

UMNHET newsletter September 2024



Dear Friends of UMN Hospitals' Endowment Trust,

We are in it for the long haul. There are no quick fixes to the world's problems, and the needs can feel overwhelming at times. It is good to join together, as supporters of UMN Hospital's Endowment Trust, to be part of the response – not flashy perhaps, but steadfast. Thank you for being part of that.



UMNHET is about providing continuity of funding for the charitable work of the UMN founded hospitals (Tansen, Okhaldunga, Amp Pipal and Patan). The medical assistance funds in these hospitals help the most destitute, in a society where still 20% of people live below the poverty line. These patients often need not just acute medical care but long term mental and spiritual support.

The story of SG, in the recent publication of Friends of Tansen, really demonstrates how important that long term commitment is to individuals and society. SG was found lying at the roadside, after apparently being hit by a

vehicle and left. The police brought him to Tansen hospital for care as the more local hospital was not able to. He had a nasty leg fracture which needed two major operations, but he also had significant mental health issues. Initially he couldn't look anyone in the eye or speak and refused to eat or agree to any treatment. This man had been abandoned by family and friends and was without hope. It took time, and love and care from the pastoral team at Tansen hospital to gently break down those barriers. Without the medical assistance fund, this care would just not have been possible.



Mental health crises are sadly common in Nepal, as long-term poverty saps people's resilience and hope. In Okhaldunga, the farming population often turns to pesticides which are easily accessible but extremely dangerous, to end their lives.



Trying to treat this poisoning is expensive, requiring a high level of prolonged medical support at the end of which survivors and their families are left with yet more debt and despair. The Medical Assistance fund helps to pay for medical care as well as the simple needs like food during a long hospital stay. The social services department which administers MAF, will also come alongside these patients to help bring love and acceptance. As a supporter of UMNHET you are part of the wider team, offering hope and a future to these desperate individuals.



The UMN endowment fund is invested and the income generated each year is given in full to the four UMN founded hospitals to provide a sustainable income for the MAF. In 2023 we were able to give £32,172. The total given by UMNHET since 2005 is £628,442 from its endowment funds, and £40,629 from direct appeals.

Some good news is that the value of the investments has recovered well from drops triggered by Covid, and we have also been able to ensure that the money is invested in the most ethical way possible.

Extra donations from supporters like yourselves are really important to add to the Endowment fund to make sure that we can continue to increase the amount generated by the investments so that our donations for care of the poor increase in the coming years. Thank you so much for your gifts to the Trust. Could we ask you, too, to share this newsletter with one other person to see if we can extend the support we give in the coming years?

Thankyou for being with us in the long haul. We wish you every blessing in the coming year.

The Trustees:

Cleve Chevassut (Chair), Tim Trimble (Treasurer), Gary Parkes, Alison Chevassut, Katrina Butterworth, Ian Chadwell, David Rodgers