



LÖÖF  
FOUNDATION

**NEWSLETTER**

No. 2, Spring | 2015



| NEPAL

**HOME OF HOPE IS  
TAKING SHAPE**

| SOUTH AFRICA

**NEW THREE YEAR  
PROJECT INITIATED**





**SPRING IS HERE** and finally it is possible to have morning coffee outside in the mornings. I am amazed at the great achievements Lööf Foundation have made since the last newsletter. Thanks to every Partex employee we have been able to improve the lives of many people around the world – your hard work truly makes a huge difference!

This year, Lööf Foundation will focus on two main projects; the orphanage Home of Hope in Nepal and a high school in Durban, South Africa, the Folweni High School. Last year we laid the foundation stone for the orphanage and the inauguration will take place on June 6th, Sweden's National Day. Twenty children are waiting to move in, and it feels great to give them this opportunity.

Our latest project is a cooperation with the organization Star for Life®. We will support Folweni High School for three years, the aim is to spread knowledge about HIV and to work together with the Star for Life® coaches to strengthen the children's self-esteem.

We have also continued to focus on our local challenges. Students, teachers in the schools of Gullspång kommun and the staff at the refugee camp for youngsters have had a visit from our coach to work with questions regarding communication, empathy and stress.

Later on this year Lööf Foundation will start a sponsor program, which will make it possible for Partex employees to become sponsor parents to one of the orphans. There is also a possibility to apply as a Partex/Lööf Foundation ambassador in the Folweni High School project.

Let us all join forces this year to make a true difference for children in various parts of the world!

**Sophie Lööf**  
Founder, Lööf Foundation

**NEPAL**, Home of Hope orphanage

## ON JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> A NEW HOME WILL BE READY FOR THE HOPEFUL CHILDREN

The inauguration of Home of Hope is drawing nearer and we are so happy to announce a few of the children (either orphan or semi-orphan) who are going to live at Lööf Foundation Home of Hope.

### 1. BISHEK LAMA

Bishek is 8 years old and attends grade 3 in school. He lives with his mother and brother. His father died one year ago by suicide (he drank poison) because he was not able to support his family with food and other needs, they have too little land to cultivate on. His mother is not able to support him and his brother, they are extremely poor. Bishek likes to play football and he wants to be a pilot. His favourite subject in school is Nepali. Bishek is very much looking forward to moving into Home of Hope.

### 2. PURNA KUMARI THAPA

Purna is 10 years old and attends grade 3 in school. She lives with her mother and four siblings, one older sister, one older brother, one younger brother and a younger sister. The family also consists of their grandmother, they are extremely poor. The father died one year ago in an accident, a stonewall fell down on him at home and he died. The mother is not able to support all of them, so two children will move to Home of Hope and the little brother will move when he is not breastfeeding any longer. Purna wants to be a teacher in the future. Her favourite subjects in school are Nepali and English. She is very much looking forward to moving into Home of Hope.

Especially she looks forward to living with friends and being closer to school so she can study more.

### 5. SHREE KRISHNA THAPA

Shree is 13 years old. He lives with his grandparents, two sisters and a brother. He has been an orphan for five years. Shree wants to be a teacher. He likes to play volleyball and he likes to read. His favourite subject in school is science. Thanks to Home of Hope he feels he has a future.

### 11. SUDICHA YOUNZON

Sudicha is 6 years old and lives with her mother and younger sister. They are extremely poor. Nine months ago her father died in an emergency, it was most probably a heart attack. Sudicha likes to read. Her favourite subject in school is Nepali. The mother expresses how grateful she is that we help the children of Nepal.

### 12. RAKESH RAUTH

Rakesh is 10 years old. He lives with his grandparents. The mother ran away with another man and left her son and the father has been missing for 3 years. His favourite subject in school is Nepali. He feels very grateful that he has been accepted to Home of Hope.





**1. BISHEK LAMA**



**2. PURNA KUMARI THAPA**



**5. SHREE KRISHNA THAPA**

## **JOIN OUR SPONSOR PROGRAM!**

Later on in the year, Lööf Foundation will start a sponsor parenting program, which will make it possible for Partex employees to apply to become a sponsor parent for one of the orphans at Home of Hope. When all of the 20 children are settled in we will bring you further information and details on how to apply. This is a fantastic opportunity to support and help a child to a brighter future.



**11. SUDICHA YOUNZON**



**12. RAKESH RAUTH**



**SOUTH AFRICA**, Star for Life

# LÖÖF FOUNDATION JOINS STAR FOR LIFE IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST HIV

Breaking news; Lööf Foundation is about to go on a three year journey, on which we will support Folweni High School in Durban, South Africa. Our goal in this project is to reduce the spreading of HIV, and at the same time strengthen the children's self-esteem and a belief in a future where their dreams can come true.

