

Gisele Bolton  
The Advocacy Project  
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## CONCERN for Children and Environment – Nepal

The past five months of my fellowship with CONCERN for Children and Environment in Kathmandu, Nepal have been an enriching adventure full of challenges and lessons learned. I was so busy and engaged working with CONCERN that I decided to stay an additional eight weeks for which I am grateful. The additional eight weeks of my fellowship made all the difference in assisting CONCERN and certainly impacted my overall experience both professionally and personally.

### **The Advocacy Project Partner Pages:**

CONCERN's long-term goal is to completely eradicate child labor in seven targeted brick kilns throughout the Kathmandu Valley. The Advocacy Project in Washington D.C. has created a fruitful partnership and will support CONCERN in their efforts through raising awareness for their long-term project and assist in fundraising. The Advocacy Project has 'Partner Pages' on their website which share the history of the organization, the mission, introduce the staff, and state the current project goals. To help create the 'Partner Pages' I went on multiple field visits to the brick kilns and interviewed employees and their families. I learned what life is *really* like living and working in the brick kilns and was able to share their stories with rich details and compelling pictures. The 'Partner Pages' introduce individuals and other organizations to CONCERN, their work, and ultimately help raise funds for their long-term project.



Visiting employees and their families at the brick kilns

### **Education Support Pilot Project:**

I developed a pilot project that will rescue 11 children that currently work in the brick kilns and provide educational support giving them the opportunity to attend school. We have already started fundraising for the project that will provide monies for school enrollment fees, uniform, backpack and exam fees. The pilot project was developed as an example of what CONCERN intends to do on a larger scale – eventually rescuing and providing education support for hundreds of children in seven targeted brick kilns.



Young girl forced to drop out of school and join her family working in the brick kilns

### **Long-Term Project Development and Proposal Writing:**

Alongside the Program Manager, we successfully wrote a grant proposal to the German Embassy to fund a mobile health clinic that would provide basic health care to children in the seven targeted brick kilns. We are also in the process of submitting a proposal to another organization to fund the larger long-term project. I assisted the CONCERN team in developing the programs, activities, outcomes, and budget. In addition, I wrote the proposal that they will use and adapt in the future for potential donors.

### **Looking Forward:**

During this fellowship I was able to explore many different areas of working with a community-based organization. From visiting and meeting various embassies – to fundraising and development – to the one-on-one interaction with the people we are helping by conducting interviews and capturing personal moments by taking photos and video. I feel so fortunate to have had this opportunity to learn so many areas of working with an organization. From this experience I have found that I am passionate about communications, fundraising, and development. I am currently seeking employment opportunities in these areas with a human rights advocacy organization.

Thank you so much to the Jessica Jennifer Cohen Foundation for supporting my fellowship. It was truly an experience of a lifetime in which I was challenged and grew professionally and personally. The journey, the lessons learned, and the wonderful people I met along the way will serve me for many years to come – Thank you!



Picture with CONCERN Executive Director Dr. Bijaya Sainju and Program Manager Jiyam Shrestha