

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



IWEN



Intercultural Women's
Education Network

Empowerment • Education • Freedom

Board of Directors

Kevin Edgecombe	President
Kusum Wijesekera	Vice President/Program Director
Sylvie Forget	Treasurer/Secretary
Amanda Schauerte	Scarf Director
Tamara McLellan	Volunteer Director
Heather Oishi	Director at Large
Katie Phelps	Director at Large
Chloe Edgecombe	Director at Large
Ann Haymond Hill	Director at Large
Karen Hughes	Finance and Admin Officer

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Presidents Report

On behalf of the 2015 - 2016 IWEN Canada board of directors, I would like to offer a big “THANK-YOU” to all those who continue to support this great little charity called IWEN!! The work of our board and our partners, Creating Possibilities Nepal, is only possible with the significant financial support that comes from everyday people all over Canada. THANK-YOU!!

Thanks to the executive board, VP **Kusum Wijesekera** and Treasurer **Sylvie Forget**, their leadership and dedication has been amazing. I also want to thank returning and new board members, **Heather Oishi, Ann Haymond Hill, Katie Phelps, Tamara Mclellan, Chloe Edgecombe** and **Amanda Schauerte**. In addition to the board itself, there are many others that contribute to our efforts. I would like to personally recognize Karen Hughes who is doing a great job as our Administration and Financial Officer.

I would like to commend the IWEN board for their engaged and committed attitude to this cause that is near and dear to my heart. I am so impressed with the level of communication and how well the board works together. We have improved processes this year tremendously. This board is made up of people who have big hearts and are truly committed to the cause. We have improved on our timely reporting to donors and information regarding sponsored children. And our level of professionalism has improved dramatically over the last year. Volunteer boards can be challenging as people can only do what they can do and the growth of our charity has resulted in a fair share of challenges. We believe that many of the changes we have made to processes will better set us up in the future to ease some of the pressures associated with this growing endeavor.

As a follow up to our 2015-2016 Earthquake Project, we have planned a trip for November of 2016 where we will be travelling to a very small village of Salangiri, ward no. 1 in Deurali VDC in the Gorkha District of Nepal. There, our team of 15 volunteers will be reconstructing a Primary school that was devastated in the 2015 earthquake. We will be beginning a feverish fundraising campaign for this project as it will cost approximately \$38,000.



Following our school construction in Gorkha, we will be travelling to Dang in Western Nepal to spend some time with our Creating Possibilities Staff, building a septic field for the UNAKO House Building and operating some soccer camps with the help of Ron Quilter.

In June of 2014 I had the pleasure of meeting a little girl who would later become “Unako”.

I met her when she and her brother wandered into a mother’s group meeting that was underway in the town of Gadhawa. She was deserted by her mentally ill mother and alcoholic father. I became very attached to this little girl and ended up sponsoring her and her brother Jaypal and sister Shusma. With the permission of her father we were able to name her Unako. Needless to say this was an incredibly powerful moment and her name in some ways became synonymous with what IWEN stands for. I looked at her as the reason we do what we do.

Sadly and tragically, Unako passed away in Sept of 2015 and we may never know the reason for her death. This tragedy seemed to be avoidable if she would have had access to proper medical attention. For this reason, we have decided to implement a scholarship program called “Unako Memorial Medical Scholarship”. Our hope and dream is that one day we will have a competent medical doctor who will reside in Gadhawa and it would be very good if this turns out to be one of our ETE students currently enrolled in IWEN Scholarship programs. To contribute: <https://www.canadahelps.org/dn/24462>.

During our trip to Nepal in November a dedication ceremony will be held for baby Unako.



Our staff in Nepal, lead by Dinesh Raj Sapkota and Nura Basnet continue to do amazing things and our dedicated field staff of Sarita, Deepa and Junu continue to do a great job for us on the ground in Nepal. We have the luxury of 100% trust with these people and this is so comforting when so many miles separate us on any given day.



I would like to extend a big thank you to Govinda Adhikari who recently stepped down as President of Creating Possibilities in Nepal. His contributions to the organization had a huge impact and his leadership and wisdom will be missed. I look forward to working with Kiran Mandahar as we continue our collaboration with Creating Possibilities in Nepal.

