

April 27, 2015



Earthquake Update

A Message from Beverly

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Thankfully the children and staff of House with Heart are safe after the massive earthquake on Saturday. Our buildings are still standing, but have been heavily damaged. The aftershocks are ongoing and very frightening, not to mention extremely dangerous. We are currently housing and feeding about 75 people on our property. Everyone is crammed into two large tents we purchased last week (!) in the event of such a disaster. We have some emergency food and water supplies, but those will run out soon, so we're working to find sources. All of the shops are closed. There is no power or telephone, but we are able to occasionally get through to staff and the children on cell phones.

I had left Nepal two days before the earthquake, and have been directing things from London, where I'm staying with my sister. I'll be traveling home to New York on Wednesday to gather supplies, extend my Nepal visa, organize at least two fundraisers, and continue to oversee what's happening at the House. It's so difficult being away from the children right now, but at least I have ready access to the internet and communication which has been critical in these early days of the recovery period. I'll return to Nepal as soon as possible after sorting out my visa.

We are in urgent need of funds to cover basic needs like food, water, and additional shelter for us and the other adults and children we are helping. Our friend in Hong Kong, **Tjasa**, is organizing with pilots to bring us tarps, mosquito nets and solar lamps as well as water purification tablets. I hope they can get through. **Helene Maguin** our recent volunteer from France is trying to get a flight back to Nepal this week through an emergency response group, and we are grateful that she will be able to help us out again.

Many have asked about what they can do. At this point, what we need most urgently are donations. I am so grateful for the friends and supporters who have responded to our call for help. I will be able to bring in two bags (I hope) when I return, but because we have no reliable means to get goods in, we really can't transport goods that people might collect at this point. Please consider a donation – any amount is a big help!

We are preparing for a long and difficult recovery period. The monsoon season has started early, aggravating things. It's cold and wet, and I am concerned the children will get sick. We have no idea when we'll be able to move back into the house. A US board member has offered to fly a structural engineer back with me to do an assessment of the house – we are looking for a qualified person available for the trip. We have two pregnant women with us, and one is due soon, so we are making preparations. Staff are in the process of setting up rules for all the people we are housing so that everyone pitches in and no one takes advantage of the situation. Safety is a major concern as there have been robberies in our area.

We are mindful of the fact that we are luckier than most with the generous support of friends like you. I am so grateful to all of our well wishers.



Here are the two tents set up on our land. There are over 70 people, including our staff and children and many neighbors.



Sleeping in very close quarters.

Can you help? [Donate online](#)

OR send a **check** made out to "Candy Jernigan Foundation for the Arts." Add "House with Heart" on the memo line.

Our mailing address is:

House with Heart
151 First Ave, #74
New York, NY 10003

House with Heart (formerly Ghar Sita Mutu) is a home for abandoned children, an education center for impoverished women and children, and an outreach program for needy families in Kathmandu, Nepal.

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