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2018 Annual Report

Dear friends,

For House with Heart, 2018 was a year of both difficulty and affirmation. Our beloved founder Beverly Bronson stepped back from her leadership role at the beginning of the year for health reasons and then passed away on Mother's Day, May 13, 2018. Many of us, including me, were shaken to the core. What would we do without her?

It soon became clear that House with Heart is a strong and resilient organization thanks to the diverse network of people Beverly had assembled. The U.S. Board of Directors took over the leadership role of steering the organization while staff, donors, and volunteers made it clear through their actions that they were dedicated to carrying on House with Heart's necessary work.

Hence, we look back at 2018 in this Annual Report and **see the abiding results of what Beverly built**. Even as we mourn her death, we move forward knowing that House with Heart can and will continue its important work. Together, with skill and confidence, we are lifting children and women out of a life of poverty and into one of dignity and productivity.

I am so grateful to have worked with Beverly for over ten years. She led by example and by providing people with the autonomy to use their strengths to help House with Heart. The result is a self-sustaining organization, built to last and to carry on for generations.

With much gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Colleen T. Boland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Colleen T. Boland
Chairperson, Board of Directors



Founder Beverly Bronson with baby Sujita, around 2004.

Many people coming together . . .

Our beloved founder Beverly Bronson, while no longer with us, continues to serve as the guiding light for House with Heart (HwH). **The network of board members, staff, donors, and volunteers she assembled, serves the children and women in our programs.** This year was a busy one, and we are grateful to *all* who participated in making 2018 a year of SUCCESS. That includes our generous supporters, our dedicated staff, and our team of volunteers.

Our staff in Nepal are the frontline service providers and overseers of the House. Manager **Hem Bahadur Rai** directs all House operations. In 2018 he worked closely with our new U.S. Board Treasurer, **Adam Thorburn**, to implement new and improved accounting practices and procedures. He also directed the monumental task of overseeing the ongoing construction of our second building, which is a realization of Beverly's ambitious vision for HwH. It will house a Wellness Clinic, a new Learning Center, and a transition quarters for our older girls. With the girls in the new building, we will be able to take in more children in the main House. While cost overruns due to unexpected high materials price increases slowed construction, the project is now fully funded and back on track thanks to the generosity of **Anne Portess**, a supporter in Australia. Anne's \$50,000 donation made in memory of her partner **Harry Bonanno**, allows us to finish construction and fully furnish the building.



The second house (above) is almost finished thanks to our donors and Manager Hem Bahadur Rai's close supervision of the project.

... providing love & support ...



Samista Thapa, our Children's Supervisor (shown with **Abhaya**), puts in long hours to look after the children and manage the household.

Samista Thapa oversees the children in the House, providing a supportive and loving family structure. She lives in the house full time and manages the myriad activities required to run a house with 27 children. U.S. board member **Nicola Hayward** made regular trips to Nepal to be with the children. She and Samista worked with the children and staff to help them work through the grief of losing their Beverly Mummy.



The children participated in the three Pujas held for Beverly at the House. Here, **Astha** and **Pratima** offer prayers for Mummy. Pujas are Buddhist rites that help the departed's soul move onto a higher level in the next birth.

... to sustain a forever family.



Beverly and our staff have always encouraged the House with Heart family members to work together and support each other. Here they learned a meditative art practice from visiting volunteer, **Jill Greenbaum**.

As our children reach adulthood, many of them make the transition to being on their own by working at the House. This serves as a springboard to professional work outside the family structure. **Binita** and **Kamala** are employed as House staff members. They help supervise and nurture the children. Our other older children who are now on their own, are always welcome back home for visits. They regularly return to spend holidays with the family.



*U.S. Board Chair **Colleen Boland** (second from left) traveled to Nepal to work with the Nepal Board of Directors and the staff at House with Heart soon before Beverly passed. Pictured are **Tashi Gurung** (Nepal Board President), **Kamala** (HwH daughter), and **Hem Bahadur Rai** (HwH Manager). Our older family members, including Kamala, are encouraged to participate in HwH management activities to expose them to the nonprofit and professional world.*

Education & hardwork...



... have led to success!

We are especially proud of our older girls' academic achievements this past year. **Sangeeta** (above left) and **Srijana** (above right) successfully passed their year 12 college exams. **Sujita** (right) recently entered grade 11 after passing her year 10 exam. (In Nepal, the year 10 exam is very difficult, and grades 11-12 are called "college" and are not entered by all students.) **Kamala** passed the law bar exam and is now officially a legal Advocate who can represent clients in court. She is also a member of the Nepal board of directors, and serves as a translator for many HwH visitors. **Manu** continued to excel in her STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) program studies at the Community College of Vermont, and has plans to attend nursing school. She has adjusted well to life in America, but finds the snow and cold a challenge.