As a board here in Canada, we continue to work hard at raising funds for our charity and as you can imagine it is difficult to maintain commitment year after year from the same pool of people. For this reason we recognize the importance of spreading the word far and wide and introduce new people to our efforts.

“Common people doing un-common things” is why we succeed... thanks for being a part of it!

Namaste,

Kevin Edgecombe, President IWEN Canada

ARE YOU READY TO DO SOMETHING GREAT?

Financial Report

Nepal had a challenging year and once again the people have shown that they are strong and resilient while maintaining their generous spirit. After a devastating earthquake in Nepal in April 2015, IWEN's family showed an overwhelming amount of support in the weeks that followed. This earthquake relief made for an unusual fiscal year. Over \$90,000 was raised to help Nepal with immediate relief and for rebuilding the communities affected. IWEN still has \$7,621 in this fund and, combined with \$4,437 left in the Classrooms for a Cause fund, has plans to rebuild another new school in Gorkha during the November 2016 volunteer trip.

Another challenge for Nepal was the Indian border blockade, increasing their cost of living. Bikes, which are very important for our sponsored girls, have seen a big increase in cost this year. Thanks to Kevin Edgecombe and his campaigning skills, we were still able to give 50 bikes to students 10-12 years old.

We stood very strong with our donations and fundraising this year and we would like to send our sincere gratitude to every one of our supporters. A special shout out to Kevin and Linda Edgecombe for donating the profits (over \$17,000) of their annual golf tournament 9, Wine and Pie. Thanks to the hardworking Michelle Bonneau, IWEN's Unako scarf program is our strongest and fastest growing fundraiser with over \$81,000 sold. Our cost is 38%, meaning that 62% goes right back to IWEN's programs. Support is always needed and the easiest way to help is to have a "Triple One" scarf sale at your house or at an event.

One of our challenges is to find long-term sponsors for our girls in the Empowerment Through Education (ETE) program. We currently have 30 unsponsored girls. A great way to help with this is by going on our website IWENCanada.com and donating \$25 per month. You would truly make a difference in a young girl's life! We also need to increase our membership numbers, therefore, please consider officially joining IWEN's community by becoming a member for \$35 per year.

One of our big successes in the 2015-2016 year is that we paid off the cost of Unako House in full. Unako House is a self-sustaining community center that is home to Unako Scarves and the Creating Possibilities office (a Nepalese NGO – our partner). This big project of \$134,029.53 was successfully paid in full in a short three years thanks to amazing supporters who believe in our work. We now need to install a sewage system that our volunteers plan to build during the 2016 fall trip.

This year \$209,000 went into our various programs. ETE is still our priority and our biggest program. We sent over \$83,500 to assure our sponsored girls are educated and have all the support they need to succeed. Our Mother's Groups are growing and are enabling women to help their families and become more self-sufficient. IWEN also supports Sungava, which provides basic literacy and life skills education to females with developmental challenges in Kathmandu. We are still helping facilitate the UBC Sickle Cell program at no cost to IWEN. Our local immigrant program's funding is lower than before for this year, but changes are coming in the 2016-2017 year with a new program.

This being my second year as IWEN's Secretary/Treasurer, I can say that the generosity and kindness of our supporters never ceases to amaze me. We have a great team at IWEN and an incredible community that makes a difference in the world every day. Thank you to all our sponsors and supporters, who make our work possible. Alone, we cannot do everything, but everyone can do something!

Submitted by Sylvie Forget, Treasurer/Secretary

IWEN Canada
Statement of Financial Position
as at March 31, 2016

	2016	2015
Assets		
Current		
Cash	136,671	126,485
Inventory	37,504	37,769
Prepaid expenses	-	42,750
	174,175	207,004
Equipment		
	-	686
	174,175	207,690
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable	2,500	2,500
Deferred income	-	6,900
	2,500	9,400
Members' Surplus		
Reserves	171,675	198,290
Unrestricted	-	-
	174,175	207,690

IWEN Canada
Statement of Reserves
For the year ended March 31, 2016

	Opening Balance	Change	Closing Balance
Reserves			
General	152,424	- 15,802	136,622
Empowerment through Education	32,477	- 22,794	9,683
Unako House	-	23,417	-
Classrooms	23,364	- 18,927	4,437
UBC Sickle Cell	13,262	- 3,621	9,641
Teacher Training	180	-	180
Scholarship Reserve	-	200	200
Earthquake Reserve	-	7,622	7,622
Bikes Reserve	-	3,290	3,290
	198,290	- 26,615	171,675

