) parents and 43 Dutch participants, coaching and (future) traineeships for around 150 adolescents in the personal leadership program of Mountain Child Care
- ✓ To further professionalize the QuestTribes programme
- ✓ To professionalize our reporting system, based on the regular evaluations and impact measurement.

Objectives (long term)

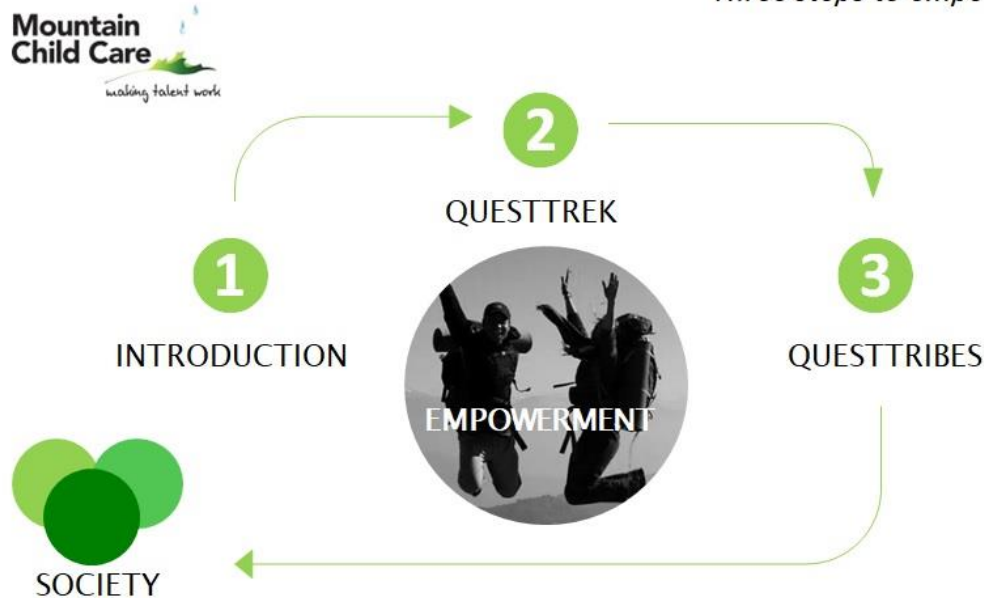
- ✓ To become 100% financially independent
- ✓ To have Mountain Child Care run by 100% Nepalese staff
- ✓ To have Mountain Child Care 100% funded by Nepalese civil society.



Method & Activities

Mountain Child Care uses a three-step model to achieve this goal.

Three steps to empowerment



Step 1: **Introduction**

After screening of the youngsters, the youngsters that are admitted to the personal development program are prepared for this during the introduction program. It is used for the adolescents, the coach of the organisation and the social worker and coordinators of the Quest Trek to get to know each other and to mentally prepare the young people for the Quest Trek. It consists of two meetings of three hours and preparatory exercises. (A staff member from each organization will participate in the whole 6 day program.) At the end of the introduction program, the youngsters sign a contract if they really want to complete the following 3 steps.

Step 2: **Quest Trek**

During the Quest Trek the adolescents draw up a personal development plan for their time after leaving the organization. On a six-day hike through the Himalayas – away from their everyday environment– Mountain Child Care goes with them to find their inspiration. While they work on individual questions as: who are they and what can they do, and would they like to do with that in their lives? This they work out on paper. Based on a detailed plan Mountain Child Care is looking for an appropriate follow-up.