- Yellow! I go for my dreams!
- Red! AIDS free, that's me!
- Black! I decide!
- Green! I am committed!
- Blue! I make it possible!

The children's voices in the Hluhluwe primary school echo across the classroom, they utter the words in a decisive manner, you can absolutely feel their determination. The words communicate the core meaning of the symbol for the organisation "Star for Life". The goal is primarily to decrease the spreading of HIV through education, care and information, but also to heighten the children's self-esteem and to empower them in their daily life, which is often challenging. On our visit we handed out pencil cases, which were much appreciated.

Lööf Foundation has decided to support one of the high schools in Durban, called Folweni High School for a period of three years. 1 510 students attend the school, under the supervision of 50 teachers. Approx. 60 % of the students are orphans, mostly due to AIDS. For those who live with their parents, the unemployment rate is 85 % so it is still very tough for them. Approx. 30–40 % of the students themselves are HIV positive, a harsh reality.

One problem is teenage pregnancies, often a result of rape. Three to four girls per year quit school because of this, according to the school's principal, who is very committed to the well-being of the students. In 2001, when he started working at the school, there were 400 students, no electricity and no water. Today there are 1 510 students, fresh water and a computer room. Every student also gets a free meal at lunchtime. The weekly menu consists of:

*Monday:* Rice & soy sauce  
*Tuesday:* Corn oatmeal and beans  
*Wednesday:* Fish and rice  
*Thursday:* Mashed corn and beans  
*Friday:* Fish and rice  
 School lunch is served from buckets.

## CHILDHOOD IN THE PRESENCE OF HIV

The cultural issues are many, for example it is very common for teenagers to have multiple sexual partners. A key factor to reach the children is knowledge and constant information. Hopefully the information will reach the older generation, even if it takes a while. Sexuality is not something you speak of with your parents in this area.

There are workshops and wellness programs and also mobile units for testing or to receive medication, for example medication for the children who are HIV positive. It is not an easy task though, to get young people or children to attend. Star for Life is trying to raise the children's awareness and knowledge by information in schools with good help from the Star for Life coaches.

## POSITIVE RESULTS

Star for Life has seen many improvements in their schools so far. In supported areas or schools the number of teenage pregnancies is reduced, the students do better in school and the spread of HIV decreases.

The vision of Star for Life is: "A future in which young people are empowered to realise their dreams as responsible members of caring communities". Lööf Foundations future results on Folweni High School will be analyzed by comparing it with another high school in the area. We hope to reach as many students as possible in these three years, and we are excited to see what the future will bring!

**LÖÖF**  **FOUNDATION**  
 STAR FOR LIFE® AMBASSADOR

You can apply to become an ambassador in this project! You get to travel to Durban once in the beginning of the project and once again in the end, to take part of the results first hand. Partex/Lööf foundation will cover your traveling expenses but all preparation/work you put in during the project must be in your spare time.

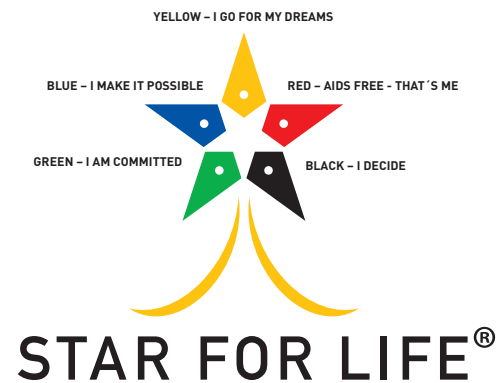
Please send your application to [sophie@nordfasinvest.se](mailto:sophie@nordfasinvest.se) by the latest 1 May. In your application please tell a bit about yourself, previous travel experiences, language skills and also what you could contribute to the project. Before submitting your application please talk to your manager so he/she is ok with you traveling twice to South Africa.

You are expected to hold a presentation about the project during your engagement and also write travel diary's and reports on the progress. They will be published on Partex/Lööf foundation's websites. Look forward to hearing from you!





