

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Justice Through Education and Empowerment



PUNYA FOUNDATION

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INTRODUCTION

Punya Foundation is a charity dedicated to promoting justice through education and empowerment. The Foundation is a Deductible Gift Recipient with the Australian Taxation Office, holds a 501 (c) (3) with the IRS in the United States, and a not-for-profit in Nepal, Canada, and Ethiopia.

Objectives

- ✦ To contribute to self-reliance and empowerment of blind, orphaned, poor, vulnerable, and underprivileged children through education.
- ✦ To institutionalise social justice and peace organising empowerment and psychosocial support programs to victims of social injustice, destitute, trauma, violence, widows, refugees, and migrant communities.
- ✦ To contribute and promote community collaboration through engagement, investment, partnership, career counselling and job-oriented trainings.
- ✦ To build and manage community garden, community centre, multipurpose hall, place of worship, retirement village and investment opportunities for education, community engagement, participation, and to practice and promote language, culture, spirituality, and religion and enrich Australian multicultural society.
- ✦ To promote health organising health advocacy, outreach clinics, and mobilise resources and extend emergency relief during natural disasters and calamities.

The target groups of the Foundation are people who need support to live a dignified life. The Foundation assists underprivileged and vulnerable children with their education. It focuses on welfare of women in fronts of social justice through mediation, empowerment, and adult education programs. Punya Foundation actively organises community activities and welfare geared programs.

FOREWORD



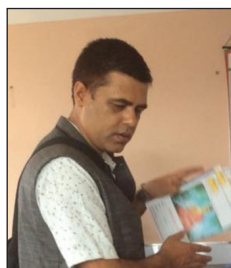
Dr Lakshmi Prasad Dhakal
MBBS (TU), MD (UvA), MD
(VU), RACP, MPH

With a great pleasure, I would like to present Punya Foundation's annual report to our donors, sponsors, well-wishers and legal authorities. The year 2023 observed a few developments and achievement of milestones.

Scholarships, empowerment and culture and spirituality projects continued without any hindrances. The focus on health and relief projects has changed. In Australia, Punya Foundation accomplished its constitution amendment broadening its scope, including investment with not for profit making motives. We are progressing, expanding, and changing our strategies.

Some executive committee members have completed their tenure in office and some others resigned. I thank all for the support and hard work. I would like to thank our sponsors, donors, well-wishers, and volunteers for your kind support. Please continue to support us to support poor and vulnerable people.

EXCERPT FROM THE COUNTRY HEADS



It is a challenge to reach out support to students in far-flung rural Nepal. However, opportunities rest in challenges. We are making a big difference in life of poor people.

Mr Mohan Niraula
President Punya Foundation, Nepal

Our effort to help poor and vulnerable people will continue. We are happy with the progress. We want to diversify our programs. We have responsibilities to fulfil. Sincere thanks to our donors, sponsors, and supporters.

Mr Til Chand Sapkota
Chief Executive Officer, Australia

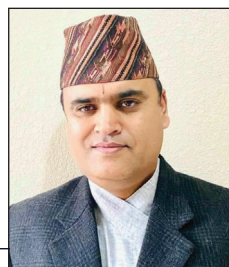


We have a committed team working for the welfare of deserving people in developing countries. Our support will continue. Thank you to our kind donors and we hope for your continued support.

Mr Shyam Ghimire
President Punya Foundation, Canada

There is a lot to give back to the community. Happiness comes through helping poor and vulnerable children. We are proud to start a computer project in the camps. Thank you to donors and supporters.

Mr Sudip Adhikari
President Punya Foundation, USA



We are thankful to Punya Foundation for your kind support. Your help is making an enormous difference in life of poor people. This is big. Whatever small fund is available to us, we prioritise. Thank you.