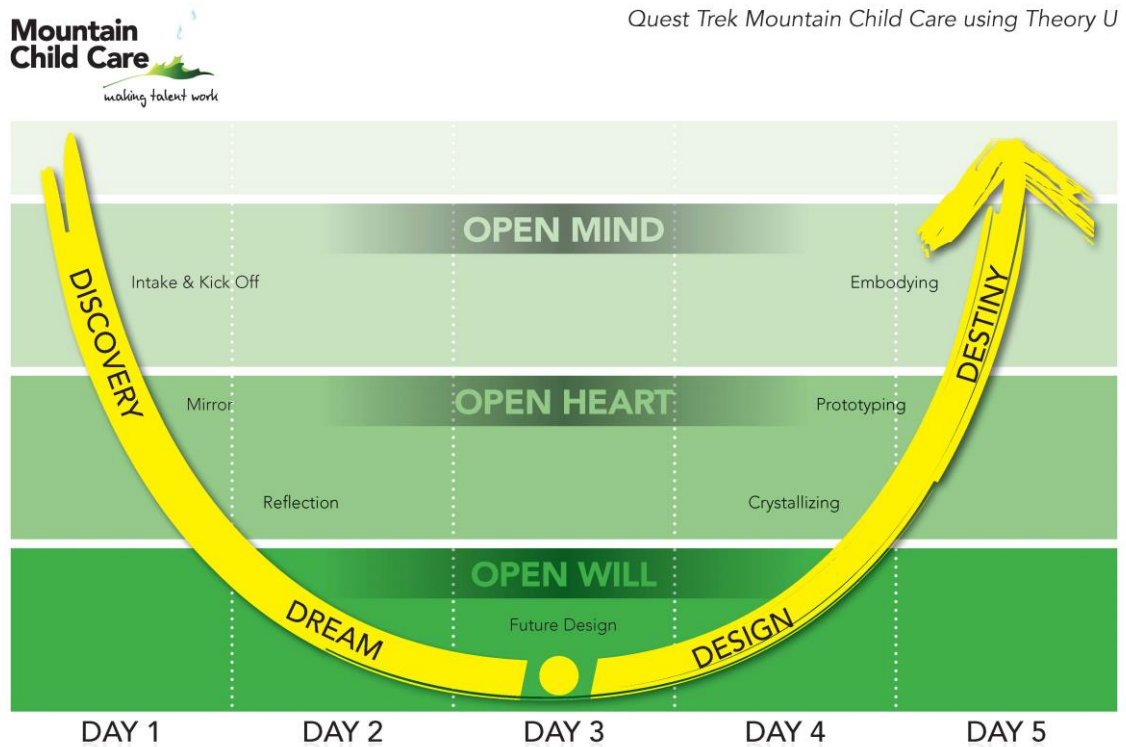
Besides the serious part, the children also prepare for a theatre play. This they will perform for their friends on the eve of returning to the children's home. The entire Quest Trek is supervised by professionals.

Mountain Child Care uses a.o. Theory U by Dr C. Otto Scharmer (www.theoryu.com) to



facilitate the program. This social technology is based on the experience that 'all great discoveries of a great inner journey. '

A schematic overview of the U-process as used by Mountain Child Care:



Step 3: QuestTribes

QuestTribes consists of six interactive, attractive and bonding group coaching and training days in which the youths can focus on their personal goals they found and set during their QuestTreks. Each QuestTribes day is separated by six weeks learning time in which the youths work on assignments, challenges or inquiries that they are given during each QuestTribes day. In this way the youths can work on their personal goals and can 'practice' and evaluate in real life. They make concrete what they really want to do and change, which challenges they face and how to cope with them. Each QuestTribes day contains a variety of activities regarding the implementation of the 5-years plan. On day five of the QuestTrek the youths, drafted the content for their personal development plan. In the month that follows the QuestTrek, the youths write a final, SMART, version of their Personal Development Plan. Intensive support by our team (a Nepalese coach and -if available- a volunteer from abroad) helps the youths during this writing process.

QuestTribes helps youths to use their talent, to make their future goals reality. Furthermore this continued support after the QuestTrek helps the youths to deal with unreal emotions, old convictions and habits that are holding the youths back after the QuestTrek in their daily context. It serves and supports the youths to keep faith to walk their path of life with confidence and provides a toolkit. Finally QuestTribes is a supportive network of fellow



Questers and as such a safe haven in which they can safely speak, develop and experiment. They can share their victories, doubts, challenges and experiences.

The power of the QuestTribes lies in its personalised natures. If a young adult needs to find a job, this will be central to the coaching and the learning time between the QuestTribes days. If presenting yourself in front of a mass is the key-issue, then this will be given priority in the coaching and the challenges given. The youths get their own coach throughout QuestTribes, preferably their QuestTrek coach. Next to that the youths chose a buddy on day one. The buddy is a Quester in your QuestTribe programme that helps you to remain accountable for your planned actions. The buddy helps the other to make its heartfelt plans work. They learn to coach each other, reflect on their development and to discuss for example the outcome of their homework exercises. The buddies team up until the end of the program. They reflect on the follow up of their assignments and (learn to) give each other feedback. Normally the buddies have the same coach as they had on the QuestTrek and are from the same partner organization. This way it is easy for the youths to organize the buddy coaching. If a buddy is not content about the cooperation with a buddy, he or she can address this to the QuestTribe coach for help.