*Stella together with some of the happy students. Stella is Sophie's daughter and 4<sup>th</sup> generation of the Lööf family.*



## TRAVEL MEMORIES BY STELLA

### SWEDEN - SOUTH AFRICA 2015

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8** The flight to Dubai took us six hours and twentyfive minutes, all went well and there was little turbulence. Tomorrow we are continuing our journey to South Africa.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9** The flight to Durban took eight hours and I managed to sleep a little. We took a cab to buy some water at the grocery store and then we went to the hotel, I went to bed early.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10** This morning we are going to Folweni High School. We were driven there through an amazing landscape and we saw how the poor people lived. The houses were either made of stone or sheets of metal. All people had one house to live in and a round house where they could contact spirits or ancestors. At the school we met the principal and talked about the three years to come and what the plans are. In each class there are 40 to 50 students, the ones we met were all 16 years old although the students in the school range from 12 to 21 years of age. They all looked very happy, despite their situation. The students were stunned to see how pale we were. We handed out pencil

cases and took a lot of pictures together. The children go to school between 7:45 and 15:15, approximately the same as in Sweden. It has been a great day with lots of loving emotions. Sadly I felt ill at the end of this day.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11** Still not feeling too good, so I stayed at the hotel room until 15:00 in the afternoon. Today we are going on a safari tour for three hours, which will finish with a bush dinner out in the wild. I got to see three of the "big five" (elephant, buffalo, rhinoceros, lion and cheetah). We got to see a lot of exciting animals thanks to our brave guide, among other things a group of elephants fighting each other. In the evening I felt very tired, the Zulus were singing and dancing and Måns Zelmerlöw played "Don't you worry child" on his guitar.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12** Mum is also beginning to feel sick. We decided to visit a doctor, who gave us a drastic cure. We rested in the cool of our room for the rest of the day, looking forward to the Boma dinner. We had dinner in a beautiful enclosure. Someone had lit a fire and the stars shone from the sky as we ate together with the energetic Star for Life crew. Lööf Foundation is now officially a part of the Star for Life project, we received a special book and they played us a fanfare. Mum was very moved. The Star Choir sang us Zulu songs. Måns, Mo and

Kasper sang "I'm yours" together, which was much appreciated. Jessica Folcker sang some beautiful songs together with the Star Choir and we all had a lovely evening to remember.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13** I was feeling at my worst today so sadly no activities for me. Mum visited a primary school which turned out to be very rewarding. She got to see how Star for Life works with the youngest children and was pleased with what she witnessed. Mum told me that music played a big part in the learning process and she thought that was such a great idea since music has a way of touching the heart.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16** Time to leave Hlulhuwe for Cape Town. We both feel better today, except for some stomach problems due to our medication. The bus ride took three hours through the bush, but I slept the whole time. A small aircraft took us to Cape Town, it was a two hour flight. We got a guide tour from our dedicated escort. She showed us Table Mountain and a lot of other interesting sites. We had a nice dinner in our tiny hotel room.

This journey has been, to say the least, revolutionary, educational and exciting. Although we have been ill, we still got to experience so much! I will have to give South Africa a second chance some time in the future!

| Stella



**NEPAL**, Home of Hope, update

## ON THE ROAD WITH LUGGAGE FILLED WITH HOPE FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Volunteer Johan Magnusson's travel diary, written for Lööf Foundation. This is the story of Johan's third trip to Nepal to follow up on the building of Home of Hope orphanage. In his suitcases are gifts from Sweden to the young and the old in the village of Ratankot.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 10** I have managed to pack a suitcase of exactly 30kg and 7 kg in hand luggage. In the suitcase is almost all the things for the orphans or the school, I could just fit my personal items in my hand luggage. I will spend the night at the Ibis hotel, where I arrive at 00:30 in snowstorms.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11** I transfer to Terminal 5 in snow chaos, apparently it's traffic problems in Stockholm and heading out to the airport. I land in Doha at 23:00, not nearly as hot as on previous visits it was only 17 degrees outside, a comfortable temperature. In about 5.5 hours I will set off on a flight to Kathmandu.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 12** I am quite refreshed when we land in Kathmandu, despite only three hours of sleep over the last few days. At the luggage collection it is chaos (Welcome to Nepal!). Outside is also complete chaos, worse than previous trips, lots of people, cars and police officers. I will just need to find Karma who had come to pick me up for transport to the monastery. We arrive at the monastery's hostel at 12:45. Indoors it's cold, about 10-12 degrees. I have a meeting with Karma for the planning.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13** I was visited by Karma at 17:00 to complete the final plans on the last day before tomorrow's trip to Ratankot.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14** I arrive at the hiking trail to the village at 13:00. The

trip went without incident. I went directly to the school to meet the teachers and hand over the medication. It was greatly appreciated. The children were practicing volleyball for tomorrow's tournament. "Checking in" in Community Halls guest room at 16:30. I had a good look at the orphanage building just next to the Community Hall, it was a lovely sight!