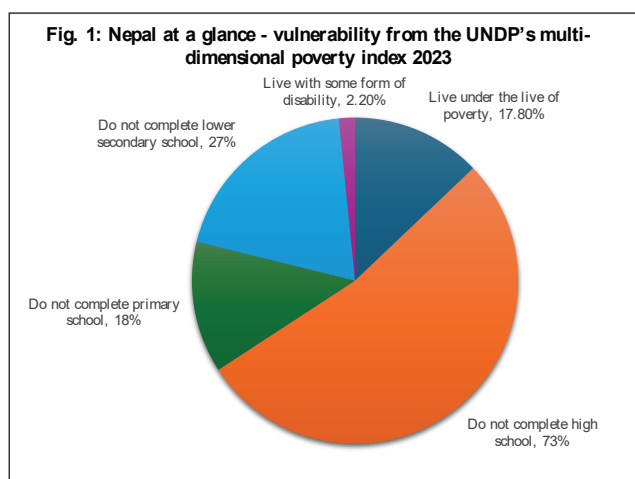
Mr Moti Muleta
President Punya Foundation, Ethiopia

EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIPS

1. NEPAL: EMPOWERING NEPALI STUDENTS THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

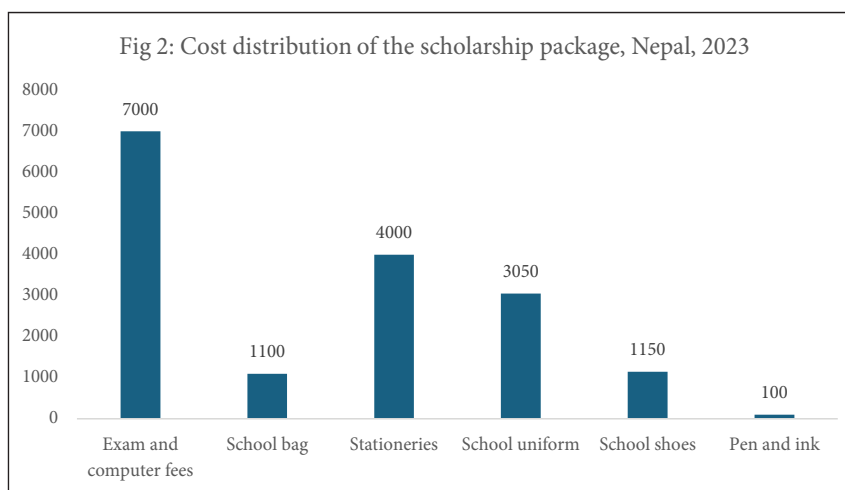
Nepal is a beautiful country. However, the poor governance, political instability and high illiteracy makes it one of the poorest countries in the world. The rationale behind Punya Foundation's education projects in Nepal is elucidated by the UNDP's poverty index (Fig. 1).

Punya Foundation successfully distributed 63 scholarships to deserving Nepalese students. The scholarships were distributed across three key regions, each of which addressed specific needs and challenges faced by students in those regions. Notably,



20 scholarships were given to students from Sindhupalchowk, 25 to students from Dhading, and 18 to students from Kathmandu or other regions. The scholarships are distributed as broadly as possible in order to promote gender equality - 27 scholarships were provided to male students, and 36 to female students. The itemised expenditure of the scholarship package is as shown in Fig 2.

Punya Foundation Nepal implements this project. We express our gratitude to our donors, partners, and supporters for making this initiative possible.





2. EDUCATIONAL LIFELINE TO VULNERABLE STUDENTS IN AMBO TOWN, ETHIOPIA

Punya Foundation has stepped in to make a significant impact in Ambo Town in Ethiopia, where economic hardships cast a shadow over education for children. Gutane Mulisa Negera, Keneni Asefa Tefera, Kiya Mulisa Negera, Mitike Mulisa Negera, and Sinbo Elias are the five children chosen to receive aid from this initiative. Punya Foundation provided these children with needed resources to pursue their education and build a better future.



The children are doing well. Punya Foundation Ethiopia implements this project.

3. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS



Punya Foundation has been continuing its scholarship program for the visually impaired and blind female students in Nepal for their bachelor level of education which started in May 2021. The students are making good progress.

As in the past years, the Blind Women Association of Nepal (BWAN) implements this project and Punya Foundation Nepal

conducts project monitoring. Punya Foundation State Team Queensland, led by Mr Indra Rizal, sponsors this big cause.

4. COLLABORATION WITH BIMALA BINISMA PANT FOUNDATION

In 2023, Punya Foundation established collaboration with Bimala Binisma Pant Foundation, which is led by Mr Prakash Jung Pant. Under this collaboration 62 students from Gorkha district in Nepal receive scholarships. Bimala Binisma Pant Foundation provides scholarships to poor children.



Bimala Binisma Pant Foundation implements the project. Punya Foundation Nepal conducts monitoring and evaluation.

5. PILGRIMS EXTEND LIFELINE TO GURUKUL EDUCATION IN NAIMISHARANYA, INDIA

Ms Muna Maya Mishra and Ms Bhagi Mishra, staying in Rochester, USA, made a significant donation in October 2023 to support food, shelter, and education of students at the Sanskrit Bidhalaya Aawashiya Gurukul in Sitapur, Naimisharanya, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Pundit Santiram Upadhaya Dhakal coordinated with the Gurukul administration. The donated amount was handed over by Mr Hari Adhikari, Program Coordinator of Punya Foundation, to Acharya Ananda Dev, the founder and educator of the Gurukul. Acharya Dev expressed his profound gratitude, highlighting the immense impact of the donation in ensuring the continuity of Gurukul education.

The beneficiaries of the donation were thirty-six underprivileged children residing at Sadhashil Ashram associated with the Sanskrit Bidhalaya.



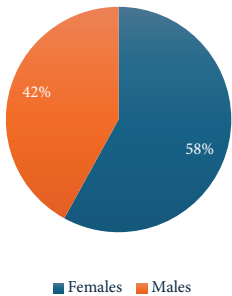
EMPOWERMENT PROJECTS

1. EMPOWERMENT THROUGH COMPUTER EDUCATION

Punya Foundation USA funds a computer project in the Bhutanese Refugee Camp located at Beldangi I, Jhapa Nepal. Punya Foundation Fans Club implements the project. Mr Mon Poudyal and Mr Roshan Shankar, Foundation's USA Board of Directors coordinate the project. Punya Foundation Nepal conducts the monitoring.

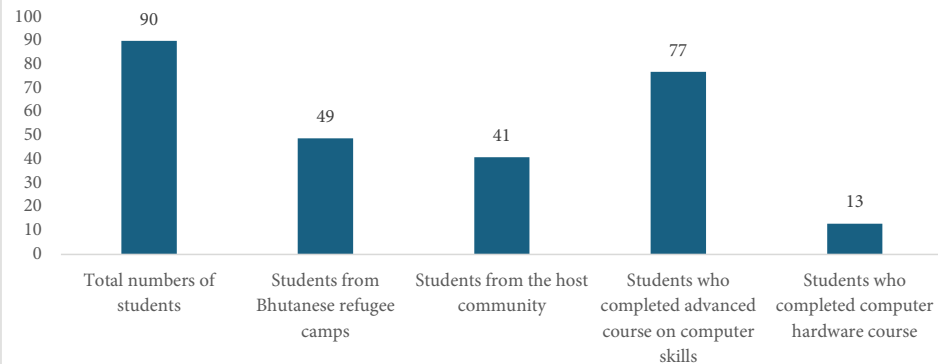
The project started with renovation of a training hall. Computers were purchased and installed. Staffing was resourced. Currently, there are 4 paid staff, including a coordinator, senior computer teacher, assistant computer teacher and a security guard. Ninety individuals benefited from this project in 2023. The project promotes participation from both refugee and host communities. As shown in the Fig. 3, Punya Foundation's projects emphasise on the promotion of women and children empowerment.

