

## The Rotary Club of Vancouver-RWHN Equipment Project for Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital and Service Centre in Nepal – Feb , 2011

Season of giving is in full swing as Jan 30, 2011, Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital and Service Centre in Nepal receives a large container filled to the brim with much needed medical equipment and supplies through Rotary world Help Network.



### From Dr Graeme A. Clugston, Medical Director of Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital & Services Centre

So the wonderful massive container arrived at Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital today. Well the container is so long that the container-truck couldn't get up the road through the local village to the hospital so it was unloaded onto a smaller truck at the highway and then the equipment transported up to the hospital.

Suman finished all the clearance procedures in Birgunj yesterday ...he worked very hard at it as is the necessity here in Nepal, and it took him 2 days. Birgunj is 2 3 hours away (for our vehicle, but 4-6 hours for a container truck), on the border with India. Then the container truck arrived this morning at (i.e. as close as it could get) Lalgadh Hospital.

Sunil Gupta and the President of the Rotary Club of Patan South went down to Lalgadh Hospital yesterday, and then this morning there was a lovely handing-over ceremony at Lalgadh Hospital, with speeches and a lot of very excited people and much gratitude. Sunil has been terrific in tirelessly pursuing the clearance process at Kolkata and getting the transport agent to get the container to Nepal...

We are all totally bowled over and thrilled at this marvellous thoughtful and so very helpful equipment donation from Rotary World Help Network and the Rotary Club of Vancouver, and for all the enthusiasm and encouragement from your end.

Many many thanks David. Will send you much more with photos when we are back at Lalgadh.

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**From Alan Manchester, Programme Funding Coordinator, Nepal Leprosy Trust**

On behalf of the NLT UK office I want to express our heartfelt thanks to the Rotary World Help Network, and in particular to you and your colleagues in the Vancouver area who helped to bring this about. To think that this began with you meeting Robert Muir in Jamaica is fascinating - NLT has quite a few extraordinary stories in its history, and this is another wonderful example.

It is through the generosity of many, like yourselves, that our work has steadily grown and developed, enabling us to help many leprosy-affected, disabled and marginalised people in Nepal. Long may it continue!

Please pass on our thanks to those who gave of their time and helped to collect, load and organise this shipment for us.

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**From Dr Graeme A. Clugston, Medical Director of Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital & Services Centre**

I can fill in that middle bit and how the project emerged especially at this Nepal end and how the RWHN got into the picture as far as I know, as it was such an exciting prospect for us lot at Lalgadh.

Following Robert and David's encouraging communications about the real possibility of helping LLSC with equipment (that was in March 2010 and Robert was in Haiti), at Robert's urging I e-mailed David on April Fool's Day -what a day! – and promised that I would find and get the agreement of a local Rotary Club here in Kathmandu, and to produce an equipment-wish-list-to-end-all-wish-lists.

The Rotary bit at this end was interesting too. We had been already pursuing the Rotary Club of Patan South in the anticipation that we might be able to organise a nice Rotary Project with the Rotary Club of Sydney Business District (Australia)... and since the Vice President of Rotary Club of Patan South (Sunil) is a close friend of Meena (my better half's) family... it was Sunil who we approached. So we went to a meeting of Rotary Patan South and presented David's proposal to them, and they said they would be delighted to be the coordinating local Rotary Club, and that Vice President Sunil should be their focal point for the project. And from there it developed.

At Lalgadh we filled in the RWHN application forms and sent them to Sunil for finalising and sending to you in Canada. Meantime we developed the equipment- wish-list-to-end-all-wish-lists.... we were a bit slow on that as it was quite a task, and you David patiently encouraged us with it.

During October the project was being discussed at the RWHN, and at the same time the Vancouver Rotary Club's World Community Service (WCS) committee approved funding for the shipment. All this went before the RWHN on 9<sup>th</sup> November as a recommendation from Vancouver Rotary Club... and it was magnificently approved. The 44 ft container was scheduled to be loaded on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November, but with the terrific enthusiasm the has characterised this project, the Rotary volunteers went on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November and did the lot... an estimated 30,000lbs of cargo.

Suman then did an amazing job managing the enormous task of getting clearance papers through various ministries and departments, to ensure the equipment could be cleared tax free. It took him pushing and clearing and persuading. Meantime Sunil worked on the shipping agents persistently and patiently to ensure papers were ready in advance at Kolkata for when the container would arrive... and then likewise persistently and patiently to ensure the container left Kolkata and reached Birgunj dry dock in Nepal. Then more work for Suman at Birgunj, taking the Customs agents through the shipment, and ensuring (after 2 days of non-stop perseverance) that the container and contents were finally cleared. Then unloading the container and somehow managing to overload two great Tata Trucks for the final road trip to Lalgadh Hospital.

On Tuesday (15<sup>th</sup> February) Meena and I will go to the meeting of Rotary Patan South, to show them along with Sunil, the photos of the arrival and handing over ceremony of the equipment at Lalgadh Hospital, and to formally thank the Rotary Club of Patan South for its coordinating role in this wonderful project.... and to hope that more will follow.



Rotary World Help Network was featured at the North Shore News about this project. [Read article.](#)

Photo: David Greenwood (left), Ralph Towsley and Dan Gallant are among the Rotarians involved in the Rotary World Help Network





Nepal Leprosy Trust  
**Lalgadh Leprosy Services Centre**

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Dr Sudin Shakya  
President,  
Rotary Club of Patan South,  
Kathmandu, Nepal

15 February 2011

Dear Sir,

This is to express our deep appreciation to you and to Vice President Sunil, and to the Rotary Club of Patan South, as well as to gratefully acknowledge the receipt of a massive shipment of hospital equipment originating from the Rotary Club of Vancouver, Canada, and the Rotary World Help Network, and coordinated through you.

The quality and range of equipment is truly excellent and will be of great help to the high standard functioning of Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital, both immediately, and for the long term, as we continue with the development of our services.

The successful completion of this large project would not have been possible without the marvelous coordinating role that the Rotary Club of Patan South took on, the personal efforts and enthusiasm of Vice-President Sunil, and the special interest that both you and Sunil contributed by visiting Lalgadh Hospital and personally participating in the hand-over ceremony there.

Following this great success, and all that it will mean to the leprosy-affected and other many poor and needy patients in the Lalgadh Region, we look forward to collaborating in further possible projects if these can be developed.

Meantime please receive our grateful thanks for all you have done, and our appreciative acknowledgement of the receipt of the shipment at Lalgadh Leprosy Services Centre.

With kind regards,

Dr Graeme A. Clugston

Dr Graeme A. Clugston  
Medical Director  
Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital & Services Centre