Sun Maya keeps this picture of Beverly Mummy by her bedside. Buried alive for five days in the second devastating earthquake in 2015, Sun Maya was severely injured and not expected to live. Thanks to **Samrat Basnet** who runs the **Nepal Healthcare Equipment Development Foundation**, she received the medical care she needed, including multiple operations. In 2016, she and her older sister **Pem Choji** were welcomed into the House with Heart family. Before the earthquake, the girls had lived a difficult life in a small village with their grandparents after their mother abandoned the family and the father remarried. They attended a government school, but had little time to study because of their household duties. At HwH Sun Maya was placed in grade two, which was two levels below her age group. With hard work and extra tutoring at the House, she has learned English and was able to skip a grade. Sun Maya loves to spend time with our younger children and is a big help to our supervisor, Samista. Both she and Pem Choji are thriving.

Sustainability...



*Garden to table. Our gardener **Ashakaji Dangol** (above) plants and tends a large garden of fruits and vegetables, which comes into our kitchen, where our cook **Bimala Poudel** (below) makes four nutritious meals a day for 35+ children and staff. Ashakaji also planted a memorial garden of marigolds to honor Beverly Mummy. Bimala photo credit: Scoop Anthony.*

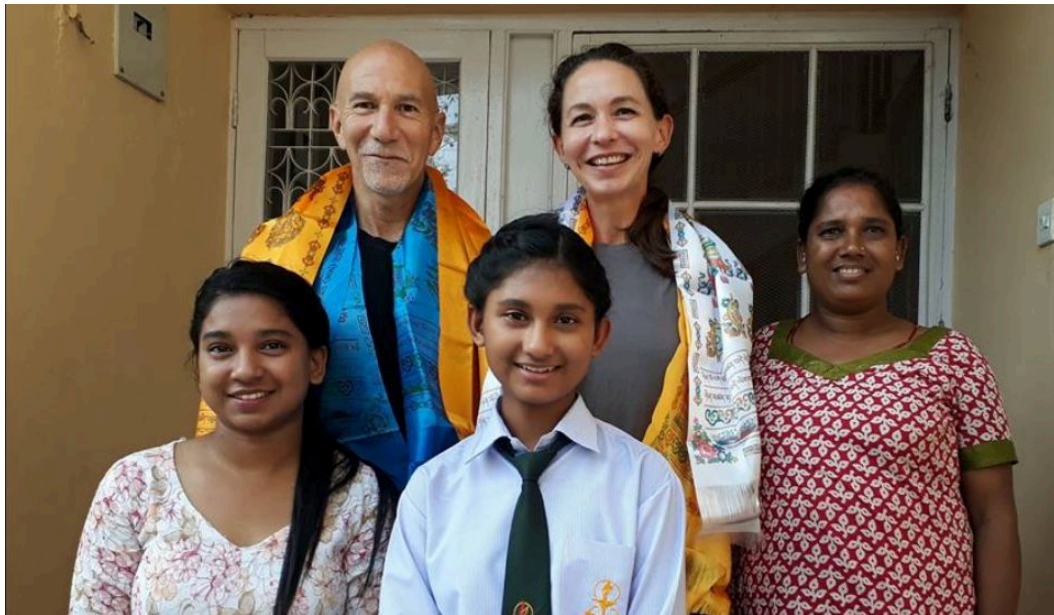
... always a priority.

We rely on solar power, our own water well, and a large garden, where fruits, vegetables, and rice are grown. Thanks to the far-sightedness of Beverly, our staff and board members, along with our generous donors, we have land available to grow the majority of our own food. Our yield feeds our 27 children, 11 staff members, and many families we serve through our Community Outreach Program. Two of our sponsors, **Rivka Orlin of Queen of Falafel** and **Ilan Telmont of House of Yes**, have funded several

sustainable projects, including the water well which provides water for the House and the garden.

We're not only self-sufficient, we're resilient. Two tests have confirmed this. The first was the earthquakes of 2015, after which House with Heart came back stronger than ever. We repaired the existing structures and shored them up for future quakes, and forged a path to construct the second House. We also helped individual families who were affected by the quakes, and funded, in part, the rebuilding of three severely damaged schools. Our second and most recent test was losing our inspirational founder and leader, Beverly. It's just over a year since she stepped down from leadership. House with Heart continues to move forward and expand outreach. We are so grateful for the strong foundation Beverly laid down that has made this possible.