FIG 3: GENDER RATIO - ADVANCED COMPUTER SKILLS AND HARDWARE TRAINING IN BELDANGI, JHAPA NEPAL.



This computer project is a significant initiative to empower youths from the refugee camps and the host community. A number of graduates have managed to secure employments. The project is serving a bridge to promote interaction and collaboration between the refugee and host community. Fig. 4 highlights participation of refugee and host community in the computer training program and courses that they opted for.

Fig. 4: Computer Training Program in Beldangi-I, Bhutanese Refugee Camp, 2023



2. HELP TO HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS IN CANADA

On January 15, 2023, Punya Foundation Canada served lunch to approximately 500 homeless individuals at Siloam Mission in Winnipeg. Led by Mr Shyam Ghimire, President Canada; board members Mr Tika Adhikari, Mr Amber Dahal, and Mr Naveen Katel, alongside volunteers Mr Tara Subedi



and Mrs Chandra Sanyasi prepared and served the lunch.

The homeless people appreciated the meals. Siloam Mission staff expressed their gratitude to Punya Foundation Canada and look forward to future collaboration.

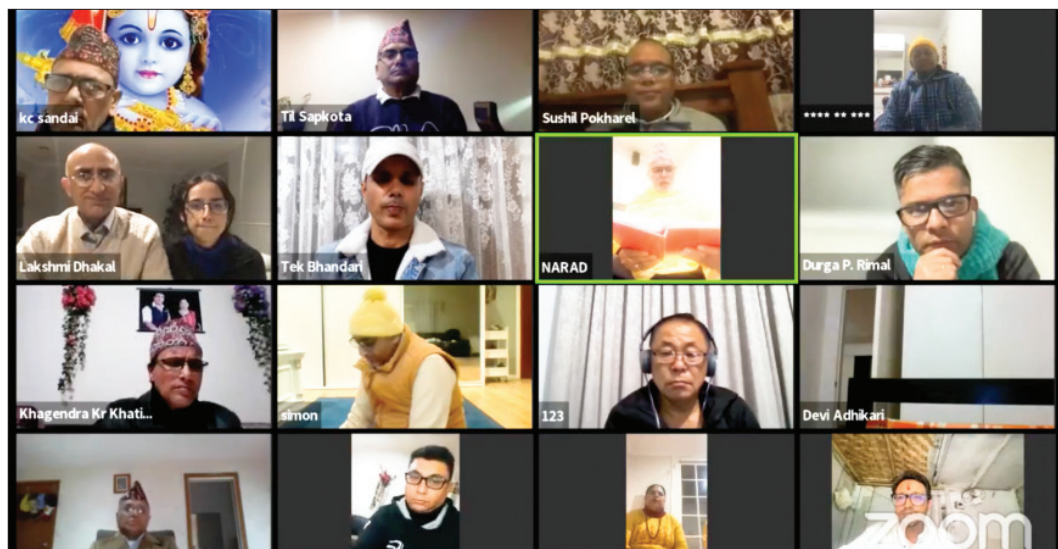
3. CHILDREN CREATIVITY THROUGH ART

Art sessions were organised for 3 days in July 2023 to explore and enhance children creativity. Ms Pratima Pokhrel and Ms Laxmi Gautam facilitated the project. At least two dozen children participated in the artwork.

The artwork reflected children life stories. Children engaged, enjoyed, and displayed their creativity. Parents were appreciative of Punya Foundation organising such a program.

CULTURE AND SPIRITUALITY

1. THIRTEEN YEARS OF ESTABLISHMENT, POETIC TRIBUTE ON WORLD REFUGEE DAY



Punya Foundation organised a poem recitation programme on June 20, 2023, to commemorate its 13th anniversary that coincides with the World Refugee Day. Mr Khagendra Khatiwada hosted the event. Professor Dr Om Dhungyel attended the occasion as the chief guest and Mr Tilchand Sapkota the chairperson. Special guests were Mr TB Rai (Elizabeth), Mr Sushil Pokhrel (Marion), and Mr Bhuwan Pyakurel (Ohio).