IWEN Canada
Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances
For the year ended March 31, 2016

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Receipts		
Donations	185,493	90,267
Fundraising	38,156	38,514
Sale of goods	81,722	92,363
Other revenue	1,850	1,322
	307,221	222,466
Disbursements		
Bank charges and interest	5,201	3,469
Charitable programs	251,967	110,477
Fundraising	11,631	14,596
Insurance	650	550
Office	6,158	4,521
Professional fees	24,916	22,161
Purchase of goods for resale	30,978	27,232
Travel	1,650	24
	333,151	183,030
(Deficiency) Excess of Receipts over Disbursements before Amortization	- 25,930	39,436
Amortization	685	171
(Deficiency) Excess of receipts over disbursements	- 26,615	39,265
Transfer to reserves	26,615	- 39,265
Unrestricted, beginning of year	-	-
Unrestricted, end of year	-	-

Kelowna Program & Volunteers Report

Kelowna Programs

In December 2015, IWEN Canada attended the Immigrant Women's Committee Holiday Luncheon as the main sponsor. There was a diverse group of women present for the luncheon, with representation from over 20 countries. It was a great event for women to attend and feel that they could enjoy a delicious lunch with dishes from all over the world, along with the connection and networking that comes from having that many women in a room together.

In March 2016, IWEN Canada also sponsored one event for 19 attendees to take the FoodSafe certification that is needed to work in the Food and Beverages industry here in Kelowna.

Next year, IWEN is excited to be a major sponsor for a Women's Walk & Talk group that will focus on bringing together immigrant women in Kelowna that are in need of a network of support. The focus of the group is to get women together to connect, for some physical exercise, and to discuss topics based around wellness and self-care.

Volunteers

In 2015-16 Tamara McLellan took over the role of Volunteer Co-ordinator. We had a group of loyal volunteers work scarf booths at various events throughout Kelowna over the fall, winter, and spring. We also opened three ongoing volunteer positions: a Creative Writer, an Administrative Volunteer, and a Media Correspondent. We are so grateful to those that filled these positions.

IWEN would like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers across Canada and in Nepal who have committed their time and energy to helping us in the fight against poverty and gender equality. We could not do it without you!

Submitted by Tamara McLellan, Volunteer Director

Director of Members/Sponsorship

Earlier in 2016, IWEN board member Ann Haymond Hill and I visited Nepal to oversee some of the projects IWEN is carrying out in Nepal with our Nepalese partner, Creating Possibilities (CP). The main purpose of the trip for me was to observe the programs and determine ways our administration could be improved, with a focus placed on the Empowerment Through Education (ETE) Program. Ann's main purpose was to work with the Nepalese staff and help them improve their English language skills. She focused on language skills that would help CP communicate more clearly to IWEN about the programs and their ongoing development.

Time was spent with the Administrative/Supervisory staff in Kathmandu as well as the Field Workers in the Dang region. We were able to visit some of the schools (government and private) the ETE students attend and discussed with the administrative staff, including school principals and teachers the curriculum, report cards, absentee student procedures and the status of some of the ETE students. This opportunity allowed me to observe our Field Staff constantly advocating for the ETE students with the school personnel and ensuring the students are receiving the attention and care they deserve. I also noted that the CP staff are well regarded by the school staff and are called upon to take on the advocacy role from the students and liaison role with parents.



Figure 1: Visiting some of the ETE students at Buddha Jyoti Boarding School after talking to the administrative staff.

The goal while in Nepal and afterwards has been to focus on the Nepalese staff's strengths and areas needing to be improved and to work together to create new processes and procedures that would allow the programs to run smoothly. Some challenges faced during this time were understanding cultural differences, the language barrier, and also remembering that IWEN is a volunteer run charity with only one part time employee. Ann ran the English language classes keeping these factors in mind. With the classes we were able to learn how to communicate better and understand where cultural and language problems arise and how to resolve them. The Nepalese staff, IWEN founder Michelle Bonneau and I devised some processes and templates that would help minimize administrative duties in order to allow the staff more time with the students but still providing IWEN enough information to determine the best use of donations and to communicate information to donors. The observations made in Nepal has challenged IWEN to revisit the ETE program to determine if it should be modified to ensure the most effective use of donations is made.