Community Outreach . . .



*Longtime HwH supporters, **Lou Seitchik** (back row left) and **Dr. Kanani Titchen** (back row center), have sponsored the Sapkota family for many years, including their mother **Laxmi**, and two daughters, **Gauri** (front left) and **Sabita** (front right). A brother, **Nawaraj**, is not pictured.*

Our Outreach Program helps families grow to be strong, productive units. One of our success stories is the **Sapkota** family. After their father abandoned the family in their small village over ten years ago, they moved to Kathmandu. **Laxmi**, the mother, struggled to support her family until she connected with Beverly. She now works for us as our Garden Assistant, and her three children are doing well.

. . . leads to success!

Gauri Sapkota was motivated to study nursing by seeing her mother struggle with a chronic illness. She graduated with excellence from the nursing program in September 2018. Now a registered nurse in Nepal (graduation photo at right), Gauri writes, *“I want to give all credit and my heart full thanks to House with Heart for letting me to live my dreams as a successful nurse and also I can proudly say that I am part of House with Heart.”* She was disappointed that Beverly was not there to see her graduate, but went on to write, *“I have not forgotten the lessons that are taught to me by mummy Beverly. [They] will always remain in my heart till my last day in this universe.”* Gauri is now exploring opportunities for advanced study in Australia.



Reaching out further . . .



Dr, **Kanani Titchen** spoke to students at our younger children's school, Shangri-La School. **Dammer Bista** (left) is the vice principal. HwH daughters **Sangeeta** (second from right) and **Kamala** (right), as well as HwH son **Babu** (not pictured), helped with the presentations, which covered hygiene and menstrual health.

. . . into the community.

Dr. Kanani Titchen, who, along with her husband **Lou Seitchik**, sponsors the Sapkota family, is an Adolescent Medicine Physician. She has taken the lead in planning our Wellness Clinic to be located in the new house. She and Lou recently traveled to Nepal, where Kanani met with **Samrat Sing Basnet**, a longtime friend of Beverly's who operates a free rehabilitation center for critically injured people, including our own Sun Maya. Samrat spent several days with Kanani, along with visiting nurse Anesthetist **Pennie Nichols** and HwH Board member **Nicola Hayward**, introducing them to local medical professionals.

Skillful Hands...



*HwH daughter **Manu** (left), who is studying in Vermont, worked at a HwH craft sale in Vermont with **Cathy Shearer**. Manu's host family, **Karen and Mark Mendes** coordinated HwH's participation in the three-day sale, which raised more than \$4,000. **Beth Hayward** coordinated another three-day sale for us in New Jersey, which also raised more than \$4,000.*

...flourished.

The Skillful Hands training program continued its mission to teach crafts and literacy skills to destitute women so they can support their families. It thrives as a self-sustaining program and raised more than \$20,000 in product sales in 2018. **Nicola Hayward** oversees the program in the U.S. A special thanks to **Susan Young**, retired VP of Global Sourcing at Eileen Fisher Inc, who made many trips to Nepal to work with the women and hand carry products back to the U.S. She also arranged for the donation of beautiful panels knitted by **Liga Ltd HK/China** from fine yarns donated by **Eileen Fisher Inc**. Many people have generously helped with craft fairs – see the list below. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Nicola@housewithheart.org.

The 2018 fundraising network . . .

House with Heart is a volunteer powered organization. Friends from all over the world—from Nepal to Hong Kong to Great Britain to the U.S. & beyond—raise funds for us. Their efforts are as amazing as they are crucial, especially during this time of significant change in the organization.

. . . was more crucial than ever.



A big thank you to **Helen Bronte Boyd** (left) of **H Studio Gallery** and **Natasha Low-Kefford** (right) and the many volunteers who coordinated **HeArt Walk** in Sai Kung (Hong Kong). They raised \$13,332 for us at this multi-day event. The highlight of the fundraiser was an art auction that featured work by 40 different artists, including paintings by House with Heart family members, **Sujita**, **Abhilasha**, and **Samista Thapa**.