Sixteen poets from Australia, New Zealand and Bhutanese Refugee Camp in Nepal recited their poems. Their creations covered a wide range of topics - fulfilled and unfulfilled wishes, gender disparities, spirituality, and nostalgic reflections on their “home”.

Dr Dhungyel praised Punya Foundation for organising such activities. Dr Lakshmi Prasad Dhakal concluded the event by thanking all guests, participants, well-wishers, and Punya Foundation’s volunteers.

2. MULTICULTURAL SPIRITUAL PROGRAM IN ADELAIDE

A 3-day multicultural spiritual program was held starting from 15 July in Adelaide. The program was attended by mayor of the City of Salisbury, Ms Gillian Aldridge as the chief guest. Mr Glenn Docherty, Mayor of the City of Playford, Mr Dipak Dhamala, Ms Renuka Lama, Mr Johnny Chewparsad, Mr Milan Kapasi, Mr Celian Kidegra, Mr Nabin Kambang, Mr Moti Naral, Mr Kapil Pande, Ms Mary Ceravolo, Mr Dinesh Kalikote, Mr Mahesh Gautam, Ms Ashika Rai, Ms Priyanka Rai, Mr Mohan Hangkhim and Mr Hari

Sharma Poudyal were the Guests.

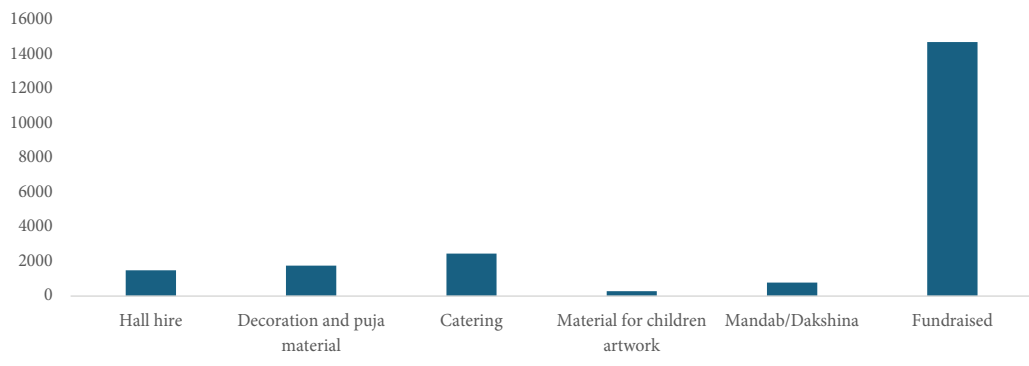
The program served a platform for showcasing multicultural, religious, social, creative, and networking activities. Hindu priests performed puja, bhajan, hawan and prabachan. The Buddhist lama delivered a sermon and engaged the community to light 108 butter lamps for peace



and prosperity of the world. The Kirat group performed spiritual songs. All community members made generous donations supporting Punya Foundation's cause.

The program attracted an excellent audience and was appreciated by the community. The major sponsors of the program were the City of Salisbury, Kalikote Jewellers, A-ONE

Fig 5: MCSP - Income and Expenditure



Real Estate, Milan Kapasi, Complete Choice, SA Disability Care, Ease Conveyancing, Namaste Supermarket, Pest-SA, Hamro Clothing, Deurali Restaurant, and Himalayan Experience.

3. KIRAT CULTURAL ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA PRESENTS SPIRITUAL HARMONY

In a harmonious celebration of spiritual songs, the Kirat Cultural Association Australia (KCAA) showcased their bhajan. Mr Ratna Rai led the bhajan called Siwakhaun and he was accompanied by other KCAA team members.

The Siwakhaun is a spiritual song describing holy living and praise of God. The event was marked by joyful dancing and participation. The KCAA has been one of the consistent supporters and donors of Punya Foundation. The Foundation's executives extended their gratitude to the KCAA for their ongoing support.