Figure 2: Discussing the curriculum with a couple of teachers at Suva Tara English Boarding School.

We value donor feedback. We sent out a survey pertaining to the ETE program in June 2016 to gather donor input through a management system new to IWEN. Integration of the data management system is still a work in progress but our communication will continue to increase as the system is further tailored to meet our program and donor needs. To improve communication, letters sent out in the past year contained more information about the IWEN programs, how your donation made a difference to that program and how you have aided IWEN to continue to work towards achieving some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out by the United Nations.

Previously the Director of Sponsorship and Membership was responsible for keeping up to date changes to programs and also communicating this information to IWEN donors. To further improve our communication and ensure that our donor queries are responded to in a timely fashion, the positions has been split into two roles:

- Director of Programs - focal point between IWEN and CP regarding all programs.
- Director of Donor Engagement - focal point for communication with the IWEN community.

During this past year we attempted to improve our programs and our donor communication. The challenge has always been to balance what our donors request with what is feasible for a small volunteer organization to accomplish.

Submitted by: Kusum Wijesekera, Vice President/Program Director



Figure 3: Maghi Festival Celebrations

UNAKO Scarf Program

This year I accepted the role of Scarf Director. I have been working alongside Michelle Bonneau, IWEN and Unako Scarves founder. We have seen teams of dedicated scarf volunteers set up in Trois Rivières, Kingston, Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and Kelowna.

Triple One Program

On April 1st, 2016 we launched a new program “The Triple One Challenge”, this program sees ONE person to commit to ONE scarf party during the space of ONE year with the hope of spreading IWEN’s volunteer base and sales across Canada. The goal is to get 100 people hosting parties within a year. If you are interested in joining the Triple One Challenge please contact us at scarves@IWENCanada.com



Expansion

Unako Scarves are looking to the future and as the women learn new sewing skills the product line expands. Some products that are still in the early stages are purses, bags, table runners, placemats and pants.

Earlier this year our scarf lady, Linda Edgecombe, travelled to Nepal and worked with the Unako team on “Pillows on Purpose”. The early product sold out within days and we are looking forward to sharing more about this with you this coming year.

The Unako women saw that as much as we are selling in Canada, there were still some slow times in manufacturing. They themselves looked into needs for their local community. With training from a local tailor they have started making sweaters for the children as part of their school uniforms.

Looking forward

We look forward to the growth of the Triple One Challenge. It is an easier way to get people involved and expose the Unako brands to new communities.

Submitted by Amanda Schauerte, Scarf Director



Nepal Country Director Report

Beyond Education

IWEN's Support to Marginalized Nepalese Community

This year marks IWEN's tenth year of work in Nepal. IWEN's programs indicate that facilitating livelihood opportunities for deprived women has had major impacts on the whole family, their village communities, as well as ensuring sustained education for their daughters. The highlights of the last ten years indicate that 'Creating Possibilities' [CP] on-going close team work with IWEN's board and its many volunteers has improved the lives of many Tharu in the regions of Gadhawa, Gangaparaspur, Gobardiya and Sisaniya VDCs.

Earthquake Support

One of the most significant highlights of CP's work this fiscal year was to coordinate IWEN's earthquake relief fund. Even though May's 2015 volunteer group was small they still managed to make an impact on several badly hit areas.

- ✚ Reconstruction of 11 classrooms
- ✚ Allocation of metal roofs for 214 homes
- ✚ Cash distributed to reconstruct houses
- ✚ Supplies support to different schools of Gorkha and Tanahu Districts

It was an honor having Ann Haymond Hill, IWEN Board Director; attend the re-opening of **Shree Lali Guras Primary School** in Kavre District in January 2016.

Empowerment Through Education

Last year (2015-16) **177 students** received educational scholarships. Since 2006, 2,071 scholarships opportunities were provided for young females.

Two aspects that are helping students succeed is the decision to have shifted students from government to private English Medium schools and the continued bicycle program. The shift to English Medium schools gave students more confidence and a quality education. Through hard work and close supervision from field staff, students are slowly improving their skills and catching up to their peers.