Planning and partner organizations

A key feature of the MCC organization is that it will be managed as a project and that it is intended to be financed by the Nepalese society by 2018. By then it will be managed by a fully Nepalese staff. The table below shows the current planning and staffing.

Table 1: Planning and Staffing; Mountain Child Care

Phase	Year	Number of Quest Treks	Quest Trek Season	International Management	Nepalese Management	Social Development Specialists	Social worker
Start up	2011	9	April May June October November	Mark Simons, (0,75 FTE) Marianne van Wetter (0 FTE)	0	0,75 FTE	0,75 FTE
Start up	2012	7	March April May October November	Mark Simons, (1 FTE) Marianne van Wetter (0 FTE)	0 FTE	3 FTE	0 FTE
Running	2013	4	April+May/ Nov + Dec	Mark Simons Oct Nov (1 FTE)	0FTE	3 FTE	0 FTE
Running	2014	4	April+May/ Nov + Dec	Mark Simons Oct Nov (0,17FTE)	0 FTE	3 FTE	0 FTE
Running	2015	4	April+May/ Nov + Dec	Mark Simons Oct Nov (0,17FTE)	0 FTE	3 FTE	0 FTE
Running	2016	5	April+May/ Nov + Dec	Mark Simons Oct Nov (0,17FTE)	0 FTE	3 FTE	0 FTE
Transition	2017	7	April+May/ Nov + Dec	Mark Simons Oct Nov (0,17FTE)	0 FTE	3 FTE	0 FTE
Transition	2018	8	April+May/ Okt +Nov + Dec	Mark Simons (0,17FTE) + Hedda Steenhauer (0,6 FTE)	1 FTE		0 FTE
Transition	2019	9	April+May/ Okt +Nov + Dec	Director (0,17FTE) + Hedda Steenhauer (0,6 FTE)	1 FTE		0 FTE



Nepalese ownership	2020	10	April+May/ Okt +Nov + Dec	Advisor + Hedda Steenhauer (0,6 FTE)	1 FTE	2 FTE	Flexpool 10 coaches
Nepalese ownership	2021	12	April+May/ Okt +Nov + Dec	Advisor + Hedda Steenhauer (0,6 FTE)	1 FTE	2 FTE	Flexpool 10 coaches

The first two years (2011, 2012) will be used to build a firm foundation for the organization. In 2013, Mark Simons and Marianne van Wetter will establish a new organization 'Quest Trek', that will organize similar Quest Treks for Dutch adolescents in the Netherlands. For two months each year he will lead the Quest Treks in Nepal, and the MMC social workers will continue to organize the introduction programs, coach the coaches from the orphanage and to secure traineeships. A local program manager with great sense of ownership will gradually take over the role of Mark Simons.

Mountain Child Care believes that there is a new thrust in Nepalese society that wants organizations such as Mountain Child Care to be governed and financed by Nepalese people and will support them to take up this task. Major Nepalese companies are proud of how they have developed and no longer want to depend upon foreign help. They desire independence and welcome the responsibility of developing the next generation of the Nepalese workforce. Investing in the education of adolescents works: by financially supporting programs like Mountain Child Care, they get short-term access to highly-motivated trainees and, in the long term, better qualified young adolescents will enter the job market.

Mountain Child Care works with the following partner organizations:

1. Namaste Children House, Pokhara;
2. Children Welfare Home, Pokhara;
3. Shakti Samuha, Pokhara;
4. Ecovillage Hamro Gaun, Sakhu;
5. CPCS, Kathmandu;
6. APC, Kathmandu;
7. Child Watabaran Centre Nepal, Kathmandu;
8. Voice of Children, Kathmandu;
9. Umbrella Foundation, Kathmandu;
10. Humla Nepal, Kathmandu;
11. ISIS Foundation, Kathmandu;
12. Esther Benjamin Memorial Foundation, Kathmandu;
13. Shakti Samuha, Kathmandu.
14. Child Labour Elimination Program, Pokhara;
15. Blink Now, Surkhet;



16. Ecovillage SOS–Bahini, Pokhara;
17. Orchid Garden Nepal, Kathmandu;
18. Elvira’s Children Home, Kathmandu;
19. House with heart, Kathmandu;
20. Kids of Kathmandu, Bhaktapur.
21. Shangrila Home

5. Staffing

Mountain Child Care is a registered charitable trust controlled by a board of trustees. The board has five members: president, treasurer, secretary, a content specialist and founder/director Mark Simons. See the website www.mountainchildcare.org for the detail. Besides that Mountain Child Care is a registered in Nepal as a project of One2Watch.

The NGO employs five people.