PARTNERSHIP, COLLABORATION, AND NETWORKING

1. APPRAISAL AND PLANNING WITH SALISBURY COUNCIL

Punya Foundation delegation met Salisbury council mayor Gillian Aldridge in March 2023. Mr Hari Adhikari, Mr Khagendra Khatiwada, Mr Puskar Poudyel, and Mr Hari Pokhrel met with Mayor Aldridge and briefed her on the Foundation's ongoing activities, community engagement programmes, and outreach services. The team informed the mayor of concerns about long-standing unresolved cultural difficulties among the resettled population. Future programme plans and potential collaboration with the council were also discussed.

Mayor Aldridge recognised and appreciated Punya Foundation's community engagement initiatives. She expressed the council's appreciation and support for the Foundation's work. The Foundation team thanked the mayor for the grant of \$5,000 which assisted to organise multicultural spiritual program.

2. ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

Punya Foundation hosted its annual fundraising dinner on March 25, 2023, continuing its tradition of supporting empowerment projects through generated funds.

Guests included Mr Glenn Docherty, mayor of the city of Playford council, Mr Frank Riley, president of the Lions Club of Angle Vale Inc., Mr Aashish Wagley, Director of Boomerang International Educational Services, Mr Romarsh Hamal of A-ONE Real Estate, and Mr Tara Gautam and Mr Ramesh Dahal as representatives from SA Disability. Around 55 people attended to show their support.

The programme aimed to foster community engagement, interaction, and connection. The program raised the targeted amount, while serving as a fun event for all attendees.



3. COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO

Punya Foundation USA established a booth at Reynoldsburg's Civic Park on October 7, 2023, marking a successful day of outreach. It was a proactive community engagement

initiative designed to connect with the local people. The Civic Park setup served as a focal point for interaction, encourage dialogue and to raise awareness about the Foundation's values and endeavours.

Mr Gyanu Dulal, Mr Roshan Shankar and Mr Buddha Dhakal coordinated the engagement program.



4. COLLABORATION WITH LIONS CLUB OF ANGLE VALE FOR CHARITABLE RAFFLE DRAW



In a collaborative effort to foster community support, Punya Foundation partnered with the Lions Club of Angle Vale for a raffle draw held on November 5, 2023.

Mr. Frank O'Riley, President of the Lions Club of Angle Vale Inc., highlighted the club's commitment to organise raffle draws to generate funds to support various community events. Mr. Hari Sharma, the Membership Coordinator of the Lions Club, initiated the collaboration with Punya Foundation. He played a pivotal role in facilitating the partnership and in assisting the Foundation with token provision and covering the printing costs. The raffle draws raised funds for local community events.

5. THANK GIVING AND REFLECTION GET TOGETHER PROGRAM

Punya Foundation organised a get together and thank giving program on 16 December 2023. The program targeted to appraise Foundation's projects, explore future collaboration avenues and to thank the sponsors and Foundation's executives.

Mr Tilchand Sapkota, CEO of the Foundation welcomed guests. Speaking at the program, Mr Tara Gautam (Business Manager, SA Disability), Mr Hari Poudyel (Director Complete Choice), Mr Frank O'Reilly (President, Lions Club of Angel Vale), Mr Sanjay Puri (NRNA Coordinator, SA), Mr Nabin Kambang (A One Real-estate), Mr Puskar Poudyel (Director Pack and Send), Mr Mohan Bhattarai and Mr Shiba Pokhrel

(Proprietor, Namaste Supermarket) expressed their continued support to Punya Foundation.

The current Foundation's executive committee completes its 5-year tenure by end of year 2023. Mr Sapkota thanked the executives for their continued voluntary support. He expressed sincere thanks and appreciations to the Lions Club of Angle Vale for providing the meeting space and amenities to organise the thanksgiving dinner program. Punya Foundation is committed to work for the education and empowerment of poor and vulnerable people.