Last year 18 students exited from the program. Most of the students had failed in their grade more than 2 times and were older for their grade level.

All students did very well in the exams. Thirty-six students secured 1st division mark and rest passed in a good mark. Only 2 students failed in primary level and 7 students failed in grade 10. Overall, the students' performances were better.

Students' Grade														
LKG	UKG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Nur.
1	1	9	31	19	20	29	7	0	18	17	20	4	0	1

Bicycle Allocation

Since the Bicycle Allocation program started **108 bicycles** have been allocated to students. They have made a significant difference to those students and their families. Bicycles are reclaimed if a student leaves the program without a valid reason. This year 50 bicycles were allocated. It was a wonderful occasion for the parents and the students. They were excited and were very delighted to receive a bicycle.

The senior officer Ramlal Khadka from the District Education Office spoke about the significance of education and the bicycle to these students. He expressed his gratitude to the Donor, IWEN Canada.

Miss Urmila Chaudhary, an ex-bonded girl and a front-runner for Nepal's free bonded labor campaign, appreciated the event. She told the crowd that the bicycles are going to help them in various ways. She suggested to the recipients to ride the bicycles carefully and added that they are lucky. Neither she nor her colleagues had such opportunity.

Michelle Bonneau, IWEN Canada founder, Ann Haymond Hill and Kusum Wijesekera IWEN Board Members, were welcomed warmly with red tika and garlands by the students' mothers in the event. They observed and enjoyed the event.

Farewell to Exited Students

A farewell program was for the students who left the scholarship program either as a result of graduation, completion of a training course and/or other valid reasons such as having started classes too old and married and/or being unable to succeed despite their efforts. Those students who left the program shared that even though they did not graduate they felt that the opportunity to attend school was still an advantage. Some of the comments included were; the education they received helped them with raising their children, felt more empowered, were able to make personal decisions, more aware of their rights, how to access information and for those married felt that their relationships with their husbands were more equal. Several stated that having training program opportunities available for those who left school would really be helpful.

Support to Mentally Challenged Females

IWEN continues to support Sungava, **Mentally Challenged Females Support Center**, its only Kathmandu program, with educational assistance for its mentally challenged women. Without IWEN's support Sungava would experience much difficulty providing assistance for their students. The fund is a lifeline to the center.

Women's Group Support

In 2015-2016 field staff worked with 650 women in 19 mothers' groups. The impact of these groups is having lasting effects not only on the women themselves but on their families and local village communities. For the occasion of Maghi, the Tharu New Year, CP's field staff organized a special event, a public speaking contest. The topic, **"The Importance of Education for Daughters"** was in itself an educational topic for all the women who filled UNAKO Hall to capacity. It was an emotional event as women from each mother's group stood up, faced their peers and for many spoke into a microphone for the first time. The event was followed by games and snacks and a time of celebration for the women.

One new event that the staff of Nepal hope to organize annually is the March Women's Success Program. This was an occasion for each mother's group to share what the group believed was their most important accomplishment. To prepare for this event, representatives of each group gathered at UNAKO House. Interestingly the women talked openly of their successes and some were even able to write them down. Other groups volunteered to perform some traditional Tharu dances. On the day of the Success Program the women proudly shared their accomplishments with their peers. The results were also an education in itself for all the women present because they were encouraged and learned from each other

Emotionally and psychologically Tharu women in Mother's Groups are growing in self-confidence, self-esteem, autonomy, belief in their capabilities, and experience a dignity and respect they never had before. Many are no longer afraid to use their voices and speak their opinions in public. Together they are creatively solving social problems within their village communities such as domestic abuse and are working towards reducing the dangers of alcoholism. The Mother's Groups have given the members a means to bring change within their family and village lives and thus hope for the future.

Over 350 Tharu mothers have started small livelihood practices which feed their families while some are able to pay their own children's education. Land for a Nepali is wealth and some have bought small plots of land and built small homes while others have bought windows, doors and tables for their mud homes. Outside toilets have been built in whole village areas as well as small meeting huts, which are shared with other villagers. Local roads and even a village well have been repaired by the women because they now know where to get help and information to improve their villages. All now know the importance of saving and how to use their savings wisely.