The founder/director Mark Simons, a Nepalese Programme Manager, two excellent Nepalese youth coaches, one with a specialization for organizing the Quest Trek, one for the QuestTribes programme and a Dutch country coordinator as a linking pin. Founder Marianne van Wetter donates her time and expertise to the foundation. See the *Planning and Staffing Table*, above, for the detail.

During a Quest Trek the staffing will be as follows:

- ✓ Mark Simons, Marianne van Wetter or Hedda Steenhauer: leaders (carrying overall responsibility)
- ✓ 3 Nepalese youth coaches
- ✓ 1 or 2 coaches from the partner organizations

- ✓ 1 Sirdar, managing the local trekking staff
- ✓ 2 Sherpas, responsible for guiding (sub) groups, lodge reservations and rescues
- ✓ 2 Porters



6. Business model: Mutual Empowerment

As Mountain Child Care is about inspiring people, it has developed donor programmes that aim to inspire donors too and work mutually empowering.

Mountain Child Care started with a very successful three months proof-of-concept pilot in March–June 2011. It since organized 18 Quest Treks, for over 200 youngsters. After positive evaluation of the foundation board in the Netherlands it continued to develop the organization, to monitor the coaching and traineeship program and to organize Quest Treks at a rate that is manageable for the Nepalese staff to coach after the Quest Treks.

The cost of these tailor-made programs that last 1–3 years is €750 per adolescent. To help these talented youngsters, who all came from a difficult background, to change their lives substantially, the program seeks funding.

Anyone can donate any amount, or can help us by supplying materials or services for free. Because MCC believes in inspiration for both the youngsters and the donors, it developed the following donor programs.

NAME	SPONSOR PROGRAM	FOR WHOM	AMOUNT
Wool	Inspiring text	Everyone	Any
Down	Invitation to the annual Friend of MCC Walk	Everyone	€50,- per year
Bronze	Go on a 5-days Quest Trek in the Netherlands	Youngsters that want to experience their talents and optimally want to prepare themselves for their future	€625,-
Silver	Personal Leadership Development Program in the Netherlands (3 days)	Professionals and companies that value authenticity	€825,-
Gold	6-days Quest Trek in Nepal	Curious English speaking scholars or teachers that want to experience their talents and a different culture	€1,950,-
Diamond	6-days Quest Trek in Nepal	Adventurous English speaking youngsters that want to experience their talents and a different culture	€1,950,-
Platinum	6-days Personal Leadership Trek in Nepal	Adventurous professionals and organizations that prioritize authenticity	€3,000,-



WOOL

Donor Programs **Wool**

Newsletter and inspiring quotes from great thinkers on how to make talent work

As many a little makes a mickle, we reward all our friends, relatives and well wishers that support our program financially, with a welcoming e-mail with a fine selection of quotes from writers and philosophers, that inspire to make talent work. Alongside they receive MCC newsletters on a regular basis.

DOWN

Donor Programs **Down**

Become a Friend of Mountain Child Care

If you like to support our work Care over the years, consider becoming a Friend of Mountain Child Care. You can become a Friend for €50,- a year. Friends receive inspirational quotes, a newsletter and get €50,- discount to our bi-annual event: From dreams to action.

In addition Friends receive the Newsletter and inspiring quotes from great thinkers on how to make talent work.

BRONZE

Donor Program for young adults -**Bronze**

QuestTrek in The Netherlands

MyQuest organizes Quest Treks in Holland, bringing personal leadership to young adults to The Netherlands. Youngsters from 17 up to 23 years, get the opportunity to trek, with 11 companions, for five days, across *De Achterhoek*, in the Eastern part of Holland. This trek, through perhaps one of the most beautiful areas of Holland, will give you some wonderful opportunities to:

- come out of your daily routines,
- meet a nice group of young people,
- become aware of and experience your talents,
- discover your red thread in life,
- pay attention to who you are and how you can deploy your talents in your life,
- dwell on your own life and what you, from your own strength, want to contribute to



- it,
- know from deeply inside you, what your plans are for the next few years and
 - to develop willpower, perseverance and decisiveness.

In other words, you experience your own talents, make a 5-years plan and get intrinsically motivated for your future. After the Quest Trek you can give this opportunity to a Nepalese youngster, by fundraising €250,- in their network, enabling one Nepalese young adult to go a Quest Trek in Nepal. Thus MyQuest provides constant financial support for the Mountain Child Care Foundation.