HwH's Financial Information

REVENUES

Individual Gifts	\$ 188,951
Grants	\$ 22,545
Craft Sales	\$ 22,005
Corporate Gifts	\$ 14,383
Trust Gifts	\$ 11,700
Institutional Gifts	\$ 2,626
Matching Gifts	\$ 1,375
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 263,585

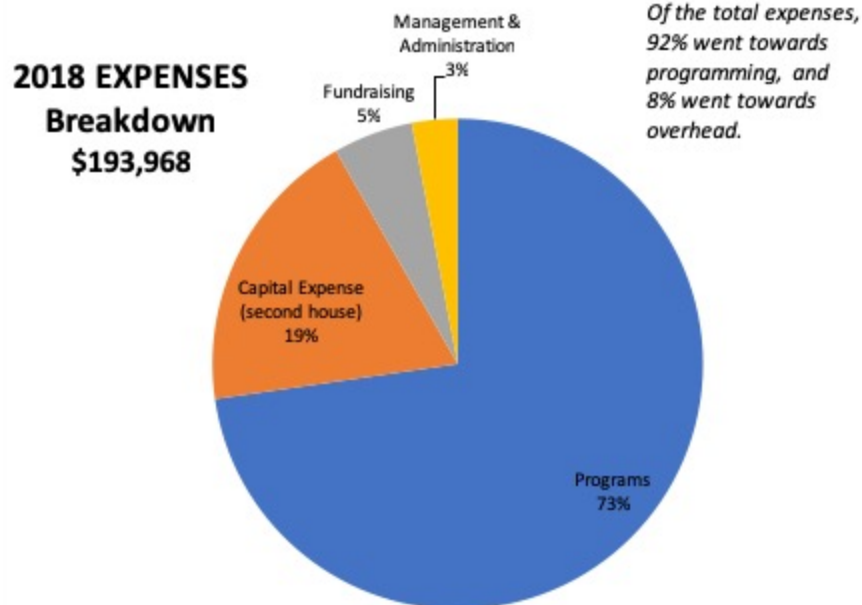
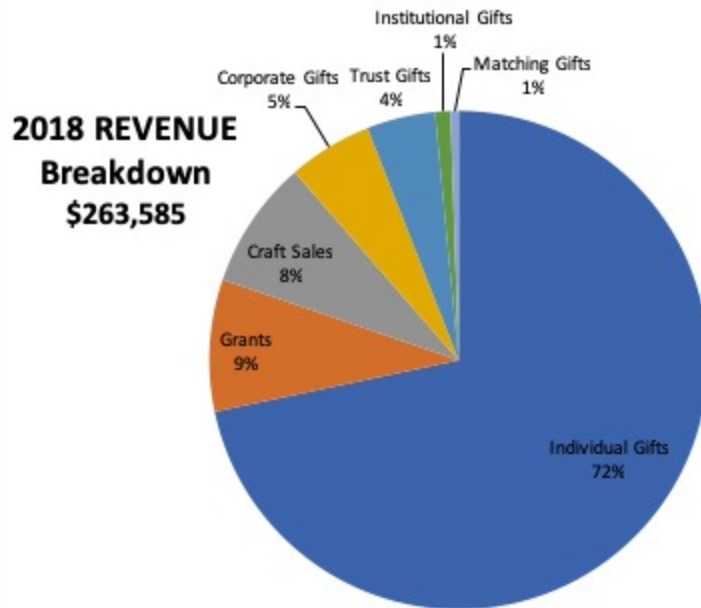
EXPENSES

Programs	\$ 141,041
Capital Expense (second house)	\$ 36,894
Fundraising	\$ 10,187
Management & Administration	\$ 5,846
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 193,968

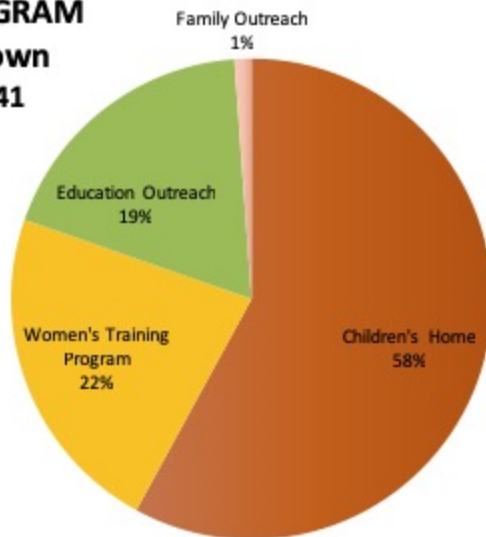
SURPLUS

\$ 69,617

The surplus will go towards the construction of the second house.



**2018 PROGRAM
Breakdown
\$141,041**



A House with Heartfelt thanks to you all!

All of us at House with Heart are deeply grateful to the many people who have come together to carry on the work of Beverly Bronson.