Relationships within the family are changing. The pressure for Tharu women to have a son is decreasing. Early marriages have diminished. The importance of education for females is stronger. Communication between genders is improving. Family health is improving due to life skills training. Husbands are supporting their wives' small businesses and some are working together, thus mutual respect is growing within their extended family situations. Wives are sending their husbands for training due to their borrowing power within their groups and this is changing the gender dynamic greatly.

However despite the changes occurring within the mother's groups there are still areas of much need. These include finding more scholarships for daughters and giving training to women for livelihood opportunities. Women need training in animal husbandry, vegetable gardening, butchering, fish farming, and tailoring.

UNAKO Cooperative

Tharu women know how to access important information within their area, which gives them decision making power. This has helped them to successfully keep their UNAKO Cooperative growing with 405 members. 25 women member from the former mother's groups founded the UNAKO Cooperative. It is an independent entity and the field staff offers only a supportive role to the Directors.

Due to the large number of requests and limited funds, the coop could not lend the money as requested by the borrowers. The coop needs more funds so that the mothers' group members can get loans easily with a shorter waiting period.

In the End

2015-2016 was a challenge for the staff to work efficiently due to the earthquake, Indian blockade and political crisis in the country. However, the program activities were intact and completed on time.

In conclusion, IWEN programs which empower children, youth and women through education and livelihood opportunities continue to holistically impact the areas where IWEN's beneficiaries live. The smiles are a testimony to the differences that IWEN's help has made. Team work and understanding between IWEN and CP made this possible. Both IWEN Board visitors and volunteers assist in keeping IWEN's programs transparent and adapting to the needs of those IWEN serves.



Submitted by Dinesh Raj Sapkota, Country Director.



Stories of Hope



My name is **Manmati Chaudhary**. I am a member of Parnaha Mother Group. I am 28 years old. I have 2 daughters and husband.

When I was 10 years old, I became a bonded servant. At the age of 17, I got married and was freed from bondage.

My husband and I were labor workers. I heard about the

mothers group but never paid any attention. The other mother members used to talk about meetings and interesting things while at work.

Three years ago, I went to see the meeting without much interest. The staff were talking about many subjects. I liked hearing about starting a business and saving money and borrowing. Then I decided to join in the mothers' group meeting.

According to the mother group rules, I started to save money per month. I began to save Rs. 10 then 20 , and now I save Rs. 100 (\$1.25) per month.

I started with a loan of 3000rs (\$37.5) and started a pig farm. I learned a lot of lessons in running a business and was interested in opening a restaurant.

With my personal savings of 12 thousand rupees, I took out another loan of Rs 15,000 (\$187.50) from the UNAKO cooperative and together with my income from pig farming rs 18,000, I then opened my restaurant with the total of Rs 45000 (\$562.50) in Gadhawa.

The restaurant gave me a good profit. I earn Rs 500 to 800 (\$6.25 to \$10) per day and deposit the profit in the cooperative. I have now paid back the loans. Again I took a loan Rs. 15000 (\$187.50) from the UNAKO co-operative to increase the business.

Now I am looking forward to buying some land near my village; so that in future I can have a good home for my family.

I am very happy. My all children go to school and help with my business. My husband also helps me. I remember the day when I joined the mothers group. I am very grateful to the staff (Sarita and Junu). They helped to show me the way for the business.

The life of **Mamata Chaudhary** has been very challenging. She wanted to study but it was difficult for her. Her father remarried and wasn't supporting her mother, brother and herself.

Mamata was selected for the IWEN Empowerment Through Education scholarship program. Then her life began to change. She did not have to worry about any school expenses. The support has motivated her to study regularly and she is achieving very good marks in exams.

The family's only income comes from her mother's labour work. They live in small hut. With her mother working outside of the home Mamata is left to do all of the house chores along with keeping up with her studying.



Mamata is a loving girl for all, her teachers and among her friends. She has always secured 1st division marks on her exams.

This year she has passed School Leaving Certificate Exam! This made her family very happy and we are extremely proud of her.

She had studied agriculture as a major subject from 9 grade. She has the aim to continue studying agriculture.

Mamata and her mother thank IWEN for her support. Her mother told that if there was no support; she would be labour work or married.