SILVER

Donor Program for individuals, companies and institutions – **Silver**

Mountain Child Care Leadership Development Program (3 days)

The Silver program combines sponsoring Mountain Child Care with a leadership program, held in the Netherlands, for employees of the donating company. The employees, typically aged between 28 and 35, will follow a 3 day Quest Trek during which they will make an individual *inner journey*. During this journey, that also uses the social technology of Theory U (www.theoryu.com) they will discover (again) what they value in life and how they can take leadership of their own lives and how to do so, in an appropriate manner, in their work environments.

Suitable for companies that want to invest in the personal development of their employees and mirror this for the orphans in Nepal.

- ✓ The programme pays for 1 young Nepalese to participate in the QuestTrek at €750 each. €1850 pays for one person on the Leadership Development Program.

GOLD

Donor Program for Dutch schools – **Gold**

Scholar Quest Trek in Nepal

Schools that donate €1.950,- can send a scholar or teacher to join an MCC Quest Trek in Nepal as a foreign participant. The scholar or student participates in the Quest Trek and is helped to make a short film about the Trek to present at school, thus crossing cultural borders. Mountain Child Care offers this opportunity to schools, in the first place because international attention for the cause of city orphans enhances their students' personal development. Secondly, awareness in the Netherlands of the plight of inner-city Nepalese orphans and street children contributes to a broader base of support for them. MCC's founders are passionate about the benefits of open and meaningful cultural exchange, in particular through shared experience. Interested schools can learn many inspiring



fundraising ideas by contacting Mark Simons. This exchange program will leave an indelible impression on all who participate and could result in lifelong friendships.

- ✓ A teacher or parent can accompany the scholar at cost price.
- ✓ Age: 16 to 23 years.
- ✓ Good knowledge of English is compulsory.
- ✓ Suitable for secondary schools interested in cultural exchange and development and schools that are looking for a new destination for their annual sponsor activities.
- ✓ A €1,950 donation makes it possible for one Nepalese participant to complete a 3-years programme including Quest Trek, coaching and a traineeship. This programme costs at €750 per young adult. Cost for the foreign Quester is €1200.

DIAMOND

Donor Program for Dutch youngsters–**Diamond**

Cultural exchange in the Himalayas

For young adults or adolescents that want to volunteer in a project abroad and are looking for a project that contributes to a better world, Mountain Child Care has developed a *Cultural exchange program*. The participants are trained in organizing effective sponsor activities, based on their talents. The young adult learns from his Nepalese peers and shares his experiences with them. It is seen that as a trip progresses, mutual prejudices dissolve, similarities emerge and differences become clear but respected. He or she receives an HD camera to make a visual report to share with family and friends that will remind him or her of their epic adventure for the rest of his or her life.

- ✓ Good knowledge of English is compulsory.
- ✓ Age should be above 17 years.
- ✓ It is suited to aware youngsters whose parents want to offer their child an unforgettable and valuable rite of passage that helps them become more rounded human beings.
- ✓ A €1,950 donation makes it possible for one Nepalese participant to complete a 3-years programme including Quest Trek, coaching and a traineeship. This programme costs at €750 per young adult. Cost for the foreign Quester is €1200.

PLATINUM

Donor Program for individuals, companies and institutions–**Platinum**

Personal Leadership Program in Nepal





On request Mountain Child Care can organize powerful personal development programs for companies. They consist of a six-days Quest Trek in the Himalaya's. Dr. Marianne van Wetter organizes these programs. All profits are for Mountain Child Care.

Suitable for entrepreneurs who want to support a good cause and dream of mountain hiking in Nepal. The donation pays for 3 Nepalese orphans to participate in the program at €250 per orphan. €3.000,- is the price for each participant. The price includes the flight ticket.



7. Budget and financial management

The foundation has a bank account at Triodosbank, the world's most sustainable bank in the year 2010, so that eventual savings will also contribute to a more sustainable society. Eventual savings will be put on a Triodos savings account of the foundation. The foundation does not invest money in shares.

Mountain Child Care finds transparency, also in financial matters, very important. For this reason it has produced both a simple and an elaborate list of profits and losses. It comes with a balance. Find attached the elaborate version.