We are so fortunate to have your support!

DONORS

We are so grateful to our generous 2018 donors. [View the donors list on our website](#) .

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (U.S.)

Colleen Boland (Chairperson), Nicola Hayward (In-country Liaison), Fred Ripley (Secretary), Adam Thorburn (Treasurer)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (NEPAL)

Tashi Gurung (President), D.B. Ranapal (Vice President), Birendra Kumar Singh (Secretary), Binda Dhakal (Treasurer), Rachana Banepali, Dil Kumar Karki, Ram Chandra Kilambu, Kamala Lama, Mina Kumari Shrestha

SPECIAL THANKS

Noel Faulkner

NEPAL STAFF MEMBERS

Hem Bahadur Rai (Manager), Samista Thapa (Children's Supervisor), Suresh Kumar K.C. (Lawyer), Ashakaji Dangol (Gardener), Laxmi Sapkota (Assistant Gardener), Bimala Poudel (Cook), Santa Maya Limbu (Assistant Cook), Parbati Shakya (House Cleaner), Krishna Kumari Mijar (Laundry), Janaki Magar (Laundry), Kamala Lama (Assistant Caregiver), Binita Shrestha (Assistant Caregiver), Buddhiman Gaine (Sarangi Teacher), Chandra Prasad Timilsina (Night Guard), Pushpa Ban (Day Guard)

Skillful Hands: Dev Kala Bishwokarma (Sewing Teacher), Nabina Rana (Felt Training Teacher), Shubhadra Karki

(Training Worker), Bimala Niraula (Training Worker), Krishna Kumari Mijar (Training Worker)

PROBONO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Accounting: Adam Thorburn; Eric Roth and Buddy Dikman of Bernard Dikman, CPA

Healthcare: Dr. Kanani Titchen, Pennie Nichols

Nursing and nutrition supplements: Nepal Adoptive Family Association

Photography: Scoop Anthony

Structural engineering: New Line Structures, Martin Loy, Delia Shumway

Video: Mary Patierno

Intern: Matt Singer

PARTNERS

Corning Painted Post High School Interact Club

Eileen Fisher Inc

First Congregational Church of Essex Junction

H Studio Gallery, Hong Kong / Helen Bronte Boyd; Natasha Low-Kefford

House of Yes, Ilan Telmont

Independent Schools Foundation Academy, Hong Kong

Jazzing Knitters, Hong Kong

Lama Gangchen International Foundation, USA

Li & Fung Foundation

Liga Ltd Hong Kong/China

Lower Eastside Girls Club, Lyn Pentecost, President

Pema Chodron Foundation

Profits Fund Fashion Manufacturing Ltd Hong Kong

PYAR Foundation, Noor Gillani

Queen of Falafel, Rivka Orlin

Rotary Club of Corning, NY

Walk for Nepal Dallas (Nepal Ko Yuwa)

VOLUNTEERS, SKILLFUL HANDS (WOMEN'S TRAINING PROGRAM)

Satomi Barello, Elaine Chang, Bonnie Chollet, Eileen Fisher Lab Store / Christine Wiltshire, Molly Edwards, Christine Facella, Jonathan Freeman, Beth Hayward, Euan Hayward, Nicola Hayward, Aaron Lackman, Sarah and Benoit Joly, Amy Meadow, Karen & Mark Mendes, Jones Miller, Frankie Mirenda, Jody Popple, Chris Redman, Cathy Shearer, Manu Shrestha, Steve Parker, Sharon Jane Smith, Elena Stonebraker, Sundrees / Diane Richards, Dewi Tan, Cara Valentino, Noel Withers, Susan Young

FUNDRAISING

Colleen Boland, Val Chater, Connie Chun, Nicola Hayward, HeArt Walk / Helen Bronte Boyd and Natasha Low-Kefford, Jody & Dave Popple, Kate Conroy / The Rhine House, Aarti Shah, Elena Stonebraker, Gloria Wu, Susan Young.

FRIENDS OF HOUSE WITH HEART

Apolline Bokkerink, Bonnie Chollet, Ciao for Now, Miles Davies, Jill Greenbaum, Diwas Gurung, Euan Hayward, Tara Lindhardt, Gaston Musella, Ken Pollak, Revive Humanity Team / Ryan King Ogden, A Repeat Performance / Sharon Jane Smith, Margie Rodgers, Taste It Presents.



Here is how you can help.

[Donate online](#)

OR send a **check** made out to "House with Heart". **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.*

www.HousewithHeart.org

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