

Youth Ambassador Program Call 8.5.15

Kelly began the call with a comparison to where we are in this journey to the scene in Star Wars where Darth Vader reveals that he's Luke's father. She said this is because we're at the place where we're ready to move beyond our father, to honor them by moving beyond where we've been. Since the program has shifted so much in the past weeks, we now have the opportunity to create something new and make the organization the kind of movement it was meant to be.

Kelly then introduced Benjamin who was talking from a boat, from which he's transporting materials for his project, which involves bringing salmon back to feed the people in his community. He's excited about the changes that are happening and feels that we are moving in an important direction. He said the word Chime to him reflects a feminine energy and might want to see a different word that could reflect the masculine aspect. Or the masculine could be reflected in the logo that is used. However, when told that the name would be ChimeIn, he felt that was a strong statement that is a nice balance between the feminine and masculine.

Jeetan then spoke about his journey to Nepal. They began construction of a hostel and toilets for people affected by the earthquake. He was also able to spend time with his family and friends. He said the children there are passionate about education. He has a website -- Seforsw.com. His original plan was to raise funds to buy books for the children but felt his time and money would be better served by working on building the hostel.

Jeetan had some children with him. Kelly asked them to explain what "I am the change" means to them. They said it meant "they are the difference".

Kelly gave an update on a possible trip to Guatemala in December. It's possible that a trip would start on December 13th with plans to build 1 or 2 houses with a celebration held on December 22nd, though these plans are not final. Susan said the dates right now are contingent on college dates. Tony is excited about the prospects of having everyone help in his dream to create houses for this community and is concerned about the logistics. He also spoke a bit about his organization that also builds roads with the help of volunteers and the people who live in the community.

Kelly turned the call back to Jeetan, who was happy to be able to give back to the people of Nepal. He had been the recipient of help before and was able to give back now because of the people who had given to him before. He also went back to the refugee camp where he grew up, where it happened to be World Refugee Day, so there were celebrations there. It made him feel like he was back home and not like a visitor from the United States. He found it hard to explain the feeling. He feels like he's a different person now.

Kelly helped Jeetan see that he had just completed one phase of his own Hero's Journey, returning to Nepal with the elixir, having been transformed by his experiences in Vermont into a different person from the one he was when he originally left the refugee camp in Nepal. Jeetan now sees that he has something to offer to others in need, even if it's something as

small as a smile. He remembered living at the camp, looking up to the UN workers and other volunteers he saw and wanting to be one of those people. Now he is. It was quite a journey for him.

Kelly then talked about the changes happening in the group. They have decided to rename the core group as Youth Ambassadors. The hope is that the organization will continue, with new trips being made in coming years. New people who come into the group could be called Changemakers. The thought is that the group will be called ChimeIn – the Change Is Me International. A url – chimein.org has been secured.

Benjamin said he was inspired by Jeetan's journey and told him it was great to hear him helping his "younger self". He wanted to give Jeetan his gratitude and thanks, as Jeetan was able to look at these youths and inspire them to realize that they, too, could make their dreams come true. He spoke about an organization that put lots of money into a community, and that the one thing that made a difference was a sculpture that they created with the help of the community. He would like to see art work be included in the house building in Guatemala that would be created with the help of the community. Tony said that the changes they've been able to make in the community, getting the youth involved in building the community, has reduced the level of gangs and violence in the area. He likes the idea of bringing art into the community.

Kelly talked about the core values of the group. Change: Collaboration, Humanitarian, Action Oriented, Nobility, Global Impact, Empower.

These are the defining qualities of the group and Susan asked if these match up with your values. Is it humanitarian? Is it empowering? Does it have quality? Is this action part of what our core values mean? Susan felt these words help embrace what the group is intending to do.

Kelly said by this time next week there will be a rough version of the website up and a new Facebook page.