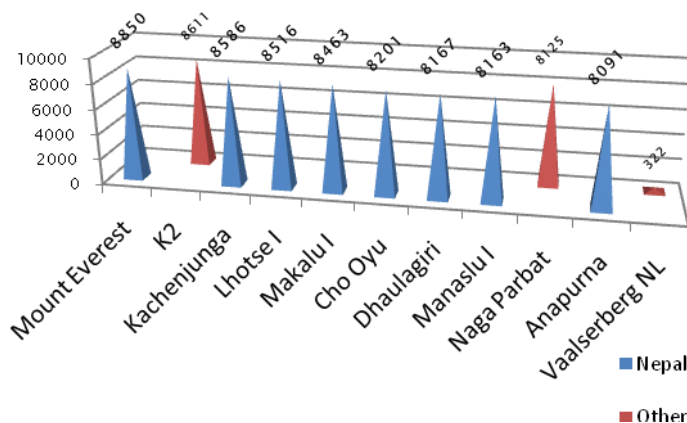
Next to that Mr H. Idzerda, chartered accountant and director of Bloomer Accountancy on a personal title voluntarily checks its account and helps Mountain Child Care with presenting it as transparent as possible.

Thirdly, Mountain Child Care has installed a former Principal of the reputed Boston Consultancy Group Netherlands, as its treasurer, to independently and in a strictly ethical way, that all the funds received are well and efficiently spent for the purpose of the foundation.

Appendix 1: Background

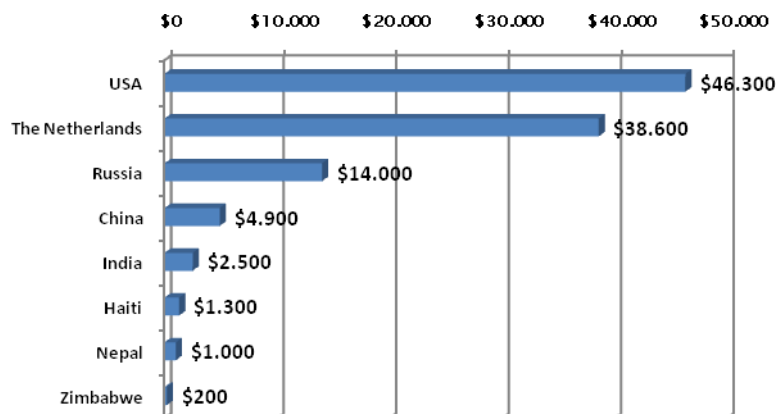
A country rich in contrasts, Nepal has the highest and, arguably the most beautiful, mountains on earth and one of the poorest populations. As figure a shows, 8 out of 10 highest mountains on earth lie in or on the border of Nepal.

Figure a: Highest peaks in the world



Nepal counts 29,519,000 inhabitants. In great Kathmandu and Pokhara live respectively 1,442,271 and 200,000 inhabitants (2010 figures). Figure b shows that the Gross National Product per capita in 2009 was \$ 1,000, –.

Figure b: Gross National Product 2009 in \$



In the same year this was \$ 38.600, – per Dutchman. Nepal ranks 17 in the list of poorest countries in the world. 30.9% of the population in 2009 lived below the absolute poverty line of \$ 1.25 USD per day that the World Bank uses.

According to UNICEF, in 2007 there were 990.000 orphans in Nepal, aged 0 to 17. These are usually housed in family networks or shelter homes, or live on the streets. Main reasons for the death of the parents are health problems (excluding AIDS), followed by AIDS and armed conflicts. Also car accidents and landslides add to early death of both parents. UNAIDS estimates that in 2004 10.000 to 15.000 Nepalese people died of AIDS. The civil war between government forces and Maoist rebels between 1996 and November 2006, costed 12,000 lives. There are about 500 children homes that vary greatly in quality.

This is in the first place due to lack of funds. There is a situation in which foreign governments and major aid agencies invest heavily in prevention and awareness of e.g. AIDS, and little money flows to shelter, guidance and training of the orphaned children that undeniably exist. This restricts the development of a new generation adults without parents.

A second obstacle to the development of young people without parents is the lack of vision in many shelter homes on the reintegration of children without parents into society. Many young people enter the labour market with two untrained hands, while it requires skilled workers. Reaching 18 they are doubly penalized because they cannot fall back to their parents for free housing and food. After leaving the orphanage, they directly have to pay rent and living expenses. Thus risking to get trapped in a vicious circle. Often they will have to accept low-paid unskilled jobs to survive and have no time and money to learn a trade and thus to get ahead.





The odds of a Nepalese adolescent without parents to successfully build a worthy and independent life are therefore not great. They are dependent on the extent to which they can tap into their own qualities and talents and can use them.

Mountain Child Care helps these adolescents and other disadvantaged youngsters with unique qualities to tap into their talents so they can use them to start a dignified life when leaving their organization.