DONORS IN AUSTRALIA

For donations received in Australian – cash, bank transfers, PayPal, and donations in kind/goods, please [click here](#).

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. AUSTRALIA FINANCIAL STATEMENT – YEAR 2023

CATEGORY	INCOME		
	MODALITY	ACTIVITY/SOURCE	AMOUNT
A	Opening balance as on 01/01/2023 (cash, shares, and asset)		116,069.5
B	Donation, fundraising activities, and bequests	Individual - cash and bank transfer	18,448.0
		Individual - PayPal	110.0
		Activity - Deusi Bhailo	0.0
		Activity - fund raising dinner	2,760.0
		Activity - multicultural spiritual program	14,256.7
		Earmarked Gokul education program	1,300.0
		Organisation - Lions Club, Angle Vale, SA	500.0
		Organisation - Bimala Binisha Pant Foundation	4,500.0
		Organisation - Punya Foundation, Queensland	2,000.0
		Raffle	2,265.0
	Revenue/grant from the government	Council - community grant, Salisbury	5,000.0
	Revenue generated from goods and services	Individual - kind (equivalent)	1,950.0
	Revenue from investment	Bank interest	0.0
		Dividend	1,196.9
		Endowment fund (Dhakal family)	561.3
		Increase of share price @ 31/12/23	4,059.0
	Other revenue		0.0
SUB-TOTAL			58,907.0

C	EXPENDITURE	ACTIVITY	AMOUNT
	Education - scholarship	Africa - scholarships for primary school education	400.0
		India - Gurukul Sanskri Vidhalaya	875
		Nepal - scholarships for primary school education	4,000.0
		Nepal - scholarships for bachelor level education for female blind students	1,766.8
		Nepal - collaboration with BBPF	4,500.0
	Empowerment	Africa - microfinance for women victims of sexual assault and domestic violence	270.0
	Health and relief	Food and clothes distribution	960.0
		Blood donation	0.0
	Investment endowment		14,470.9
	Fundraising multicultural spiritual program		6,797.4
	Fundraising dinner		1,500.0
	Sports		200.0
	DHSS	Settlement	700.0
	Volunteers	Fuel vouchers	5,000.0
	Networking and thanksgiving dinner		1,009.6
	Government rates	Water	1,040.7
		Land tax	2,904.0
		Emergency levy	183.7
		Land maintenance, mowing	1,100.0
	Administrative		
	Stationaries and print	213.0	
		Website domain renewal (3 years)	60.0
		Fund transfer fees	2.8
	SUB-TOTAL		47,953.8
D	TOTAL	A+B-C=	127,022.7
CBA = 34,843.69, NAB = 42,141.18, Shares = 34,019.94, Dhakal endowment = 16,018.82			

2. USA FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR 2023

CATEGORY	MODALITY	ACTIVITY/SOURCE	ADDRESS	AMOUNT (USD)
A.	Opening Balance as 01/01/2023			\$2,118.99
B.	Donations on Bank Account	Donor Name	address	Amount
	24/2/2023	Chandra Sapkota	UT	\$100.00
	24/2/2023	Namaste Nanglo Groceries LLC	UT	\$100.00
	24/2/2023	Bhim Sapkota	UT	\$200.00
	24/3/2023	Tek Mishra	PA	\$250.00
	31/3/2023	Unique Insurance Agency LLC	PA	\$500.00
	31/3/2023	Sunil Anand	PA	\$3,000.00
	12/7/2023	Healthy Adult Day Healthcare	KY	\$1,000.00
	31/7/2023	Laxmi Real Estate LLC	UT	\$501.00
	31/7/2023	Bhim Sapkota	UT	\$501.00
	20/9/2023	Prakash Pabitra Koirala	TX	\$250.00
	25/9/2023	Krishna/Sabitra Kharel	OH	\$250.00
	25/9/2023	Surya Dulal	OH	\$250.00
	25/9/2023	Dream Home Real Estate LLC	OH	\$250.00
	25/9/2023	Gyanu/Parmila Dulal	OH	\$100.00
	31/12/2023	Paypal Goving Funds	USA	\$1.00
	31/12/2023	Dasain-Tihar Festival 2023 income	USA	\$358.35
	Sub-total	\$7,611.35		
C.	Donations from PayPal			
	Date	Donor Name	Donor address	Amount
	30/8/2023	Kazi Gautam	NY	\$50.00
	5/9/2023	Om Dulal	OH	\$50.00
	8/9/2023	Vidhyapati Mishra	NC	\$101.00
	28/9/2023	Hari Basnet	OH	\$200.00
	Sub-total			\$401.00
D.	Expenditure	Particular		Amount