Stories translated to English from Nepalese by Creating Possibilities.

Annual General Meeting 2015 Minutes



Annual General Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2015
The Delta Grand Hotel
Kelowna, BC

Welcome

Opening remarks by Kevin Edgecombe, President

Opening

The Annual General Meeting of the Inter-cultural Women's Educational Network was Called to order at 7:17pm by Kevin Edgecombe.

39 people in attendance, 14 members in attendance; quorum met.

Introduction of the outgoing Board of Directors.

Introduction of Nura Basnet, CP staff and volunteers.

Copies of the 2015 Annual Report and 2014 AGM Minutes were made available to everyone in attendance.

Approval of 2015 Agenda

Motion to accept the Agenda made by Sylvie Forget; seconded by Kusum Wijesekera;
All in favour, Motion Carried

Approval of 2014 Minutes

Motion to accept the 2014 IWEN AGM Minutes made by Sylvie Forget; seconded by Chloe Edgecombe;
All in favour, Motion Carried

Directors Reports

See 2014-2015 Annual Report

Financial Report

Presentation by Sylvie Forget

Presentation was made on the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2015 well as Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Member's Surplus for the year ended March 31, 2015.

Success during the year in scarf sales is due to an across Canada trip by Michelle Bonneau and Dinesh Raj Sapkota. Unako East is growing while more help is needed in the West. The Unako Scarf program has provided jobs to 8 mothers, half of which can now afford to send their daughters to school themselves. Unako House was paid off in full April 2015. This is in large part due to a large fundraising event, Unako Rising which raised over \$10,000. The focus in 2015-2016 will be to increase donorship for the ETE scholarship program to ensure that more girls get the chance to go to school.

Motion to accept the financial Report by Beth Hanishewski, seconded by Francine Walker. All in favour, motion passed

President's Report

Presentation by Kevin Edgecombe

Kevin Edgecombe presented the membership with an update of the after affects of the 2015 Earthquake. \$90,000 was raised in 3 weeks. This funds were able to distribute 237 tin roofs, 3 permanent homes, 12 classrooms, supplies, food and water. There is still a small balance of funds remaining and this will be used for construction of classrooms. A small team of 5 volunteers went to Nepal in May to help with the distribution of funds and immediate relief work.

Election of Officers

President

Francine Walker called for nominations for President, Francine Walker nominated Kevin Edgecombe, Francine called two more times for any further nominations, none were received, Kevin Edgecombe is declared president by acclamation.

Vice President

Kevin Edgecombe called for nominations for Vice President, Heather Oishi nominated Kusum Wijesekera, Kevin called two more times for any further nominations, none were received, Kusum Wijesekera is declared vice president by acclamation.

Treasurer/Secretary

Kevin Edgecombe called for nominations for Treasurer/Secretary, Kusum Wijesekera nominated Sylvie Forget, Kevin called two more times for any future nominations, none were received, Sylvie Forget is declared Treasurer Secretary by acclamation.

Director at Large

Kevin Edgecombe called for nominations for Director at Large,
Kevin Edgecombe nominated Katie Phelps
Kevin Edgecombe nominated Tamara McLellan
Sylvie Forget nominated Heather Oishi
Kusum Wijesekera nominated Ann Haymond Hill
Ann Haymond Hill nominated Chloe Edgecombe

Kevin called two more times for any future nominations, none were received, and all were declared directors at large by acclamation.

Overview of IWEN Projects

Presentation by Kevin Edgecombe

Kevin presented a rundown on the performance of IWEN programs, including Empowerment Though Education, Mother's Groups, Sungava, Power of One, IWC, bikes, Bricks, Unako Scarves, 9 Wine Pie.

Nepal Report

Presentation by Nura Basnet, Finance and Administration Officer, Creating Possibilities Nepal
Nura provided the membership with an update on the state of education in Nepal. The ETE program is not just an education it is a support system for the girls and their families. The bike program gives girls and incentive to the girls to stay in school.

A late nomination from the floor was received and accepted. Chloe Edgecombe nominated Amanda Schauerte for the position of Director at Large. The motion was put to the members and all were in favour, motion carried.

Closing Remarks

The 2014 Annual General meeting was adjourned at 8:33