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 15** Karma's brother Shyam comes to show, and also to talk about the construction. Shyam and I set off towards the top of Ratankot to meet and "interview" orphans who will move into the orphanage. After an hour of climbing, we meet the first child, a boy whose father killed himself a year ago because he did not have enough land to support the family. At the top, we meet two more children who will move into the orphanage, their dad died when a wall collapsed. On the way down Shyam comments on everything we see, he has many ideas about what could be improved, but I hear how frustrated he is about the villagers not having the ability to embrace new thinking, but it is not so easy when you are barely literate.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 16** Construction workers begin to appear at the orphanage building at 08:30. Some of them have a one and a half hour walk to work. It's messy at the site, one of the workers had died of old age during the night. At the school, I hand over the cartoons, and all the other

things I have with me. I receive many garlands and shawls. "You look like a king", Karma says and laughs. The teachers and the children are very happy. Shyam shows me the quarries where all the stones for the construction are retrieved, an absolutely amazing job. Each stone has to be lifted and thrown at least five times before it can be lifted on the truck.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 17** At 09:00 the construction is in full swing, Shyam is in command and it looks great! The teachers submit a list of things that are in short supply in school. They are all very thankful and happy about all the things we had done for the school! It feels great! The walk back towards the road back to Kathmandu starts, my much lighter suitcase being carried by a villager, but I wear my backpack myself. I checked in at the hotel at 18:00, it was nice to have a hot shower. I ordered pizza to the room and had a rest.

I uploaded many photos to Facebook, chatting with Sophie and my son Martin.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 18** I went to Karma's business and paid the transport to the village. We drank tea and made plans for the inauguration of the Home of Hope. Sitting on the flight to Doha at 23:00. I should be landing very soon. I have just successfully finished my travel diary. That's all from me this trip. Thank you for this experience – it has been amazing!

| Johan Magnusson





# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS, YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The Partex staff's hard work has resulted in a surplus that has been donated to Lööf Foundation, an important contribution that makes our work possible. During our visit to Nepal, the people of Ratankot received helpful gifts. Some of these gifts were donated by private donors, for example the toy cars for the car mat. Other gifts were from companies, this time Burde donated as much as 3,5 tons of materials for the school, such as pencil cases, paper and desktop covers, invaluable and so helpful for the teachers and children. Reklambolaget in Mariestad donated working gloves for the construction workers, imagine the relief, especially for the stone workers.

If you or your company want to contribute with ideas or materials please contact Sophie Lööf, Chairman Lööf Foundation, tel. +46 551-20100, [sophie@nordfasinvest.se](mailto:sophie@nordfasinvest.se).

If you want to contribute financially to our foundation's work, state the following: Stiftelsen Lööf Foundation (bank account: SEB 5111-10 103 23). Please send a receipt to [sophie@nordfasinvest.se](mailto:sophie@nordfasinvest.se)



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## LÖÖF FOUNDATION VISITS PROJETO JOAOZINHO IN BRAZIL – A SAFE HAVEN

In connection with the inauguration of Partex Brazil, Lööf Foundation and Partex staff took the opportunity to support a social project in the suburbs of Fortaleza. The day care center we visited was founded in 1991 by Mrs T in her house with 7 children. She lives in a very poor neighbourhood and felt she wanted to help. The project is financed by donations. The staff that work at projeto Joaozinho are volunteers and receive no money for their work. The government is not contributing.

The centre takes care of 185 very poor children, 1.5–14 years old. There is approx. 9 staff, Mrs Tânia, her husband, her 2 daughters, the rest are volunteers. She pays EUR 240 for the rent of the

premises. She needs to raise approx. EUR 900 every month to make it go around.

The unit that Lööf Foundation and the Partex staff visited takes care of 45 children between 7:00 and 16:00. The children are 2–5 years old. They get to take a shower in the morning, they have breakfast together, they also receive lunch, and a snack. The older children spend half days here, after school. They do their homework and they get a snack at the centre.

If the projeto Joaozinho did not exist many of the children would be on the streets. Joaozinho is the only place to get food for some of the children. Medicine is provided and all of the children look

healthy. Since the children come from a very poor area, their family situation is often troublesome. The mother is sometimes working, but the father is either an alcoholic, doing drugs or in jail. In the poor areas many people are alcoholics since cachaça (Brazilian spirit) is so cheap. In the poor areas there also exists a lot of drug dealing. Since the centre is dependent on donations, we brought lots of toys and also food – eggs, chicken, ham, cookies, chocolate milk, dishwashing liquid, floor cleaning soap, laundry soap, tooth brushes and tooth paste. They were very happy with our donations and the kids played and played with the toys we brought – a very warm day in our hearts!