	10/1/2023	Poem recitation gift expenses		\$166.44
	20/4/2023	Punya Foundation Nepal (Computer Project BRC)		\$3,500.00
	20/4/2023	Bank transfer fee		\$50.00
	28/8/2023	USB Purchase		\$696.00
	28/9/2023	Punya Foundation Nepal (Scholarship funds)		\$4,050.00
	28/9/2023	Bank transfer fee		\$50.00
	31/12/2023	PayPal fee		\$15.83
	1/1/2023	HDNP (Donation for Homeless) cashed after closing FY22 statement		\$500.00
	Total	\$9,028.27		
E	Ending Balance as 12/31/23	A+B+C-D		\$1,103.07
		Actual closing balance 12/31		\$716.90
		PayPal Funds not in Bank yet		\$386.17
		Over/Short		\$0.00
E as of 29/12/2023 is equivalent to 1611.48 AUD				

3. CANADA FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR 2023

CATEGORY	MODALITY	ACTIVITY/SOURCE	INCOME/ AMOUNT (CAD)
A	Opening balance as on 01/01/2023		1,742.0
B	Donation, fundraising activities, and bequests		
		Tika Adhikari	100.0
		Shyam Ghimire	100.0
		Amber Dahal	100.0
		Nabin Katel	100.0
		Indra Timsina	100.0
	SUB-TOTAL	500.0	
	EXPENDITURE	ACTIVITY	AMOUNT
	Education - scholarship	Primary school education for orphan students in Nepal	1,700.0
	Community engagement	Lunch program for indigenous people in Winnipeg	292.7
	Miscellaneous		40.0
	Administration	Bookkeeping and auditing	0.0
C	SUB-TOTAL	2,032.7	
D	TOTAL	A+B-C	209.3
D as of 29/12/2023 is equivalent to 231.20 AUD			

4. COLLATED FINANCIAL OVERVIEW IN AUD

Punya Foundation teams in Australia, Canada and USA conclude fiscal year 2023 with a positive balance as displayed below.

STATUS	AUSTRALIA	CANADA	USA
Income	58,848.00	554.00	11,773.00
Expenditure	47,893.00	2,253.00	13,266.00
Balance	127,023.00	231.00	1,611.00

REFLECTION AND STRATEGY FOR THE NEXT 3 YEARS

GOVERNANCE

Homework has commenced to form national level executive committees. Once this is achieved, international steering committee will be formed.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Punya Foundation strived and facilitated beneficiaries, communities and implementing partners to gather evidence for accountability and lobbying purposes.

Henceforth, the Foundation will hold beneficiaries, their parents, community and implementing partners accountable to furnish evidence, including for lobbying purposes and to secure funding sustainability.

PROJECTS

Scholarships for students orphaned by the earthquakes of 2015 in Nepal was our major project. This project is now over - 93% students competed their grade 10. We take this as a big accomplishment.

For the next 5 years, Punya Foundation will provide scholarships for primary education based on categories like orphans, refugees, children of dalits, brick-factory labourers, for Sanskrit education, etc.

In Australia, the Foundation will explore opportunities to build a community centre.



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